

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

Question reference number: HS 5

Senator: Di Natale

Type of question: Hansard page 92

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Senator DI NATALE: How much have the CDDS audits cost in total?

Mr Rimmer: We do not have that information available here to my knowledge. Roughly speaking, there is a task force operating and working on this topic which has something like 40 or 45 staff—something like that. We can take the exact numbers on notice.

Senator ABETZ: Could you take that on notice.

Mr Rimmer: Sure.

- b) Senator DI NATALE: Okay. For the people who have completed treatment, can you give me the average cost?

Mr Rimmer: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

- a) The cost of the audits for the period from the announcement of the CDDS Taskforce, to 31 January 2012, is \$4,671,944.
- b) The department is not able to determine whether, at a specific point in time, a patient has 'completed treatment' and therefore cannot provide the average cost for patients who have completed treatment.