

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000252

OUTCOME: 6 - Rural Health

Topic: Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

Has any work been undertaken in relation to a review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas system? If so, has any advice been provided to the Minister or Minister's office on this?

Answer:

Yes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has reviewed and replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For the use of Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) in health workforce programmes, a Senate Inquiry into factors affecting the supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas, and a 2012-13 review of health workforce programmes, considered the use of the ASGC-RA. The Department of Health has been testing changes recommended by the reviews, and Ministers have been advised about this work.