

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-189

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Parkinson's Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) What percentage of the ageing budget is directed to Parkinson's
- b) What percentage of the health budget is directed to Parkinson's

Answer:

- a) There is no comprehensive information on the proportionate cost attributed in the budget to people with Parkinson's disease who are using aged care services. Some information on complex health conditions is recorded as part of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) for people in permanent residential aged care within a global overall assessment of frailty. ACFI appraisals are not designed to cost the delivery of aged care services.
- b) There is no comprehensive information on the proportionate cost attributed in the budget to people with Parkinson's disease who are using health services. People with Parkinson's disease can access normal care from their general practitioner using standard and long consultation items under the Australian Government's Medicare Benefits Scheme. New Medicare items introduced over recent years provide increased Medicare rebates for specific primary care services targeted at particular population groups, such as older Australians and people with chronic medical conditions and complex care needs. They include health assessments, care planning, case conferencing and medication management reviews.

Care planning services are particularly relevant for people with Parkinson's disease. The Chronic Disease Management Medicare items provide rebates for GP preparation and review of care plans including team based care for those with complex care needs. If multidisciplinary care is deemed necessary by the GP, the patient may also be eligible for Medicare rebates for certain allied health services.

Expenditure on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines specifically for the treatment of Parkinson's disease in 2011-12 was approximately \$54 million.

In addition, in 2012 the Government invested \$7.5 million to support medical research into Parkinson's disease through the National Health and Medical Research Council.