

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 & 31 May 2011

Question: E11-460

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: RURAL HEALTH AGENCY

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Senator Nash asked:

Could you take on notice the actual details of the types of things that currently exist within the Department that will be brought into the Rural Health Agency area?

Answer:

A number of functions that already exist within the Department will be brought into the Regional Health Agency:

- liaison with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on regional health matters;
- policy input on rural health issues;
- coordination of briefing for the Cabinet and senior official groups, for Commonwealth only or Commonwealth/State;
- the rural health enquiry line and email facility;
- preparation of a range of maps, statistics and analysis using health workforce data;
- management of a suite of rural health service access programs comprising the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program and its expansions, the Visiting Optometrists Scheme, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and the Rural Women's GP Service; and
- management of the Rural Health Outreach Fund.