

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-158

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: HOURS OF CARE

Hansard Page: CA 38

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How much of a community care package is actually taken up in administration and in travel time, and what is the travel component, particularly for the regional and rural areas?

Answer:

The most up to date information available on the hours of assistance provided through community packaged care, and on travel time to the client's place of residence, comes from the 2008 Community Care Census. This census collected information on Government-funded community care and respite programs including: Community Aged Care Packages (CACP); Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH); and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD).

The 2008 Census collected data from 1,242 outlets providing packaged care and/or respite services. The data collected was related to service provision over a period of seven consecutive days of typical service delivery between 18 February and 20 March 2008. Data was collected on 40,284 packaged care recipients, accounting for around 98 per cent of all care recipients at the time of the census.

Around 24 per cent of clients were recorded as having administration time associated with their care. The average amount of time spent on administration for these clients was 27 minutes (median 15 minutes). By program, the average amount of time spent on administration was:

- 26 minutes (median 15 minutes) for CACP clients;
- 33 minutes (median 30 minutes) for EACH clients; and
- 32 minutes (median 30 minutes) for EACHD clients.

Overall, administration accounted for 1 per cent of the total time spent on providing direct assistance, case management and care coordination across all packaged care programs.

The average amount of time spent on travelling to the care recipient's place of residence was 65 minutes (median 30 minutes) per client. The time spent on travel to a client's residence is not included in the hours of assistance provided.

A breakdown by program and remoteness is given below:

CACP	Major Cities Regional and remote areas	58 minutes (median 30 minutes) 56 minutes (median 30 minutes)
EACH	Major Cities Regional and remote areas	130 minutes (median 90 minutes) 125 minutes (median 78 minutes)
EACHD	Major Cities Regional and remote areas	124 minutes (median 90 minutes) 116 minutes (median 90 minutes)