

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12 - 376

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: BETTER START FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY INITIATIVE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fifield asked:

What is the latest expenditure data available to the Department for the related Medicare service items in 2010-11 and so far in 2011-12?

Answer:

The Better Start for Children with Disability initiative was implemented on 1 July 2011. Therefore, no Medicare benefits were paid for 2010-11 under the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative.

From 1 July 2011 – 31 January 2012, Medicare benefits paid under the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative was \$2,319,182 (comprising the relevant specialist/consultant physician and general practitioner items and the allied health assessment, diagnosis and treatment items). Medicare benefits paid under the allied health assessment, diagnosis and treatment items (MBS items 82000 - 82035) cover both the Helping Children with Autism program and the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative, and it is not possible to disaggregate separate program expenditure for these Medicare items.