

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 - Tasmania

Question reference number: HSW 59

Senator: Bushby

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many Tasmanian dental practitioners have been audited by Medicare under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme?
- b) How many Tasmanian dental practitioners have been found to be non-compliant?
- c) How were the Tasmanian dental practitioners acting in a non-compliant manner?
- d) Can you please provide a break down of how much each of those dental practitioners has been asked to repay? And also the total amount for Tasmania?
- e) How many Tasmanian medical practitioners are you auditing?
- f) What were the triggers that sparked the auditing of the Tasmanian dental practitioners?

Answer:

- a) Two.
- b) Two.
- c) The Tasmanian dental practitioners were found to be non-compliant due to failure to fulfil the requirements of section 10 of the *Health Insurance (Dental Services) Determination 2007* (the Determination) by failing to provide a written quote and treatment plan to the patient, prior to commencing the course of treatment, and failure to provide a copy or summary of the treatment plan to the referring GP, prior to commencing the course of treatment.
- d) Dental practitioner 1 - nil.
Dental practitioner 2 - \$24,637.95.
Total recovery amount for Tasmania = \$24,637.95.
- e) None.

- f) All dental practitioners who are the subject of an audit in relation to the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme have been identified as a result of Medicare compliance activities. Selection for audit is determined on the basis of:
- tip-offs and complaints received by the department;
 - dental practitioners claiming profiles being assessed as higher than average when compared with their peers; and/or
 - a review of dental practitioners' claiming activity to identify potential areas of incorrect claiming.

These categories are not exclusive; an individual audit may contain multiple triggers.