

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-329

OUTCOME 7: Hearing Services

Topic: IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE MINIMUM HEARING LOSS THRESHOLD

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Further to evidence given at estimates, please specify the announcement date for the new threshold and the commencement date for its operation.
- b) From the date of the announcement and the date of implementation what was the increase in claims figures?

Answer:

- a) The Minimum Hearing Loss Threshold was announced in the 2009-10 Budget on 12 May 2009 and commenced on 1 July 2010.
- b) Between 12 May 2009 (date of announcement) and 1 July 2010 (date of commencement) there were 173,807 claims for fitting of hearing devices compared to 162,290 claims for the same period in 2008-09. This increase in claims for fitting of hearing devices is attributable to growth in the number of clients accessing the Program as the Minimum Hearing Loss Threshold had not been implemented.