

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Audits – Medicare services and benefits – Mental Health Programs

Question reference number: HS 10

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard page 101

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: And, in relation to the health support programs, if there are any mental health programs in there I would appreciate these stats as well (number and profile of audits and reviews).

Ms Campbell: We will look at that information.

Answer:

Under the Health Support Programs, the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) funds community-based general practices, private psychiatric practices and other appropriate organisations to employ mental health nurses to help provide coordinated clinical care for people with severe and persistent mental disorders.

Organisations are audited by site visits to verify the validity of the payments claimed against the eligibility requirements set out in the MHNIP guidelines.

MHNIP establishment payments are also verified. The Department conducted audits in the 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years. Results for the last two financial years are displayed in the following table:

Financial year	Number Audited	Completed	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Recovery amount identified
2010-11	37	37	22	15	\$120,120
2011-12	21	13	12	1	\$5,000

In 2011-12, the Department also reviewed all registered organisations by telephone to discern the level of the owner's awareness of their registration for the MHNIP payments. The level of knowledge and understanding around their obligations and responsibilities under the MHNIP guidelines was also determined. Where concerns were identified, the organisations concerned were referred for further investigation.