

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-209

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) How many enquiries has the Regional Health and Aged Care Unit handled since 1 July 2011?
- b) Please provide a breakdown of the type of inquiries (i.e. information, health services, aged care, and referral) and information about their advocacy work to date?

Answer:

- a) As at 28 October 2011, Rural and Regional health Australia (RRHA) has handled 164 enquiries. Following the formal launch of RRHA on 4 November by Minister Roxon and Minister Crean, along with the Independent Member of Parliament Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott, the number of enquiries has increased but data has not been fully compiled as of yet.
- b) A breakdown of the subject of each enquiry is tabled below. Note the number of enquiries handled is less than the “enquiry subject” total as some contacts involved more than one subject.

<b>Subject of Enquiry</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Info Line</b>	<b>Total</b>
Infrastructure Grants	2	6	8
Infrastructure Hospitals			
Workforce Training and Support	8	39	47
Outreach Services	0	9	9
Pharmaceutical	1	1	2
Palliative Care	0	9	9
Other Rural	6	6	12
Not specified	1	75	76
Not for DoHA	3	0	3
Request for Publication	3	0	3
Dental	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>171</b>

The advocacy function is still developing. However, in its early stages, the RRHA has held several meetings with key Commonwealth agencies, including the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, as well as key rural health stakeholders to discuss future collaborative mechanisms to give effect to its internal advocacy work.