

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-176

OUTCOME: 13 – Acute Care

Topic: Bone Marrow Transplant Program

Type of Question: Hansard Page 30, 5 June 2013

Senator: Smith

Question:

- a) How would you record the incidence of people accessing organs through that mechanism?
- b) Provide information about the incidence of those requests annually?

Answer:

- a) The Bone Marrow Transplant Program (BMTP) provides financial support to eligible Australian patients who require haemopoietic (bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cell, donor lymphocyte or cord blood) stem cell transplants (collectively called stem cells in this document) but are unable to find a matched donor from within Australia. The financial support funds procurement and transport of donated stem cells, or assists donors related to the patient to travel to Australia to donate.

The incidence of people accessing stem cell transplants through the BMTP is recorded upon receipt of an application from the patient's hospital transplant coordinator, which is endorsed by their physician. Data recorded includes patient diagnosis, type of stem cell transplant required, origin of matched donation, and transport and costing information.

- b) Transplants of stem cells sourced internationally have increased by almost 100 per cent over the last five years in Australia.* Note that the number of applications quoted below only relates to patients receiving stem cells sourced internationally, and is not representative of the total number of patients accessing stem cell transplants nationwide.

Financial Year	BMTP Applications Approved
2012/13	271 (as at 28/6/13)
2011/12	233
2010/11	205
2009/10	177
2008/09	168
2007/08	138

* BMTP Database, Department of Health and Ageing, 2013.