

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-136

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity & Quality

Topic: EHEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

In relation to the government's announcement of a \$20.6 million fund to conduct telehealth trials utilising the NBN.

- a) What proportion of this fund is being funded by DoHA?
- b) Did DoHA propose the fund? If not DoHA who did?
- c) Is there a funding cap for potential pilot projects?
- d) Given that there is still limited NBN coverage, what is the total population that will be potentially covered in pilot project locations?
- e) How many telehealth pilot projects has DoHA funded using existing (non-NBN) broadband services since 2008?
- f) How many proposals for telehealth projects using existing (non-NBN) broadband services has DoHA received since 2008?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing is funding the \$20.6 million National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program.
- b) The guidelines for the NBN Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program were developed collaboratively between the Department and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.
- c) No.
- d) There are over 18,000 premises currently in NBN enabled areas and this number is increasing as the NBN rollout progresses.
- e) Since 2008, the Department has funded at least 30 telehealth projects that fit within a broad definition of telehealth.
- f) Since 2008, the Department has received over 120 proposals for funding for projects that fit within a broad definition of telehealth.