

## ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-242

## OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: BETTER ACCESS

Hansard Page: CA 30

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What are the total number of people seen against each Better Access Medicare Items in each year since 1 November 2006?

Answer:

While the Better Access evaluation did not report on the number of people seen against each of the Medicare items available under the Better Access initiative, it did report on the number of persons who received services by item group. This data is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Persons receiving MBS-subsidised *Better Access* services by item group, 2007, 2008 and 2009

	2007		2008		2009	
	No. of persons	% of persons	No. of persons	% of persons	No. of persons	% of persons
<b>Item group</b>						
GP items	618,867	87.1	817,738	85.9	971,836	86.0
Consultant Psychiatry items	87,947	12.4	93,736	9.9	100,434	8.9
Psychological therapy services provided by clinical psychologists	98,612	13.9	151,587	15.9	189,418	16.8
Focussed Psychological Strategies services provided by registered psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers	226,169	31.8	312,035	32.8	379,284	33.6
<b>All Better Access items</b>	<b>710,840</b>		<b>951,454</b>		<b>1,130,384</b>	

Note: The sum of persons receiving services under each item group will be greater than for all Better Access items because a person may receive services from more than one item group.

Further information on the number of persons receiving Better Access services can be found in the reports for Component B and the summative evaluation at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-ba-eval>