

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001031

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: After Hours GP Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Please break down the workforce for after hours GP services by the level of training.

Answer:

Proportion of after-hours services by provider specialty (2015-16)

After-hours MBS services	Vocationally registered GPs	Non-vocationally registered GPs*	GP trainees	Specialists	Total (services)
Urgent after-hours attendance	27%	63%	7%	3%	1,868,727
Non-urgent after-hours attendance in consulting rooms	67%	30%	2%	1%	8,556,709
Non-urgent after-hours home visit attendance	45%	49%	5%	1%	391,331
Non-urgent residential aged care facility after-hours attendance	75%	22%	3%	1%	579,262

*Non-vocationally registered GPs are doctors who do not hold the necessary qualifications or are not enrolled in eligible training programs to allow them to meet the definition of 'vocationally registered GP, GP trainee or specialist'. Source: Date of processing data.

Notes:

Urgent after-hours attendances – These items can be used for urgent after-hours services provided in consulting rooms only in situations where it is necessary for the practitioner to return to, and specially open, the consulting rooms for the attendance. Urgent attendances are claimable for attendances provided at a place other than consulting rooms (eg home visit or attendance provided in a residential aged care facility). Urgent after-hours attendances includes MBS items: 597, 598, 599, 600.

Medical practitioners who routinely provide services to patients in the after-hours periods at consulting rooms, or who provide the services (as a contractor, employee, member or otherwise) for a general practice or clinic that routinely provides services to patients in after-hours periods at consulting rooms are not eligible to bill urgent after hours items.

Non-urgent after-hours attendance in consulting rooms – are claimable for non-urgent consultations at consulting rooms and includes MBS items: 5000, 5020, 5040, 5060, 5200, 5203, 5207, 5208.

Non-urgent after-hours home visit attendance – are claimable for non-urgent consultations provided at a place other than a consulting room or residential aged care facility. Non-urgent after-hours home visit attendance include MBS items: 5003, 5023, 5043, 5063, 5220, 5223, 5227, 5228.

Non-urgent after-hours residential aged care facility attendance – are claimable for non-urgent after-hours attendances provided to a person within a residential aged care facility and includes MBS items 5010, 5028, 5049, 5067, 5260, 5263, 5265, 5267.

After-hour periods:

Attendance Period	Applicable Time		
	Monday to Friday*	Saturday*	Sunday and/or public holiday
Urgent after-hours attendance	Before 8am or after 6pm	Before 8am or after 12 noon	24 hours
Non-urgent after-hours attendance in consulting rooms	Before 8am or after 8pm	Before 8am or after 1pm	24 hours
Non-urgent after-hours attendance at a place other than consulting rooms (eg home visits or residential aged care facility)	Before 8am or after 6pm	Before 8am or after 12 noon	24 hours

*with the exception of public holidays which fall on a Saturday