

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-001036

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** After Hours GP Services

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

a) Who are the patients who use after hours services? Please break down by age, gender, location.

b) Please provide the demographic break-down of patients including those from aged care homes, patients over the age of sixty, or carers of young children or the elderly?

**Answer:**

**a) Number of services by age, gender and state for after-hours attendances\* - 2015-16**

Male									
Age	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
0-9	336,336	311,809	232,622	81,970	88,463	9,878	9,472	15,791	1,086,342
10-19	143,845	138,593	91,266	33,483	34,234	3,903	3,318	5,337	453,979
20-29	183,741	218,217	112,252	51,407	47,646	4,790	5,083	6,750	629,886
30-39	232,743	266,824	124,100	55,515	57,431	4,062	6,239	9,121	756,034
40-49	198,723	204,380	113,443	44,329	43,960	3,574	4,773	6,889	620,071
50-59	187,629	170,019	99,612	38,156	35,917	3,726	3,737	5,081	543,877
60-69	153,905	125,844	83,813	29,406	28,261	3,553	3,110	4,109	432,001
70-79	108,362	86,513	56,186	22,393	17,776	3,341	2,492	2,644	299,707
>=80	104,898	101,932	48,373	31,379	17,161	3,536	2,215	2,384	311,878
Female									
0-9	299,345	276,163	208,930	73,039	78,432	9,158	8,467	14,042	967,577
10-19	162,345	169,021	115,907	42,375	43,838	5,519	4,236	6,337	549,579
20-29	292,030	357,919	191,084	82,197	84,540	8,727	8,379	12,338	1,037,216
30-39	297,130	346,042	173,528	73,783	77,489	6,811	7,866	12,348	994,998
40-49	227,281	245,775	140,765	56,305	53,561	5,504	5,531	8,130	742,852
50-59	204,082	200,451	117,567	49,422	44,479	5,103	4,188	6,460	631,753
60-69	153,884	133,588	83,839	35,345	30,208	4,443	2,522	4,689	448,518
70-79	111,705	98,179	57,609	27,535	19,354	3,965	2,316	3,084	323,748
>=80	184,064	193,554	80,305	60,761	31,736	6,439	4,125	4,901	565,886

\*After hours attendances includes items in MBS Groups A11 (urgent after-hours attendances), Group A22 (General Practitioner after-hours attendances) and Group A23 (Other non-referred after-hours attendances). Note: two services were provided to people of unknown age and are not counted in the above table. Data is date of processing.

Notes:

The above table provides service volumes for all after-hours attendances. This includes after-hours attendances provided:

- At consulting rooms – MBS items 5000, 5020, 5040, 5060, 5200, 5203, 5207, 5208;
- Within a residential aged care facility (RACF) – MBS items: 5010, 5028, 5049, 5067, 5260, 5263, 5267;
- A place other than a consulting room or RACF (eg home visit) – MBS items: 5003, 5023, 5043, 5063, 5220, 5223, 5227, 5228; and
- Urgent after-hours attendances – MBS items: 597, 598, 599, 600.

b) Data provided above shows that approximately 18% of after-hours attendances are provided to children under 10-years of age. About 18% of services are provided to women between the age of 20 and 39-years, and 21% of after-hours attendances are provided to people over the age of 60-years.

**For urgent after-hours attendances only** approximately 30% of urgent after-hours attendances are provided to children under 10-years of age. About 15% of services are provided to women between the age of 20 and 39-years, and 23% of urgent after-hours attendances are provided to people over the age of 60-years. Figures based on 2015-16 date of processing data.

MBS data does not capture information on whether a service was provided to a person in a residential aged care facility, unless the items are specifically for residents of aged care facilities. There are specific items for non-urgent after-hours attendances for residents of an aged care facility – in 2015-16 there were 579,262 after-hours visits to residential aged care facility, based on date of processing data.

MBS data does not capture information on whether services are provided to parents or carers.