

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Dental Programs

Question reference number: HS 29

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard CA page 118

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

a) **Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS** - Do you have a breakdown across different jurisdictions across states?

Ms McNally - I would have to take that on notice.

b) **Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS** - Would you take that on notice. Also in relation to the Senior Dental Program, could you give me some information in relation to the levels of uptake? Please take that on notice, if you could, and if you could also indicate to me whether you are aware of any inappropriate access to both these items?

Answer:

a) Medicare Teen Dental Plan statistics are publicly available on the Medicare Australia website (under Item number 88000) by state and age group, at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/statistics/mbs_item.shtml.

Attachment 1 identifies for example the dollar benefits paid by state for the 2010 calendar year.

The next level of data is by Local Government Area, of which there are 689 areas in Australia. Reports for data in respect of specific jurisdictions would require specific reports to be developed.

b) Medicare Australia administers the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme which commenced on 1 November 2007.

Under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme, eligible patients are able to receive up to \$4,250.00 in Medicare benefits over two consecutive calendar years. Details of the scheme are available at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Dental+Care+Services

Medicare Australia is currently not aware of any inappropriate access to the Medicare Teen Dental Program.

Attachment 1: Medicare Teen Dental Plan Item 88000 Processed from January 2010 to December 2010											
88000	State										Total
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT			
	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	\$Benefit	
	22,285,722	16,360,966	11,489,891	4,947,274	4,289,059	2,165,212	710,535	229,195			62,477,856

Disclaimer

The information and data contained in the reports and tables have been provided by Medicare Australia for general information purposes only.

While Medicare Australia takes care in the compilation and provision of the information and data, it does not assume or accept any liability for the accuracy, quality, suitability and currency of the information or data, or for any reliance on the information or data.

Medicare Australia recommends that users exercise their own care, skill and diligence with respect to the use and interpretation of the information and data.