

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Medicare Australia

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1

Topic: Location of staff

Senator: Scullion

Question reference number: HS11

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 130, 24 October 2008

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Question:

HS11: Senator SCULLION—The organisational chart that has been provided shows a whole bunch of positions by level in the offices, including the head, the state and the regional offices. Are there any staff who occupy a position that has been allocated to a regional office who are actually in Canberra or in the head office? Is it a notional allocation about where they are working, or does it actually reflect a geographic location of where they turn up for work?

Ms Godwin—By and large it reflects geographic location. There is one program, the National Compliance Program, which generally speaking is counted against our national office headcount, but in fact most of the staff are in the network.

Senator SCULLION—So you would not find it the other way around in any of the circumstances—

Ms Godwin—From time to time people are—

Senator SCULLION—Perhaps on notice you might indicate how many there are and where they are located.

Answer:

HS11: In the following table (for February 2009) the rows identify the number of staff located within the organisational structure, while the columns represent physical location of staff.

For example, the table shows that 54 New South Wales employees were physically located in Canberra. Of these, 52 employees operate the five Medicare Branch Offices in the Australian Capital Territory, which organisationally report to New South Wales.

Likewise, 11 employees who organisationally belong to Queensland were physically located in New South Wales. These employees operate the Tweed Heads Medicare Branch Office, which organisationally reports to Queensland.

In February 2009, there were 63 employees who were physically located and work in Canberra, who , organisationally report to other States; 54 report through the New South Wales organisation structure, one Queensland, six South Australia, one Victoria and one Western Australia. Conversely, there are 354 employees physically located in State offices who report organisationally to National office.

		Physical Location								
Headcount		ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	NT	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Organisation Structure Location	National Office	1,201	105	84	36	1	11	91	26	1,555
	NSW	54	1,267	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,321
	VIC	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,039	0	1,040
	QLD	1	11	849	0	0	0	0	0	861
	WA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	520	521
	SA	6	5	0	353	40	0	0	0	404
	TAS	0	0	0	0	0	334	0	0	334
	Total	1,264	1,388	933	389	41	345	1,130	546	6,036

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