

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-233

OUTCOME: 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: 19AB Exemption

Type of Question: Hansard Page 124, 5 June 2013

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) How many applications for exemptions has the department received since the guidelines were changed?
- b) How many applications for exemptions has the department granted since the guidelines were updated?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing has received 10,942 applications for exemptions under section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* since the introduction of the revised Section 19AB Guidelines. This number of section 19AB exemption applications is current as at 26 June 2013.
- b) The Department has granted 8,488 section 19AB exemptions since the introduction of the revised section 19AB Guidelines. This number is current as at 1 May 2013 and is the latest available indication of the number of exemptions that have been granted due to the statutory timeframes for assessing section 19AB exemption applications.