

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-431

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Hansard Page: CA 62

Senator Siewert asked:

I note that in 2007-08, 1.5 million patients, with what could be categorised as GP-type needs, attended an emergency department in the GP after-hours period. Please provide a breakdown of this figure between metropolitan and regional/remote areas.

Answer:

The estimated number of GP-type patients who visited an emergency department (ED) during GP after-hours time periods was sourced from the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database.

The data for this collection was primarily reported by principal referral and large hospitals, located in metropolitan areas. In 2007-08, only 41 medium and small hospitals contributed episode-level data to the collection. This represented around 29% of services provided by hospitals in this category of hospital grouping.

Given the small sample size of hospitals from regional and remote areas, it is not possible, with any level of accuracy, to subdivide the number of GP-type patient visits as requested.