

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-175

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: DISTRICT OF WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Sue Boyce asked:

In how many towns or suburbs NOT classified as Districts of Workforce Shortage do doctors provide general practice /primary care services and hospital services including but not limited to inpatient, after hours care and procedural services (extended services)?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing does not collect data for the purpose of identifying the number of doctors who are providing extended services within a particular statistical local area (SLA) that is not considered to be a district of workforce shortage (DWS). The Medicare billing data that is used for determining DWS is de-identified and is not used by the Department to identify the billing patterns of individual medical practitioners who practise privately within a specific SLA.