

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-429

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: REPORT ON BOOZ & CO CITING THAT AS MANY AS 18,000 AUSTRALIANS DIE FROM ADVERSE DRUG EVENTS EACH YEAR

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Senator Furner asked:

It is estimated by a Booz and Company report released this year, that as many as 18,000 Australians die each year as a result of adverse drug events. The most commonly acknowledged cause of these events relates to disjointed communications or unavailable information. Depending on how much time you have got I could give you a variety.

Answer:

- Booz & Co released the report, “*Optimising E-Health Value Using an Investment Model to Build a Foundation for Program Success*”, on 6 May 2010
- Key figures cited in the report owing to lack of comprehensive health systems in place (page, 10 of 20 in the report); all figures below are per-year

Costs owing to adverse drug events that can be avoided	\$ 2.80 billion
Improved care programs and prevention measures from adherence to best practices could contribute	\$ 2.30 billion
Patients affected by adverse drug events in GP setting	10.40%
Patients affected severely / moderately by adverse drug events in GP setting	5.20%
Patients affected by adverse drug events in GP setting who require hospitalisation	As many as 138,000
Patients affected by adverse drug events in GP setting who die	As many as 18,000

- Some additional facts cited in the report (page, 11 of 20 in the report); all figures below are per-year

Preventable deaths across the health system	5,000
Preventable primary care / outpatient visits	2,000,000
Preventable emergency department visits	500,000
Preventable hospital admissions	310,000