

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-098

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health Treatment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Boyce

Question:

In November 2011, cuts were made to the GP Mental Health Plan Medicare rebates. How have these cuts affected patient's access to mental health treatment and have poorer outcomes been reported or observed?

Answer:

The number of GP Mental Health Treatment Plans developed and claimed in 2012-13 was 866,050 compared with 786,057 in 2011-12 and 760,770 in 2010-11.

In 2012-13, 824,744 people received allied mental health services under the Better Access initiative compared with 756,622 in 2011-12 and 699,690 in 2010-11.

It should be noted that not all people who receive a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan are referred to Better Access for allied mental health services.

Patient outcome data is not reported on through Medicare.