

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-359

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICARE SERVICES MIDWIVES AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Can you provide an update on the number of 'eligible midwives' and 'eligible nurse practitioners' for MBS and PBS purposes?

Answer:

Between 1 November 2010 and 30 September 2011, 402 nurse practitioners registered with Medicare Australia. Of these, 274 Nurse Practitioners have a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriber number only and 128 nurse practitioners have both a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) provider number and a PBS prescriber number. Of the eligible nurse practitioners allocated a MBS provider number, 78 have provided MBS rebateable services

The number of midwives who have registered with Medicare Australia and been allocated an MBS provider number as at 30 September 2011 is 57. Of these, 43 midwives have provided Medicare rebateable services. To date no eligible midwives have been allocated a PBS prescriber number as there is no prescribing course available for privately practicing midwives. Flinders University in South Australia is currently preparing a prescribing course for midwives to apply for accreditation under the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council.