

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000580

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Work on GP-Type Attendances

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What is the nature of the work currently being done in relation to GP-type attendances? Who requested this work be done?

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has responsibility for developing specifications for some performance indicators under the National Healthcare Agreement (NHA), one of which is Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments—an indicator for the outcome ‘Australians receive appropriate high quality and affordable primary and community health services’.

AIHW’s role is to develop the technical components of the indicator specifications for approval by Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

In 2011–12, the Council of Australian Governments conducted a review of the performance indicators in the NHA. In July 2012, the NHA review report confirmed that this performance indicator would be retained, but recommended data development work be undertaken to revise the indicator.

Following the release of the NHA review report, the AIHW has undertaken revision work on the indicator, under the auspices of the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council (AHMAC).