

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000956

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Medicare Safety Net

Type of Question: Hansard Page 36, 21 October 2015

Senator: Smith, Dean

Question:

What is the geographic distribution of Extended Medicare Safety Net benefits by metropolitan, regional and remote classification?

Answer:

In 2014, the geographic distribution of Extended Medicare Safety Net benefits was as follows:

Remoteness Area Name	Total MBS benefits	EMSN	% of total EMSN spend	EMSN as % of MBS benefits spend per remoteness area**
Major Cities of Australia	\$14,418,237,390	\$351,268,820	82.9%	2.4%
Inner Regional Australia	\$3,728,313,446	\$49,771,718	11.8%	1.3%
Outer Regional Australia	\$1,598,347,776	\$19,032,670	4.5%	1.2%
Remote Australia	\$181,137,881	\$2,239,234	0.5%	1.2%
Very Remote Australia	\$89,644,902	\$937,195	0.2%	1.0%
Unknown*	\$5,069,701	\$294,482	0.1%	6%
Total	\$20,020,751,096	\$423,544,119	100.0%	2.1%

* 'Unknown' refers to patients whose location cannot be accurately determined (for example: incomplete/indcipherable responses; post office boxes; lack of a fixed address)

** Each value represents the EMSN as a percentage of the MBS benefits paid in that remoteness area. For example, EMSN benefits were 2.4 per cent of the MBS benefits expenditure in Major Cities of Australia in 2014.