

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010, 20 & 22 October 2010

Question: E10-408

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN TASMANIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Can the Department provide the number of General Practitioners working in Tasmania, cross-referenced to local government area?
- b) Can the Department provide the number of GPs who have commenced work in Tasmania since July 1, 2010, cross-referenced to local government area?
- c) Can the Department provide the number of GPs who commenced work in Tasmania between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, cross-referenced to local government area?
- d) Can the Department provide the number of GPs who discontinued work in Tasmania between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, cross-referenced to local government area?
- e) Can the Department provide the number of GPs who have discontinued work in Tasmania since July 1, 2010, cross-referenced to local government area?

Answer:

- a) The smallest geographical areas for which the Department publicly releases General Practitioner workforce data is by Divisions of General Practice. We have therefore provided information cross-referenced to Divisions of General Practice.

Table 1: Number of General Practitioners working in Tasmania by Divisions of General Practice, 2008-09 (latest figures available)

State	Division Name[^]	GP Headcount^{^^}
TAS	GP South	397
TAS	GP North	166
TAS	GP North West	116

Footnote:

[^] Maps of the Tasmania Divisions of General Practice can be accessed from the following website: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pcd-programs-divisions-boundarymaps-TAS>

^{^^} Providers are included in the headcount if they provided at least 1 Medicare service during the financial year and have had at least 1 Medicare service processed during the same year.

b – d)

Yes. Table 2 below provides information on the number of General Practitioners who have either commenced or discontinued work in Tasmania.

Table 2: Number of General Practitioners who have commenced or discontinued working in Tasmania by Divisions of General Practice.

State^^	Division Name	(b) Commenced from 1-Jul-2010 to 30 September 2010	(c) Commenced from 1-Jul-2009 to 30 June 2010	(d) Discontinued from 1-Jul-2009 to 30 June 2010	(e) Discontinued from 1-Jul-2010
TAS	GP South	6	22	19	Data is not available
TAS	GP North	4	11	2	
TAS	GP North West	4	16	8	
Total		14	49	29	

Footnotes:

^^ State and Divisions of General Practice have been based on the location at which the GP has provided the most services, using the latest Medicare claims data available for the provider.

(b) Commenced = GP provided services between 1 July 2010 and 30 September 2010 but no services in the previous 4 financial years, within Tasmania.

(c) Commenced = GP provided services between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 but no services in the previous 4 financial years, within Tasmania.

(d) Discontinued = GP provided 1 service during 2008-09 but no services from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

(d) It is not possible to determine if a medical practitioner has left the workforce based on their registration information. These GPs may still be active medical practitioners or active within another state.

(e) There is insufficient data to determine GPs who have discontinued work from 1 July 2010.