

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

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OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Health Expenditure

Type of Question: Hansard Page 58, 22 October 2014

Senator: Reynolds, Linda

Question:

Dr Bartlett: The OECD comparisons are usually done on the basis of percentage of GDP. On that basis we are about average. But one of the factors there has been that Australia's GDP growth until quite recently has been well above OECD average, which means that growth in health services as a percentage has not grown rapidly.

Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. So taking that into account, we have not grown rapidly in comparison to the OECD in terms of percentage?

Dr Bartlett: Our growth as a percentage of our GDP has not grown rapidly, although it increased in the most recent AIHW figures for 2012-13. It increased as a percentage of GDP—and this is from memory—from 9.1 to 9.4 per cent, but I can confirm those numbers for you.

Answer:

Using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's health expenditure accounting system, health expenditure as a proportion of GDP in Australia was 9.2 per cent in 2011-12 and 9.4 per cent in 2012-13.