

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13th and 16th February, 2007

Question: HS66

Agency: Medicare Australia

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Water Usage

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SENATOR WONG asked on 16/02/2007:

- (1) Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (3) What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (4) For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

ANSWER:

- (1) Medicare Australia is required to report its environmental performance to the public which is currently done through the Annual Report. While not specifically addressing water consumption and targets, the report does state that Medicare Australia complies with local government water conservation regulations and encourages staff to reduce water usage. Reports of Medicare Australia's environmental performance, including water consumption, will shortly be published on the Medicare Australia's website.
- (2) Medicare Australia monitors and reports on water usage in National Office, Canberra. This practice is being extended to the State network during 2007.
- (3) Based on National Office water usage, the estimated national consumption in Medicare Australia is 54 million litres of potable water or a water intensity rate of 0.72 kL/m².
- (4) All Medicare property premises are leased. In most property sites, dual flush toilets are available. Where sites do not have dual flush toilets, Medicare Australia is negotiating with property owners to replace the single flush units to dual flush. This transition is expected to occur during the 2007-08 financial year.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 3 hours at an estimated cost of \$190.