

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000288

OUTCOME: 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Internship Placements

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

- a) In regards to the Coalition's promise for \$40 million over four years to support additional internship placements, what is the estimated cost of the 76 additional placements which were funded this year?
- b) Under what budget line item was this funded from?
- c) Why were additional placements allocated only in Queensland and Western Australia in 2014?
- d) Overall, how many domestic and international medical graduates missed out on an internship this year?

Answer:

- a) \$10.07 million (GST inc).
- b) Outcome 12 - Program Group 1 - Workforce and Rural Distribution.
- c) The Department of Health discussed options with private hospitals in other jurisdictions, but accredited internship training places able to be filled from January 2014 were only available in hospitals in those states.
- d) Advice from state and territory governments is that all domestic students, who are guaranteed an internship under a 2006 Council of Australian Government agreement, were offered an internship. It is not clear at this time whether any Australian-trained international medical graduates are still seeking an internship in 2014. The National Medical Intern Data Management Working Group is currently surveying all states and territories and the Commonwealth to determine whether there are intern vacancies due to late withdrawal from intern programmes.