

Senate Community Affairs Committee

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

Hansard Page: CA 107

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 <b>severely / moderately</b> 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 <b>die</b>	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