

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-050

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP ASSIST TASMANIA AND TAS MEDICARE LOCAL

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Bushby

Question:

Can the Minister confirm that the current GP Assist Tasmania combined nurse and GP triage service is widely acknowledged as the most cost effective and best model of after-hours health care available?

Answer:

The Commonwealth has funded GP Assist Tasmania to a total of approximately \$28.3 million over the period from 2003 until 2012-13 with the current funding providing \$7 million for the two years up to until 30 June 2013. The range of services and associated costs as provided by GP Assist Tasmania and those provided through the national health telephone advice and triage services are not directly comparable. It is not therefore possible to comment on or validate claims of superior cost efficiency.