

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12- 364

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: HEALTH WORKFORCE CAPACITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Please provide yearly statistics as to the number of registered mental health nurses in Australia since 2007.
- b) Is there still a Chief Nurse.
- c) If so, provide details.
- d) What are the duties of the Chief Nurse?
- e) If not, when was the position abolished
- f) Why was it abolished
- g) What was the cost saving
- h) Who now undertakes the duties formerly undertaken to the Chief Nurse?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing does not collect yearly statistical registration data regarding specific specialties of nursing practice. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia does not collect specialty of practice information on registration.

However the Department is able to provide the following;

Data sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Nursing and midwifery labour force survey, 2007-2009 (2009 is the most recently published data) indicates the following:

**Employed registered and enrolled clinical mental health nurses, 2007-2009**

	2007 <sup>(a)</sup>	2008	2009 <sup>(b)</sup>
Registered nurses	11,290	11,799	11,996
Enrolled nurses	2,764	2,446	2,644
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,054</b>	<b>14,025</b>	<b>14,640</b>

(a) State and territory estimates for 2007 should be treated with caution due to the low response rates in some jurisdictions, particularly Northern Territory (28.7%). See the Explanatory notes for further information.

(b) State and territory estimates for 2009 should be treated with caution due to low response rates in some jurisdictions. See *Explanatory notes* for further information.

Source: AIHW Nursing and Midwifery Labour Force Survey, 2007 to 2009

- b) Yes.
- c) Dr Rosemary Bryant commenced in the position of Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer (CNMO), in July 2008.
- d) The CNMO is responsible for providing advice to the Department, the Minister and the Government on nursing and midwifery policy, education, training and workforce planning.

Dr Bryant provides policy advice to the Department of Health and Ageing on a range of issues and provides leadership in the development of policies and strategies to improve clinical care. She provides a nursing and midwifery perspective at the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Health Protection Committee and a range of other multidisciplinary national committees. She is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. She provides leadership to the nursing and midwifery professions through, amongst other things, speaking at national nursing and midwifery conferences. She chairs the Department's Nursing and Midwifery Stakeholder Reference Group.

- e), f), g) and h)  
Not applicable.