

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-089

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: COMMONWEALTH DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Would services in the proposed dental health program be performed by public dentists employed by state and territory governments?
- b) How many are currently employed in the public system?

Answer:

- a) Dental services in the public sector are provided by dentists and dental therapists employed by state and territory governments. Many jurisdictions also choose, from time to time, to engage privately practising dentists to provide services on a fee-for-service basis. Under the Commonwealth Dental Health Program design, states and territories could make flexible arrangements for service provision to meet public dental service targets.
- b) In 2006, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were 1,647 dental practitioners in the public sector. [source: unpublished AIHW data]