

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 14 February 2006

Question: HS62

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Medicare - Medicare Smartcard

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR POLLEY asked on 14/2/2006:

1. I understand that to date just over 3000 Medicare Smartcards have been issued in the Tasmanian pilot. What percentage is that, as a proportion of the eligible population?
2. How many Tasmanians who are potentially eligible have not been able to get a card because they have been unable to supply the necessary personal identification criteria?

Answer:

1. Invitations to register for a smartcard are sent to Tasmanians when their current Medicare card is about to expire. As of 23 March 2006, 16,342 invitations had been sent and 2,704 Medicare smartcards had been issued. This represents 16.5% of people accepting the invitation to register for a smartcard.
2. No statistical information is maintained on unsuccessful registrations. There has only been one formal complaint received by Medicare Australia from an individual who expressed concern over the level of personal identification that was required to register for a Medicare smartcard.

This answer required 2 hours at a cost of \$100 to prepare.