

**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: E12-258**

**OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity**

**Topic: Targeted Workforce Areas**

**Type of Question: Written Question on Notice**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator: Senator Di Natale**

**Question:**

- a) Is there a proposal for a new Targeted Workforce Areas (TWA) scheme and, if so how is it proposed to operate?
- b) Would the new system be applied just to general practice incentives and return of service by bonded medical scholars, or would it also encompass the classification of Districts of Workforce Shortage?
- c) How soon can such a new scheme be expected to be applied to the scaling of general practice incentives?

**Answer:**

- a) The Government considers how all policies and programs, including District of Workforce Shortage (DWS), may be improved. One option that is being considered is the use of targeted workforce areas (TWAs). The methodology for TWAs will now be considered as part of a broader review of health workforce programs.
- b) The Government is reviewing health workforce programs in 2012-13. Any decision regarding changes to DWS will be made in the context of the Government response to this review.
- c) As outlined above, no decisions have been made regarding the timing or nature of any changes to the current general practice incentives, as this will be considered as part of the review of health workforce programs in 2012-13.