

Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012

23 October 2012

Question no: 1

Topic: Inquiry into the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012

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Senator DiNatale asked:

Another question around the chronic disease scheme—do we know how many people exceeded the cap? Of those million people who would have received treatment—there might be some other way of calculating it—we know the average cost is a couple of thousand dollars. I am interested to know in percentage terms how many courses of treatment exceeded the cap. ... The real question is whether they have reached their cap.

Answer:

From 1 November 2007 to 30 September 2012, the 2-year benefits cap of \$4,250 was reached on 158,128 occasions. The number of patients who have reached the cap may be less as patients could have received benefits under the CDDS in more than one 2-year period – that is, patients may have reached the cap on more than one occasion.

Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012

23 October 2012

Question no: 3

Topic: Dental Relocation and Infrastructure Support Scheme

Hansard Page: CA

**Senator BUSHBY asked:** In relation to the regional, rural and remote relocation grants, can you tell me how many have accepted grants and relocated to date .... In doing so, can you also let me know how much on average was provided, to which rural classification they relocated and where they came from—for example, major cities or inner regional et cetera.

**Answer:**

The Dental Relocation and Infrastructure Support Scheme has not yet commenced. Delivery of incentives under the program will take place from 2013-14.

Work on the implementation of this program is underway.

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HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012

23 October 2012

Question no: 4

Topic: Inquiry into the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012

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Senator Bushby asked:

- 1) Could you tell me how many services have been provided under the pro bono dental services initiative?
- 2) Could you also let me know what rural classification those services were provided under as well?

Answer:

- 1) Since the first payment was made on 18 October 2012 under the agreement between the Commonwealth and the National Dental Foundation, the Foundation has carried out one Dental Rescue Day. This was on 19 October 2012, when dentists coordinated by the Foundation provided 15 patients with dental services to the value of \$5,826.
- 2) The services were provided at Mt Waverly, Victoria – RRMA M1