

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 17 February 2012

Question: E12-411

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: CLOSING THE GAP HEARING HEALTH PROGRAM

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Senator Scullion asked:

Of the 972 Children that received an ENT follow-up, how many had a follow up service? Provide a better understanding of the review period and whether or not the children had been seen in that time. Provide the average waiting time between the first service and follow up.

Answer:

Of the 972 children who received an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) service in 2010-11, data on follow-up services is available for 918 children. Of these, 576 (63 per cent) children required a subsequent ENT service.

Of these 576 children, as at 31 December 2010, the end date of the Commonwealth Northern Territory Emergency Response ENT specialist follow-up funding:

- 67 (12 per cent) had been reviewed by an ENT specialist;
- 148 (26 per cent) still had an active review period\*;
- 285 (50 per cent) had not been reviewed by an ENT specialist within the review period; and
- 76 (13 per cent) had no fixed review period and had not been seen.

\* 'Review period' –is the time interval between two consecutive ENT consultations. The length of the time interval is determined by the ENT specialist who provided the first ENT consultation and its length varies according to each child's need. Based on the information recorded on the Closing the Gap ENT outreach consultation forms, the review period can be classified into 5 groups: not required, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year and 'as needed.'

The average time between first and subsequent ENT service was 8.2 months.