

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-326

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: GP MENTAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many GP mental health plans were billed under MBS arrangements (item 2702 and 2710) in November 2010 and December 2010 and how do these statistics compare with the number of GP mental health services billed under MBS arrangements (item 2702, 2710, 2700, 2701, 2715, 2717) in November 2011 and December 2011.

Answer:

Numbers of Mental Health treatment plan rebates claimed vary significantly from month to month. While the number of claims for Mental Health Treatment Plans in November 2011 (63,044) was down from November in the previous year (67,421), it is not significantly different from the average number of claims processed per month in 2011 which was 64,408.

December and January activity is also characteristically low compared to other times of the year. In December 2011 there were 48,542 claims for Mental Health Treatment Plans compared to 51,725 claims in December of the previous year. There was however, an increase in the number of claims for Mental Health Treatment Plans in January 2012 (56,449) compared to January 2011 (50,108).

Table 1 below provides data on claims for Mental Health Treatment Plans for the period of October 2011 to January 2012. This four month period can be compared with the same time period in the year before (October 2010 to January 2011).

The data is based on the date Medicare Australia processes the claim (not the date the service was provided to the patient), therefore claims processed in a month may be for services provided to patients in that month or previous months.

*Table 1: Medicare data on the number of claims for GP Mental Health Treatment Plans*

<b>Month</b>	<b>No. of Claims for GP Mental Health Treatment Plans</b>
October 2010	59,938
November 2010	67,421
December 2010	51,725
January 2011	50,108
October 2011	65,843
November 2011	63,044
December 2011	48,542
January 2012	56,449