

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-225

OUTCOME 10: HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY AND QUALITY

Topic: eHealth

Type of Question: Hansard Page 89, 13 February 2013

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

[Fierravanti-Wells (FW): What percentage of health practitioners that are registered with AHPRA do you believe have signed on to your system?

Rosemary Huxtable (RH): I think we would have to take that on notice. I am not familiar with AHPRA details. But there is another angle to this, and we can put it on notice too, if you wish—I am putting my own questions on notice; that is not really done, is it?

FW: That is very good.

RH: But that relates to the practice incentive program, the EPIP eligibility. Four of the requirements were from 1 February. Mr Butt might have more on this under outcome 5. There has been quite high take-up of the EPIP, four of the requirements of which took effect from 1 February. The first of those requirements is to have an HPIO-HPIL.

FW: So to get that funding, you have to be—

RH: Given that our focus in the first stage is really around that sort of general practice, we are very encouraged by the rate of take-up and interest within general practice. So it is another angle, I guess, coming at the same issue.]

- a) What percentage of health practitioners that are registered with AHPRA do you believe have signed on to your system?
- b) How many general practices have applied for and/or been approved to be granted eligibility for the eHealth Practice Incentive Program (ePIP)?

Answer:

- a) Only healthcare organisations are able to register for the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) - not the individual clinicians who work in them. All individual clinicians and other authorised health workers within each organisation can access the PCEHR using the registered organisation's clinical software. The number of individuals who work at these organisations is not available to the Department of Health and Ageing. As at 30 April 2013 over 2,400 healthcare provider organisations had registered with the PCEHR.
- b) As at 30 April 2013, the Department of Human Services have approved 3,712 practices for the revised Practice Incentives Program (PIP) eHealth Incentive. These practices declared that they meet the first four new eHealth Incentive requirements by 1 February 2013, including:

- integrating healthcare identifiers into electronic practice records;
- having a secure messaging capability
- using data records and clinical coding of diagnoses; and
- sending prescriptions electronically to a prescription exchange service.

These practices also declared that they would meet the fifth requirement by 1 May 2013, which is to

- have the capability to create and upload documents to the eHealth record system and apply to participate in the system.

A PIP eHealth Incentive payment will be made in May 2013 to cover the period between 1 February and 30 April.