

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000078

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: After-Hours Primary Health Care

Type of Question: Hansard Page 121, 1 March 2017

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

Senator GRIFF: I would like to discuss after-hours primary health care. I understand there are two primary options for the public. You have private GP practices and the corporate medical deputising services. Firstly, I will go to private GPs. My understanding is that the PIP is utilised by private GP practices for after-hours care.

Ms Cole: Yes, that is correct. There are after-hours items in the MBS and there is also a PIP payment depending on the level of after-hours provision that a practice makes.

Senator GRIFF: What do GP practices have to do in order to receive this?

Ms Cole: It varies depending on the level of payment. I can provide that to you on notice. It is reasonably detailed around the difference—

Answer:

To be eligible for the PIP After Hours Incentive, general practices must meet the eligibility requirements listed in the PIP After Hours Incentive guidelines.

A summary of the payments and eligibility requirements for the five levels of the PIP After Hours Incentive is attached. Payments are based on the Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE). This is a measure of practice size and includes a weighting factor for the age and gender of patients. As a guide, the average full-time GP has a SWPE value of around 1,000 annually.

Further details of the PIP After Hours Incentive are located on the Department of Human Service website at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/enablers/after-hours-incentive>

Payment level and amount	After hours period	Care provider
Level 1 Participation \$1 per SWPE	Complete after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside 8 am to 6 pm weekdays • outside 8 am to 12 noon on Saturdays, and • all day on Sundays and public holidays 	Formal arrangements in place with other providers, including Medical Deputising Service (MDS), to ensure access for practice patients.
Level 2 Sociable After Hours Cooperative Coverage \$4 per SWPE	Sociable after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 pm through to 11 pm weeknights 	Participating general practice in cooperative arrangement, including minimum hourly participation requirements.
	Unsociable after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 pm through to 8 am weekdays • hours outside of 8 am and 12 noon Saturdays, and • all day Sundays and public holidays 	Formal arrangements in place with other providers, including MDS, to ensure access for practice patients.
Level 3 Sociable After Hours Practice Coverage \$5.50 per SWPE	Sociable after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 pm through to 11 pm weeknights 	Participating general practice.
	Unsociable after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 pm through to 8 am weekdays • hours outside of 8 am and 12 noon Saturdays, and • all day Sundays and public holidays 	Formal arrangements in place with other providers, including MDS, to ensure access for practice patients.
Level 4 Complete After Hours Cooperative Coverage \$5.50 per SWPE	Complete after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside 8 am to 6 pm weekdays • outside 8 am to 12 noon on Saturdays, and • all day on Sundays and public holidays 	Participating general practice in cooperative with other general practices, including minimum hourly participation requirements.
Level 5 Complete After Hours Practice Coverage \$11 per SWPE	Complete after hours period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside 8 am to 6 pm weekdays • outside 8 am to 12 noon on Saturdays, and • all day on Sundays and public holidays 	Participating general practice.