

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-047

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS TRAINING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) How many additional GPs undertook mental health skills training under the Better Access Initiative in the last 12 months?
- b) What proportion of all General Practitioners is this?

Answer:

- a) 2,061 additional GPs were reported to Medicare Australia as having completed mental health skills training under the Better Access Initiative between 1 June 2010 – 31 May 2011.
- b) This equates to approximately 11 per cent of the 24,000 GPs using Better Access in Australia as estimated by the General Practice Mental Health Skills Collaboration. Together with those GPs who have already received training under the initiative, this means that overall an estimated 72 per cent of GPs have completed mental health skills training and therefore meet the requirements to access higher rebates under the Better Access Initiative.