

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-363

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICAL BENEFITS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) In 2010/11, how many people met the concession threshold for the Extended Medicare Safety Net and how many met the general threshold?
- b) How does this compare to previous years?

Answer:

- a) Data relating to the number of individuals qualifying for the extended Medicare safety net (EMSN) for the 2010-11 financial year is not yet available for release. Data relating to the Medicare safety nets is generally reported in calendar years consistent with the accumulation of out-of-pocket costs towards the safety net thresholds. For Medicare services provided in the 2010 calendar year, 1,533,096 people qualified for the EMSN. Of these, 1,005,574 people qualified for the concessional threshold of the EMSN and 527,522 people qualified for the general threshold of the EMSN, having regard to claims processed up to 30 June 2011.

Note: the number of people qualifying for the EMSN includes all members of a Medicare registered family in which at least one family member received a safety net benefit.

- b) For Medicare services provided in the 2008 and 2009 calendar years, the following number of people qualified for the concessional and the general EMSN thresholds:

| Year | Concessional Threshold | General Threshold | Total qualified | Claims Processed   |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2008 | 948,384                | 469,231           | 1,417,615       | Up to 30 June 2009 |
| 2009 | 1,014,354              | 520,207           | 1,534,561       | Up to 30 June 2010 |

Note: the number of people qualifying for the EMSN includes all members of a Medicare registered family in which at least one family member received a safety net benefit.