

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-119

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET) 'WALK IN' SERVICES

Hansard Page: CA 80

Senator Boyce asked:

Is it correct that 90 per cent of PET scans are done on a walk-in, walk-out basis?

Answer:

To be eligible to claim Medicare Benefits for a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) service, the PET scan must be provided following referral from a recognised specialist or consultant physician and be provided at an eligible PET facility.

In 2009-10, there were 28,211 Medicare funded PET services. The Department assumes that the meaning of "walk-in, walk-out basis" refers to out-patient services where a Medicare benefit is claimed. The Department does not have access to data other than where a Medicare benefit has been paid. Medicare benefits are not paid for public hospital in-patient services and other non-Medicare rebateable services. Therefore, the Department cannot confirm this 90 per cent figure.