

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000645

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Mental Illness in Aged Care

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 97, 30 May 2017

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: We know how many people are in aged care and we know the percentage of people in aged care who are likely to have a mental illness.

Dr McCarthy: As my colleagues may have mentioned previously, while I know it is not a substitute, there is the chronic disease management item under which a residential GP can contribute to a care plan prepared by the facility and the resident may then be eligible for referral. I know it is not the same as Better Access, but there is an avenue.

Senator SIEWERT: Yes. How many people?

Dr McCarthy: I do not have that data.

Senator SIEWERT: You do not have it, but can you take it on notice?

Dr McCarthy: I could take that on notice, yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice how many people in residential aged care have accessed or have had a chronic disease care plan done?

Dr McCarthy: I can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Using Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) chronic disease management (CDM) item 731, GPs who contribute to, or contribute to a review of, a resident's management plan created by a residential aged care facility (RACF), may refer that resident for CDM allied health services. CDM allied health services are provided by the following allied health professionals: Aboriginal health workers or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners; audiologists; chiropractors; diabetes educators; dieticians; exercise physiologists; mental health workers; occupational therapists; osteopaths; physiotherapists; podiatrists; psychologists; and speech pathologists.

In 2015-16, GPs referred 39,473 RACF residents for 137,684 CDM allied health services. 369 of these allied health services were provided by psychologists and mental health workers.