

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-175**

**OUTCOME:** 7 – Hearing Services

**Topic:** Cochlear Processor Upgrades

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 125, 6 June 2013

**Senator:** Siewert

**Question:**

- a) Is it possible to provide information to the Committee on work being undertaken by the Hearing Services Consultative Committee on expansion of the program to provide cochlear speech processor upgrades to implant recipients 26 years of age and over?
- b) How many people in Australia now have Cochlear implants?

**Answer:**

- a) In relation to low income earners over 26 years of age, including the provision of cochlear speech processor upgrades to implant recipients who are not currently covered by the Hearing Services Program, this matter continues to be discussed by the Hearing Services Consultative Committee.
- b) As at 23 October 2013, data from Cochlear Australia indicates the number of cochlear implant recipients is 8,190 (N.B. It takes a month from the day of the procedure before the individual is registered with Cochlear).