Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

<div align="right">Ref No: SQ15-000531</div>

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Child Dental Benefits Schedule – Eligible population/usage

Type of Question: Hansard Page 100, 1 June 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What is the breakdown of ASGC classifications and do you also have numbers by federal electorate?

Answer:

1. The following table shows eligible patient utilisation of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule within Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Area classifications for the period 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014:

ASGS code	ASGS Remoteness Area	Utilisation (% of eligible population)
0	Major City	29%
1	Inner Regional	31%
2	Outer Regional	26%
3	Remote	18%
4	Very Remote	8%
	Australia	**29%**

Remoteness Area (2011) is determined by the patient's Medicare enrolment postcode as at the date their last claim was processed in the reference period, based on the Remoteness Area classification 2006 developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

A very small number of patients were unable to be allocated to a Remoteness Area.

2. Patient utilisation data is collected by postcode. It is not possible to accurately provide this information by electorate as postcode boundaries may overlap electorate boundaries; and post office box postcodes may not reflect residential postcodes.