

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-394

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH

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Senator: Senator Scullion

Question:

Obviously, the results of the trials at Townsville, Kiama and Armidale could potentially inform broader usage across a whole range of areas.

- a) When are those trials being completed?
- b) What is the extent of the trials in Armidale?
- c) I would be interested to know what they actually are, because in my recent visit there was no mention made of them. Perhaps you might like to take that on notice.
- d) The cost of each of those trials.

Answer:

These responses were provided to the Department of Health and Ageing by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) which is responsible for these trials and any future questions about the trials should be directed to DBCDE.

The National Broadband Network (NBN) telehealth trials are funded through the National Partnership Agreement on the Digital Regions Initiative. They comprise the:

- Townsville NBN-Enabled Diabetes Telehealth Trial; and
 - New South Wales Telehealth to the Home trial, which includes three elements: Armidale chronic disease; Kiama chronic disease; and Kiama youth mental health.
- a) The Townsville and NSW telehealth trials are scheduled to conclude on 30 June 2013.
 - b) In Armidale, the trial is providing in-home telehealth services to older Australians who are eligible to receive treatment through the NSW Government's Chronic Disease Management Program. Services are available to patients living in the NBN fibre footprint in Armidale.

- c) The trials are delivered in partnership with the New South Wales and Queensland State Governments and use the NBN to provide in-home telehealth services. The Townsville Diabetes Trial and the chronic disease elements of the New South Wales trial provide in-home monitoring of key health indicators, video consultations between patients and locally based nurse coordinators and health professionals, as well as education services to promote healthier lifestyles.

The mental health element of the New South Wales trial uses the NBN to deliver video-based consultations between headspace psychologists and young Australians aged 12 – 25 living in Kiama with, or at risk of, mental illnesses or drug-related problems.

- d) The Australian Government is providing funding of \$4 million for the NSW NBN Telehealth to the Home Trial, and \$3.76 million for the Townsville NBN Diabetes Trial.