

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-098

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: SOCIAL WORKERS

Written Question on Notice:

Senator Siewert asked:

How many hours do social workers, on average, supply for a 50 minute rebated session?

Answer:

Benefits (rebates) received by consumers from Medicare under the Better Access items are based on a published Schedule of Fees set by the Australian Government. Providers can bill against MBS items against prescribed lengths of time.

From the commencement of Better Access in November 2006 to 30 September 2010, a total of:

- 385,991 Medicare subsidised services have been provided by social workers under MBS item number 80160 (services lasting more than 50 minutes); and
- 7,615 Medicare subsidised services have been provided by social workers under MBS item number 80150 (services lasting more than 20 minutes, but not more than 50minutes).