

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: E12-260

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Rural Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

What programs are available to increase the number of procedural medical skills in rural and remote areas?

Answer:

The GP Procedural Training Support Program supports GPs living in rural and remote areas to attain procedural skills in obstetrics or in anaesthetics. The obstetrics component is managed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). The anaesthetics component is managed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

For the 2012 training year RANZCOG awarded 25 obstetrics scholarships and ACRRM awarded 15 anaesthetics scholarships for the 2012 training year.

The scholarship application period for the 2013 training year is from 1 July to 31 July 2012. 35 obstetrics scholarships and 15 anaesthetics scholarships will be available for the 2013 training year.

Procedural GPs in rural and remote areas can access a grant to attend training and skills maintenance activities. The RPGP has two components offering a grant for the cost of up to:

- 10 days training, to a maximum of \$20,000 per GP per financial year for procedural GPs practising in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics in rural and remote areas (ASGC-RA 2-5); and
- 3 days training, to a maximum of \$6,000 per GP per financial year for GPs practising emergency medicine in rural and remote areas (ASGC-RA 2-5) to attend approved training activities.