

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

**Question reference number:** HS 26

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Hansard pages 120-121, 122 and 125

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 2

#### Question:

- a) **Senator FIFIELD:** Of the figure of 100, you said that some of the might have been dental prosthetists. So there will be dentists and dental prosthetists. Are there any other professions?

**Mr Rimmer:** There are some dental specialists that are eligible to claim under the scheme. I am not sure whether any of the audits relate to dental specialists.

**Mr Hancock:** We will have to take that on notice.

**Senator FIFIELD:** If you could break down the numbers by professional categories on notice, that would be good.

**Mr Rimmer:** To be clear, of the 556 dental practitioner audits that are underway, you would like a breakdown.

**Senator FIFIELD:** Yes.

**Mr Rimmer:** We can do that.

**Senator FIFIELD:** And those that have been completed.

**Mr Rimmer:** Sure.

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- b) **Senator FIFIELD:** Are you able to provide us with the number of voluntary repayments which have occurred as a result of the educative process?

**Mr Rimmer:** We could certainly do that on notice. I am not sure that we have the figures right here.

**Mr Hancock:** We do not have the figures with us at the moment, so we could take that on notice. We will need to go back to the start of the scheme to find all the voluntary repayments that have occurred.

**Senator FIFIELD:** The number of voluntary repayments and the total value of those.

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- c) **Senator FIFIELD:** What was the 'dental inquiry 20 strategy'? Does that mean anything to you? It does not mean anything to me.

**Mr Hancock:** I am not familiar with the 'dental inquiry 20', but I will take that on notice and have a look at it and see what it was.

#### Answer:

- a) Of the 556 audits of dental practitioners, either underway or completed, 50 relate to dental prosthetists and 506 to general dentists. To date, no audits relate to dental specialists.

- b) The Department of Human Services does not separately record voluntary repayments received specifically in relation to the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.
- c) The 'Dental Enquiry 20' project was developed after initial compliance activity indicated that there were significant concerns about claiming under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. These concerns included non-compliance with section 10 of the *Health Insurance (Dental Services) Determination 2007* (the Determination) and claiming Medicare benefits prior to services being provided to the patient.