

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 30/31 May & 1 June 2012

Question: E12-348

OUTCOME 3: ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

Topic: Progress with Indigenous Health Initiatives

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of Pages: 3

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Medicare item number 715: Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Can the Department provide a breakdown, by age group, of the number of health assessments, as well as the number of services, by age group, that practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers provided as follow-up to a health assessment?
- b) Also, if you could on notice a breakdown (of Healthy Kids Checks provided as MBS item 715 and by non-Indigenous specific MBS item numbers) by state and territory.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing has provided a series of tables that present the data as requested by the Senator. For ease of use, all tables in response to all parts of the question, except where indicated, have been provided for the period from July 2011 to April 2012 inclusive.

The data in Table 1 complements the figures given on 1 June 2012, which were for the number of health assessments (MBS item 715) provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (over the age of 15) for the period from July 2011 to the end of March 2012:

Table 1: Health assessments (MBS item 715) provided by year and age group

Item 715	Age group											Total
	0-4	05-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>=85	Unknown	
Year												
2008-09	6,000	8,160	5,212	4,242	4,830	4,085	3,124	1,557	502	71	0	37,783
2009-10	7,660	9,703	6,657	5,379	5,991	5,170	4,005	1,893	608	96	0	47,162
2010-11	9,794	12,621	10,411	8,548	9,929	9,443	6,341	2,977	1,137	168	0	71,369
2011-12*	11,033	13,346	11,888	9,414	10,504	9,576	6,671	3,077	1,140	156	0	76,805

*July 2011 to April 2012

Table 2: Health assessments (MBS item 715) provided by state/territory and age group from July 2011 to April 2012

Item 715	State breakdown in 2011-12 (Jul-Apr)								Total
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	
0-4	2,931	386	4,423	238	895	59	74	2,027	11,033
05-14	3,888	560	5,259	373	1,052	43	94	2,077	13,346
15-24	3,554	519	4,793	358	995	86	56	1,527	11,888
25-34	2,608	384	3,350	309	967	75	65	1,656	9,414
35-44	2,992	458	3,630	381	1,241	100	54	1,648	10,504
45-54	2,935	395	3,265	350	1,139	89	55	1,348	9,576
55-64	2,051	277	2,261	245	836	74	27	900	6,671
65-74	989	129	1,056	108	332	51	8	404	3,077
75-84	342	48	417	50	110	11	3	159	1,140
>=85	37	9	61	2	21	1	0	25	156
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22,327	3,165	28,515	2,414	7,588	589	436	11,771	76,805

The data in Tables 3 and 4 present a breakdown of the statistics for follow-up items provided by practice nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (previously registered Aboriginal Health Workers) following a health assessment:

Table 3: Follow-up services provided by a practice nurse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner by state/territory and age group from July 2011 to April 2012

Item 10987 - follow-up service provided by a practice nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	State breakdown in 2011-12 (Jul-Apr)								Total
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	
0-4	753	8	446	23	120	0	4	754	2,108
5-14	604	22	342	22	129	2	0	614	1,735
15-24	814	45	537	83	197	11	6	714	2,407
25-34	984	80	501	91	153	3	2	989	2,803
35-44	1,061	75	551	101	240	9	4	1,358	3,399
45-54	1,227	86	672	136	342	14	3	1,139	3,619
55-64	1,042	73	597	86	287	13	1	885	2,984
65-74	580	28	355	39	116	18	1	437	1,574
75-84	235	4	163	13	23	5	0	178	621
>=85	16	5	22	0	6	0	0	29	77
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,316	426	4,186	594	1,612	75	21	7,097	21,327

Table 4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service if a medical practitioner has undertaken a health assessment and identifies a need for follow-up allied health services

Item 81300 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service if a medical practitioner has undertaken a health assessment and identifies a need for follow-up allied health services	State breakdown in 2011-12 (Jul-Apr)							Total
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT	NT	
	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	
0-4	1	7	26	0	0	0	0	34
05-14	13	35	30	0	0	0	0	78
15-24	27	14	34	0	11	0	0	86
25-34	22	11	42	0	4	0	1	80
35-44	71	15	47	0	15	4	6	158
45-54	68	43	76	2	28	0	3	220
55-64	57	28	96	1	12	0	1	195
65-74	19	8	71	0	11	0	1	110
75-84	9	6	14	0	0	0	1	30
>=85	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	287	167	439	3	81	4	13	994

- b) The Department has provided two tables that present the data requested. For ease of use, all tables in response to all parts of the question, except where indicated, have been provided for the period from July 2011 to April 2012 inclusive.

The breakdown in Table 5 for MBS item 715 has been produced using statistics gathered by the date they were processed by Medicare Australia.

Table 5: Healthy Kids Checks provided as MBS item 715

Healthy Kids Checks provided as MBS item 715		State								Total
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
		Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services
Total	0-4	2,931	386	4,423	238	895	59	74	2,027	11,033
	5-14	3,888	560	5,259	373	1,052	43	94	2,077	13,346
	Total	6,819	946	9,682	611	1,947	102	168	4,104	24,379

The breakdown in Table 6 for healthy kids checks, which are not specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are gathered using the date the service was provided.

Table 6: Healthy Kids Checks provided as non-Indigenous specific MBS items

Healthy Kids Check 2011-12 (MBS items 701, 703, 705, 707 and 10986 from Jul 2011- Apr 2012 in relevant age groups)		State								Total
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
		Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services	Services
		31,402	9,926	26,529	4,801	8,577	2210	842	636	84,923