

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000896

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Medicare Benefits Scheme Chronic Disease Management arrangements

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

In relation to the answers provided in SQ17-000283 the Department's answer provided information in relation to MBS items 721 - 731 under the MBS CDM arrangements. Can the Department provide details in relation to the number of people who access the Chronic Disease Management arrangements? Can these figure also include those residents who access mental health services who live in Residential Aged Care Facilities?

Answer:

In 2015-16, eligible patients received 7,214,357 chronic disease management (CDM) services (MBS items 721-731). In this period, eligible CDM patients also received 6,159,946 allied health services (MBS items 10950-10970) provided by: 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 used MBS CDM item 731, available to GPs who contribute to, or contribute to a review of, a patient's management plan created by a residential aged care facility (RACF), to refer residents of RACFs for CDM allied health services. 39,473 residents were referred for 137,684 CDM allied health services. 369 of these allied health services were provided by psychologists and mental health workers.