

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-090

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: COMMONWEALTH DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Hansard Page: CA 90

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Is there enough dentists in the public system to deal with the priority people with chronic health needs?

Answer:

State and Territory public dental services already provide services to a range of people including those with chronic health needs, who are prioritised on the severity of their chronic illness. These services are provided mainly by dental practitioners employed by state and territory governments. Public sector capacity may also be boosted by engaging privately practising dentists to provide services on a fee-for-service basis.