

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001365

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Supporting Primary Care Providers to Co-ordinate Disease Management - Care Co-ordination and Supplementary Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

- a) How many FTE Care Coordinators are employed to care for those with chronic diseases?
- b) How many care Coordination services have been provided from the beginning of this year to date?
- c) Does the program still include assistance for medical aides including assisted breathing equipment and dose administration aides? If not, why not?
- d) Can you please provide the number of FTE National Coordinators, project officers and administrative staff that are currently operational in this area?
- e) What are the funding allocations for Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care programs?
- f) Are children under the age of 15 eligible for financial assistance in this area?
- g) What work has been carried out in recent times to increase and build community and clinical understanding of the program?
- h) Has eligibility for this program being expanded since its creation?

Answer:

- a) As at 30 June 2014, 214 full time equivalent (FTE) Care Coordinators were employed.
- b) 101,810 Care Coordination services were provided from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 (later data is not currently available).
- c) Yes.
- d) 1 FTE National Coordinator, 3 FTE Project/Field Officers and 0.75 FTE Administrative Assistant.
- e) In 2013-14, \$20.5 million (GST exc) was available and in 2014-15, \$20.9 million (GST exc) is available for the Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care Programme.

- f) Yes.
- g) A range of activities have been undertaken to build and increase community awareness. These activities include promotion at local community events e.g. National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee celebrations, Closing the Gap days and Reconciliation Week, engagement with practice staff and health professionals, delivery of workshops, development and distribution of resources and use of media coverage.
- h) Under the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Programme, since 6 June 2013, patients can be referred by their usual practice, regardless of whether it has been registered for the Practice Incentive Programme - Indigenous Health Incentive. In addition, eligibility for the Programme has been extended to children under the age of 15.