

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13- 212

OUTCOME: 3 – Access to Medical Services

Topic: Medicare Eligible Magnetic Resonance Imaging Units – Number of Units Based on Region

Type of Question: Hansard Page 110, 20 November 2013

Senator: Brown

Questions:

- a) How many MRI units are wholly or partially subsidised by Medicare? And can this figure be broken down into regions?
- b) Is there access to Medicare funded MRI services in every state and territory?
- c) How many MRI services are eligible for Medicare rebates, whole or partial?

Answer:

- a) There are a total of 339 Medicare-eligible Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) units located in Australia.

There are a total of 170 full Medicare-eligible units in the following Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Area (RA) regions:

- ASGC – RA Major Cities - 102 Units
- ASGC – RA Inner regional - 46 Units
- ASGC – RA Outer Regional - 22 Units

There are a total of 169 partial Medicare-eligible units located in the following regions:

- ASGC – RA Major Cities - 168 Units
- ASGC – RA Inner regional - 1 Unit

- b) There is access to Medicare funded MRI services in every state and territory. The table provides the breakdown by state / territory:

STATE	TOTAL	FULL	PARTIAL
ACT	9	2	7
NSW	124	60	64
VIC	78	38	40
QLD	70	36	34
SA	22	10	12
NT	2	2	0
TAS	6	6	0
WA	28	16	12
	339	170	169

- c) All 90 MRI Medicare Benefit Schedule items are available for full Medicare-eligible units.

MRI units that have partial Medicare-eligibility can provide:

- six GP requested MRI items for patients under the age of 16;
- four GP requested MRI items for patients 16 years and over;
- three specialist and consultant physician requested cancer staging items;
- two breast screening services for women at risk and under 50 years of age; and
- four interim listed PIP Breast MRI items.