

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-200

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: CHRONIC DISEASE DENTAL SCHEME

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How much has been spent on the Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Programme and how has it been distributed by area (ASGC-RA) and type of procedure (eg complex restoration of emergency care and what is the total amount spent so fare in the NT (as an example of how well the programme is reaching regional and remote areas?

Answer:

From 1 November 2007 to 31 January 2011 the Commonwealth has provided a total of \$1,431,884,158 in benefits under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.

Distribution of benefits paid by remoteness area (ASGC-RA) is as follows:

Remoteness Category	Benefits paid 1/11/2007 – 31/1/2011
0 Major Cities of Australia	\$1,264,456,162
1 Inner Regional Australia	\$136,860,795
2 Outer Regional Australia	\$26,604,016
3 Remote Australia	\$3,618,269
4 Very Remote Australia	\$79,170
9 RA Unallocated	\$265,744
All	\$1,431,884,158

NB this table shows the distribution of benefits by the area (ASGC-RA category) where the dental care service occurred, ie the location of the dentist or dental care provider. Data on benefits by ASGC-RA categories based on patient address are not available.

Distribution by type of procedure (MBS item group) is as follows:

MBS Item group	Benefits paid 1/11/2007 – 31/1/2011
Diagnostic services	\$77,226,503
Preventive Services	\$185,498,526
Periodontics	\$36,110,190
Oral Surgery	\$72,231,178
Endodontics	\$56,201,718
Restorative Services	\$257,304,497
Crown and Bridge	\$402,752,268
Prosthodontics	\$326,917,484
Orthodontics	\$5,804,142
General Services	\$11,837,651
Total	\$1,431,884,158

NB this table shows expenditure by type of procedure, based on Item Group categories.

A total of \$657,910 was provided in benefits for services provided in the Northern Territory under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme between 1 November 2007 and 31 January 2011.