

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-363

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: HEALTH WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA

Hansard Page: CA 119

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Could you take on notice to provide me with a breakdown of the mental health workforce in Australia?

Answer:

Calculation of exact mental health workforce numbers relies on data from multiple sources.

Psychiatrists

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) annual publication, *Mental Health Services in Australia, 2007-08*, provides the most exhaustive resource of mental health workforce numbers for those employed in mental health services. Data is provided to the AIHW from all states and territories through a variety of National Minimum Data Sets (NDMS), including the Mental Health Establishments NMDS, the Residential Mental Health Care NMDS and the Community Mental Health Care NMDS.

In 2007, 2,745 psychiatrists were employed in mental health services. A further 862 were employed as psychiatrists in training.

Mental health nurses

The AIHW annual publication, *Nursing and Midwifery Labour Force 2008* provides the latest numbers on mental health nurses. In 2008, 15,211 employed registered and enrolled nurses (clinicians and non-clinicians) identified mental health nursing as their main job.

Mental health nurses by state/territory, 2008

NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
4,919	4,122	2,768	1,374	1,223	403	155	247	15,211

Source: AIHW Nursing and Midwifery Labour Force, 2008

Psychologists

The Psychology Board of Australia publishes biannual data tables on the psychology workforce based on registration type. As at 3 June 2011, 24,287 registrants held general registration as psychologists. A further 4,327 held provisional registration.

Psychology registrants by state/territory and registration type, 2011

State	Registration Type				Total
	General	Limited	Non - Practising	Provisional	
NSW	8,728		36	1,228	9,992
VIC	6,230		113	1,268	7,611
QLD	4,050		79	901	5,030
SA	1,190		34	194	1,418
WA	2,478		19	476	2,973
TAS	415		8	78	501
NT	162		1	38	201
ACT	626	1	22	122	771
NA	408		18	22	448
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,287</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>28,945</b>