

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-086

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: NATIONAL PRESCRIBING SERVICE

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) In relation to the National Prescribing Service could you outline how much they have been spending on meetings, venue hires and hospitality?
- b) They seem to be undertaking a series of meetings and workshops what are they actually achieving in relation to that?

Answer:

- a) The NPS budget for 2010-11 for the program on Quality Use of Diagnostics is \$2.48 million. Of this, \$43,011 will be spent on stakeholder reference group meetings, and \$50,590 on expert advisory panel meetings in the period to June 2011. These meetings ensure the input of expert advice to program design and delivery. A detailed breakup of costs for these meetings is not required under the terms of their contract and has not been provided to the Department.
- b) The NPS programs are delivered through the Divisions of General Practice. To date, 80 Divisions have been contracted and are currently delivering workshops about diagnostic issues to 1500 GPs. These workshops provide education and information as part of a multi-faceted suite of program interventions. To date, in addition to workshops, written program material has been provided to over 55,000 health professionals, and feedback on referral practices has been provided to 17,500 GPs.