

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-048

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: General Practice Education and Training Ltd

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Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What are the different approaches to ensuring there are a sufficient number of supervisors?

Answer:

Regional training providers contracted by General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) to deliver the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program are responsible for the recruitment and support of training practices and supervisors in their regions. Regional training providers manage training capacity through the ongoing assessment of capacity needs having regard to the number of registrars training in their region currently and into the future.

New training practices are recruited and accredited by the regional training providers in localities having regard to regional medical workforce needs, the suitability of the practice for the purposes of training, and priorities in relation to clinical training settings such as in Aboriginal Medical Services. In recruiting new training practices and supervisors regional training providers seek to ensure a consistent supply of registrars to the practice to ensure the ongoing sustainability of training delivery in the practice.

A number of additional initiatives are undertaken by GPET to support supervisors. These include:

- Funding to regional training providers for teaching allowances and practice subsidies for supervisors was increased by 20 per cent in 2010-11;
- A grants program spanning 2010-12 titled 'In-practice Education and Training Resources' directed funding to training practices and supervisors for the purchase of educational resources, learning materials and medical equipment required for training;
- An applied research grants program titled 'Educational Integration Projects' commenced in 2011 and continues in 2012 and provides funding to regional training providers and training practices to undertake projects aimed at encouraging innovation in training delivery; integrated training for students; prevocational doctors and registrars; and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of GP training.

- Projects to streamline and integrate prevocational and vocational training practice accreditation to simplify the process for supervisors and their practices are currently underway;
- Research was undertaken in 2011-12 into GP training capacity in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled medical services sector to identify barriers to participation in the AGPT program; and
- Implementation of a program in 2012-13 aimed at directing funding into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled medical services sector to address barriers to participation in the AGPT program, support supervisors and expand training capacity.