

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001167

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Number of Medicare Services

Type of Question: Hansard Page 58, 22 October 2014

Senator: Reynolds, Linda

Question:

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. Can you give me a bit of background on how many services are accessed annually and by how many Australians? Do you have those figures there?

Dr Bartlett: I do not have an accurate figure on the number of Australians. I can get you those. In terms of the number of services: in 2013-14 there were—sorry I am starting to struggle with print size!

Senator REYNOLDS: That is all right, I sympathise!

Dr Bartlett: It is a factor of age! It is 356,135,218.

Senator REYNOLDS: Can you say that again?

Dr Bartlett: It is 356,135,218 MBS services in 2013-14.

Senator REYNOLDS: Could you take that on notice and could you get someone, even today, to provide how many Australians have accessed that and if there are any trends in terms of averages? I imagine there would be a lot more people who access many more services than others. So if you do have those figures I am happy for you to take that on notice or to provide them later.

Dr Bartlett: We have a range of figures that we can provide to you. Some of the things that we provided before have been that concession card holders are higher users of health services than non-concession-card holders. There has been an overall growth in the use of MBS services—and I can give you some figures on that, although I do not have the 2013-14; I only have them up to 2012-13. In 2012-13 there were 14.9 MBS services per capita, which was up from 14.6 the year before; 14.2 the year before that; 13.9 the year before that; 13.5 the year before that; and so on back. So you can see a steady growth in the services per capita.

Answer:

Statistics on the number of Australian's who have accessed Medicare and trends in terms of averages are available on the Department of Health website.

Reference: Annual Medicare Statistics, Table 1.10

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Annual-Medicare-Statistics>