

**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: E12-261**

**OUTCOME 12:** Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Rural Health Workforce

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

What evidence is available about the reduction in availability of GP proceduralists to rural people (for maternity services, anaesthetics, minor surgery)?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health and Ageing does not collect or hold statistics about the overall number of GP proceduralists in Australia. The Department does offer financial support to procedural GPs through several programs, and can provide information about participation in these programs.

The Rural Procedural Grants program enables procedural GPs in regional, rural and remote areas to access a grant to attend relevant training, upskilling and skills maintenance activities.

The Program 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; and
- 3 days training, to a maximum of \$6,000 per GP per financial year for GPs practising emergency medicine to attend approved skills maintenance and upskilling activities.

<b>Component</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
Anaesthetics	399
Obstetrics	421
Surgery	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>886</b>

The GP Procedural Training Support Program aims to improve access to maternity services for women living in rural and remote communities, by supporting GPs to attain procedural skills in obstetrics or in anaesthetics. Only GPs practicing in rural and remote areas are eligible to apply. The Program provides funding of \$40,000 to enable them to gain either the Advanced Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG Advanced) or a statement of satisfactory completion of Advanced Rural Skills Training in Anaesthesia.

All places on the GP Procedural Training Support Program have been filled to date. In 2012, 25 places have been filled for obstetrics and 15 for anaesthetics.

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