

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013**

**Question: E13-213**

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Access to Medical Services

**Topic:** Bulk-Billing Statistics

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 110, 20 November 2013

**Senator:** Brown

**Question:**

Please provide a breakdown of bulk billing figures who are the beneficiaries in high levels such as children, adults and health care concession holders.

**Answer:**

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) bulk billing rates for children aged under 16 years and adults aged 16 years and above are provided in Table 1.

Table 2 provides the bulk billing rates for concessional and non-concessional card holders.

**Table1. MBS bulk billing rate for children aged under 16 years / adult 16 years and above by Broad Type of Service (BTOS),  
Sep quarter 2013 compared to Sep quarter 2012**

BTOS / Children/Adult		Bulk Billing Rate (%)		
		Sep Qtr 2012	Sep Qtr 2013	Change in % Points
<b>GP attendances</b>				
GP/VR GP	Children under 16 years	88.4	89.3	0.9
	Adults 16 years and above	79.0	80.2	1.1
Enhanced Primary Care	Children under 16 years	96.8	97.1	0.3
	Adults 16 years and above	96.9	97.0	0.1
Other	Children under 16 years	93.0	93.6	0.6
	Adults 16 years and above	83.4	84.5	1.1
<b>Total GP attendances (excl Practice Nurse)</b>	Children under 16 years	<b>88.8</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
	Adults 16 years and above	<b>80.4</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Practice Nurse Items	Children under 16 years	97.4	99.3	1.8
	Adults 16 years and above	98.8	99.2	0.4
<b>Total GP attendances (incl Practice Nurse)</b>	Children under 16 years	<b>88.9</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
	Adults 16 years and above	<b>80.5</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Specialist attendances	Children under 16 years	33.0	33.2	0.2
	Adults 16 years and above	28.1	28.6	0.5
Obstetrics	Children under 16 years	92.7	99.1	6.4
	Adults 16 years and above	43.0	46.5	3.5
Anaesthetics	Children under 16 years	2.9	2.8	-0.1
	Adults 16 years and above	9.4	10.1	0.7
Pathology Episode Initiation	Children under 16 years	87.6	88.2	0.5
	Adults 16 years and above	86.9	87.7	0.7
Pathology Tests	Children under 16 years	85.7	86.9	1.2
	Adults 16 years and above	86.3	87.4	1.1
Total Pathology	Children under 16 years	86.4	87.3	1.0
	Adults 16 years and above	86.5	87.5	1.0
Diagnostic Imaging	Children under 16 years	83.3	84.7	1.4
	Adults 16 years and above	73.8	74.8	1.0
Operations	Children under 16 years	41.4	43.2	1.9
	Adults 16 years and above	40.6	42.1	1.5
Assistance at Operations	Children under 16 years	0.8	0.8	0.0
	Adults 16 years and above	0.6	1.1	0.4
Total Operations and Assistance at Operations	Children under 16 years	40.6	42.4	1.8
	Adults 16 years and above	38.5	40.0	1.5
Optometry	Children under 16 years	93.0	92.4	-0.5
	Adults 16 years and above	97.5	97.4	-0.1
Radiotherapy and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine	Children under 16 years	100.0	96.3	-3.7
	Adults 16 years and above	59.1	62.3	3.2
Allied Health	Children under 16 years	36.1	35.1	-1.0
	Adults 16 years and above	75.8	63.9	-12.0
Other MBS Services	Children under 16 years	55.4	55.6	0.2
	Adults 16 years and above	55.0	55.9	0.9
<b>Total Medicare</b>	<b>Children under 16 years</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
	<b>Adults 16 years and above</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>

Notes:

Reference period was based on date of data processing.

Patient's age determined as at the date the service was provided.

On 1 January 2012 the majority of practice nurse items were removed from the MBS.

On 30 November 2012 MBS groups N1, N2 and N3 under BTOS 'Allied Health' were removed from the MBS.

Total Medicare excludes BTOS 'Dental Benefit Schedule (Teen Dental)'.  
Total Medicare excludes BTOS 'Dental Benefit Schedule (Teen Dental)'.

**Table2. MBS bulk billing rate for concession card holder / non-concession card holder by Broad Type of Service (BTOS),  
Sep quarter 2013 compared to Sep quarter 2012**

BTOS / Concession card/non-concession card holder		Bulk Billing Rate (%)		
		Sep Qtr 2012	Sep Qtr 2013	Change in % Points
<b>GP attendances</b>				
GP/VR GP	Concession Card Holder	92.7	93.3	0.6
	Non-Concession card Holder	69.3	71.9	2.6
Enhanced Primary Care	Concession Card Holder	99.0	99.2	0.1
	Non-Concession card Holder	92.9	93.8	0.9
Other	Concession Card Holder	92.5	92.6	0.1
	Non-Concession card Holder	79.3	81.8	2.5
<b>Total GP attendances (excl Practice Nurse)</b>	Concession Card Holder	<b>93.2</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>
	Non-Concession card Holder	<b>70.7</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Practice Nurse Items	Concession Card Holder	99.6	99.7	0.1
	Non-Concession card Holder	96.0	98.0	2.0
<b>Total GP attendances (incl Practice Nurse)</b>	Concession Card Holder	<b>93.3</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>
	Non-Concession card Holder	<b>70.8</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Specialist attendances	Concession Card Holder	35.1	35.6	0.5
	Non-Concession card Holder	21.7	22.7	1.0
Obstetrics	Concession Card Holder	77.7	82.3	4.7
	Non-Concession card Holder	36.3	40.1	3.8
Anaesthetics	Concession Card Holder	12.8	13.9	1.1
	Non-Concession card Holder	6.7	7.3	0.6
Pathology Episode Initiation	Concession Card Holder	87.2	87.5	0.3
	Non-Concession card Holder	86.7	87.9	1.1
Pathology Tests	Concession Card Holder	85.4	86.2	0.9
	Non-Concession card Holder	87.1	88.4	1.3
Total Pathology	Concession Card Holder	85.9	86.6	0.7
	Non-Concession card Holder	87.0	88.2	1.2
Diagnostic Imaging	Concession Card Holder	84.3	85.1	0.8
	Non-Concession card Holder	65.8	67.9	2.1
Operations	Concession Card Holder	50.5	51.9	1.4
	Non-Concession card Holder	31.8	34.2	2.4
Assistance at Operations	Concession Card Holder	1.0	1.5	0.5
	Non-Concession card Holder	0.5	0.8	0.4
Total Operations and Assistance at Operations	Concession Card Holder	48.6	50.1	1.4
	Non-Concession card Holder	29.9	32.2	2.3
Optometry	Concession Card Holder	98.4	98.3	-0.1
	Non-Concession card Holder	96.1	95.8	-0.2
Radiotherapy and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine	Concession Card Holder	62.6	64.9	2.4
	Non-Concession card Holder	53.4	58.6	5.2
Allied Health	Concession Card Holder	81.1	73.3	-7.8
	Non-Concession card Holder	59.1	45.3	-13.8
Other MBS Services	Concession Card Holder	61.0	61.6	0.6
	Non-Concession card Holder	48.3	49.9	1.6
<b>Total Medicare</b>	<b>Concession Card Holder</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>
	<b>Non-Concession card Holder</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>

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