

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: E12-250

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Rural Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 6

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

Please outline the range of health workforce programs for Doctors, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals targeting rural and remote Australia including (1) program name (2) annual budget (3) number of participants for each program.

Answer:

The table below outlines all health workforce programs targeted at rural and remote Australia, specifically for Doctors, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals. As annual budgets may vary, expenditure for 2011-12 has been provided as the most up to date figure. Participant numbers provided are as up to date as possible.

Rural Health Activity	2011-12 Budget	Participants (2010-11)
Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance	\$13,900	802 Community Pharmacies
Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program, including:	\$7,500,000	
Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme		As at 29 February 2012, there are 79 active Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarship Students.
Rural Pharmacy Mentor Scheme		From 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011, 125 mentors are assisting 125 students
Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance Scheme		From 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011, 273 students were assisted to undertake a rural placement. Currently the scheme has 15 participating pharmacy schools. 785 applications were processed from 1 July to 31 December 2011
Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools		
Rural Pharmacy Intern Incentive Allowance		It is anticipated that 200 applications per year will be approved under the Fifth Agreement. There are currently 15 pharmacy schools offering undergraduate and eligible graduate entry pharmacy degree programs received funding through the scheme.
Rural Pharmacy Emergency Locum Service		During the period 1 January to 31 December 2011, 33 requests for emergency locums were received. 14 of the request for emergency locums during the period came from pharmacists in New South Wales in PhARIA's 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Rural Pharmacy Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Allowance		10 University Departments of Rural Health are participating in the program over the 5CPA
Rural Pharmacy Intern Training Allowance		For the period 1 July to 31 December 2011 there were 96 active applications.
S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance	\$2,700,000	22 Pharmacies
Home Medicines Review Rural Loading	\$55,495	On 1 October 2011 the program rules changed, prior to that date there were 94 participants, post that date there were 62 participants.

Quality Use of Medicines maximised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (QUMAX)	\$3,500,000	71 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services have been approved to participate with work plans currently in place. 241 community pharmacies are participating in the program 192,621 patients currently participate through ACCHS in rural and urban areas.
S100 Remote Area Aboriginal Health Service Program	\$43,600,000	PBS medicines are being supplied to 174 remote Aboriginal Health Services by 38 pharmacies (33 community and 5 hospital pharmacies).
Higher Bulk Billing Incentives for GPs in Regional, Rural and Remote Areas, Tasmania and Metropolitan Areas listed under MBS	2011-12 ACTUAL Medicare Benefits Paid for these items. \$281,604,315	In 2011-12 15,676 doctors claimed at least one of these items.
Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS)	\$1,863,698	Planned services for 2011-12 equal 29,225 patient consultations across 368 locations.
VOS Expansion Expenditure	\$1,220,013	Planned services for 2011-12 equal 5,388 patient consultations across 109 locations.
Introduction of MBS items and financial incentives to increase access to specialist services by video consultations for patients living in remote, regional and outer metropolitan areas of Australia.	Financial incentives are available to encourage practitioners to conduct specialist video consultations funded under Medicare.	As of 31 May 2012 - 1446 health practitioners located in rural and remote areas (according to ASGC RA code) have provided a telehealth service (specialist and patient end).
Indigenous Aged Care Workforce – Employment	\$19,402,000	745
Indigenous Aged Care Workforce – Training and Traineeships	\$10,488,000	103
Practice Incentives Program: Procedural General Practitioner Payment	\$9,007,500	In 2011-12 around 350 general practices received payments through the PIP Procedural General Practitioner Payment.
Practice Incentives Program: Rural Loading	\$28,100,000	In 2011-12 more than 1,500 general practices received payments through the PIP Rural Loading.
Practice Incentives Program: Rural Practice Nurse Incentive	\$11,388,000	In 2011-12 more than 1,300 general practices received payments through the PIP Rural Practice Nurse Incentive.
Rural Primary Health Services Program (new as from 1/1/10)	\$78,513,000	In 2011-12, 180 RPHS service providers and 34 Preventative Health Initiative Projects.
National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program	\$9,650,677	50 projects funded under Round 6.

Royal Flying Doctor Service program	\$53,825,000	In 2010-11 there were 45,919 primary evacuations, 5,067 clinics held and 69,660 remote consultations conducted.
Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP)	\$19,458,000 (2010-11)	1,328 services provided. A "Service" is equivalent to a specialist visiting and providing a consultation.
MSOAP Indigenous Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) Expansion	\$7,772,000 (2010-11)	541 services provided. A "Service" is equivalent to a specialist visiting and providing a consultation.
Rural Women's GP Service	\$3,479,000	159 locations receiving RWGPS clinics. 16,715 consultations provided.
EHSOI incorporating the Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC)	\$6,243,665	465 short term health professional placements in the Northern Territory, including GPs, registered nurses, allied health professionals, ear health professionals and dental staff.
Expanding the outreach and service capacity of Indigenous health organisations – this includes funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers, Practice Managers and additional health professionals. The additional health professional's component is specifically targeted at rural and remote areas.	\$10,265,259	22 additional health professionals funded.
Health and Hospitals Fund – Northern Territory Medical Program	\$2,305,000	No specific participation. Funding is provided for building infrastructure.
General Practice Rural Incentives Program	\$72,893,000	11,068 medical practitioners assessed as eligible in 2010-11.
Nursing & Allied Health Rural Locum Schemes	\$7,940,173	471 in 2011-12
GP Procedural Training Support Scheme	\$1,747,000	42 GPs in 2011 and 40 in 2012
Remote Vocational Training Scheme	\$3,449,167	22 Registrars in 2011 and 22 in 2012
Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPTP)	\$140,600,000 (for AGPTP and PGPPP)	918 in 2011 and 1046 in 2012
Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP)	\$140,600,000 (for AGPTP and PGPPP)	692 trainees in 2011 and 975 target for 2012 training year
Continuing Education Training and Support Program, includes: Rural Health Continuing Education (RHCE) Stream 1	\$3,194,000	RHCE 1 – 23 individual grants and 12 projects

<p>for medical specialists</p> <p>RHCE Stream 2 for Indigenous Health Workers, Allied Health Professionals, GPs, Nurses and Midwives</p> <p>Rural Health Education Foundation funding</p>		<p>RHCE 2 – 20 projects – reported up to 14,469 participants</p> <p>RHEF – 670 television reception sites. 73,355 registered visitors accessed resources on RHEF’s website.</p>
<p>Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program, includes:</p> <p>Rural Clinical Training and Support Program</p> <p>University Departments of Rural Health Program</p> <p>Dental Training Expanding Rural Placements Program (DTERP)</p> <p>John Flynn Placement Program (JTPP)</p>	<p>\$119,185,973</p>	<p>2011 Calendar year:</p> <p>Rural Clinical Training and Support Program - 16 universities funded for 17 Rural Clinical Schools. In 2011, 2,134 medical students in participating universities undertook at least 4 weeks of rural clinical placement. Of these, 758 undertook a long term rural placement of at least one year.</p> <p>9 universities funded for 11 UDRHs. In 2011, 4,210 rural clinical placements of at least two weeks duration were undertaken by medical, nursing and allied health students through the UDRH program.</p> <p>DTERP - 6 universities funded to each support 5 FTE dental clinical placements in rural areas. In 2011, 274 clinical placements ranging from two to seven weeks duration were undertaken.</p> <p>JFPP - 1,003 participants in 2010-11</p>
<p>CRANAPlus</p>	<p>\$3,761,320</p>	<p>CRANAPlus supported the rural and remote health workforce in 2010-11 by maintaining the following five projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Services Centre. - Centre for Remote Health Academic Program - First Line Emergency Care (FLEC) - Expanded FLEC Bush Services Support
<p>Allied Health Scholarship Support</p>	<p>\$12,026,000</p>	<p>619 scholarships in 2011</p>
<p>Overseas Trained Doctor (OTD) Recruitment:</p>	<p>\$4,392,000</p>	

International Recruitment Strategy (IRS) Additional Assistance Scheme (AAS) Rural Locum Relief Program (RLRP) Five Year OTD Scheme		IRS – 98 recruitments of OTDs AAS – 294 medical practitioners RLRP - 604 medical practitioners Five Year OTD scheme - 109 OTDs
Rural Locum Education Assistance Program	\$286,000	70 GPs
Rural Procedural Grants Program	\$17,464,000	1633 procedural GPs
Rural Australian Medical Undergraduate Scheme	\$6,370,802	580 in 2012
HECS Reimbursement Scheme	\$7,000,000	523 medical practitioners
GP Anaesthetist Locum Scheme	\$402,755	32 GP Anaesthetists in 2011-12
Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme	\$969,162	116 GP Obstetricians in 2011-12
Telehealth Training for Medical Professionals	\$4,494,000	28 non-government organisations received funding to commence the development of telehealth training and supports. Those funded include medical colleges, Medicare Locals, universities and rural workforce agencies
Rural Other Medical Practitioners	\$70,400,00 (2011-12 YTD based on Medicare claims to 31 March 2012)	1,531 participants (YTD to 31 March 2012)
Scaling for Overseas Trained Doctors	n/a – this is a non-financial incentive that reduces the 10 year moratorium	Up to 2,147 OTDs received a scaling incentive each month during 2010-11
Bonded Medical Places Scheme	Funded through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	707 medical students in 2011
Innovative Clinical Teaching and Training Grants (ICTTG) Program	\$29,990,001	34 grants.
Health System Capacity Development Fund – National Rural Health Student's Network (NRHSN) Funding Component	\$915,650	Approximately 9,000 medical, nursing and allied health students are members of the 29 University Rural Health Clubs funded by the NRHSN.
Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP)	\$1,628,000	24 students in 2011 (including 10 Indigenous students).
Northern Territory Indigenous Transition Pathways (ITP) to Medicine	\$1,000,000	12 students supported under the Agreement with Flinders University in 2011-12.

Project		
Improving Access to Primary Care Services in Rural and Remote Areas (COAG)	Funding for this measure is in the forward estimates. Figures have not been published.	Currently operating at 39 sites across Australia.