

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-257

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: FUNDING OF AIHW WORK ON RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

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Senator Adams asked:

How much will be allocated in the out years to the AIHW specifically for its work on rural and remote health?

Answer:

The AIHW includes regional analyses in most of its health and welfare reports, so it is difficult to produce a robust estimate of the total AIHW Budget currently spent on rural and remote health. The AIHW is not able to estimate how much will be spent on rural and remote health in future years, but it is expected to be significant.

Aside from regional analysis in most of our reports, the AIHW has recently published two reports with a rural health focus. These were *Australian health expenditure by remoteness: a comparison of remote, regional and city health expenditure* (January 2011) and *A snapshot of men's health in regional and remote Australia* (April 2010). The approximate costs of these projects were \$243,000.

Further, the extensive reporting of National Healthcare Agreement performance indicators produced by the AIHW includes disaggregation by remoteness, at further cost to the AIHW. The COAG has recently announced a process for revision of these performance indicators during the second half of 2011, which will require considerable effort and commensurate resourcing.