

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: E12-265

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:

The recent Federal Budget announced some realignment of certain Health Workforce Australia activities, with the consequent savings to be redirected towards the GP Rural Incentives Program.

- a) How much money is allocated in forward estimates for the GP RIP program?
- b) Will the Department conduct a review of the effectiveness of the program?
- c) How many doctors have been helped to relocate under the provisions of the GP RIP program and at what expense?
- d) Can the Department provide information about the numbers who have moved between various remoteness areas (for instance from major cities (RA1) to outer regional (RA3)? Or from inner regional (RA2) to remote (RA4)?)
- e) Is it possible for the Department to prepare a table of such movements so that the so-called scaling of incentives can be assessed?

Answer:

- a) \$204.5 million over 2012-13 and 2013-14.
- b) The GP Rural Incentive Program will be included in a broader review of the effectiveness of workforce programs to be conducted during 2012-13.
- c) As at 21 June 2012, 69 medical practitioners have moved and been approved to receive incentives under the Rural Relocation Incentive Grant (RRIG) of GPRIP at a total cost of \$528,038.23. Incentives under the RRIG are received following 12 and 24 months of practice in the new location. Note that the RRIG is only one component of the GPRIP. Other components provide incentives for doctors and trainees to remain working in regional, rural and remote locations.
- d) Yes, see table below. Please note that this only represents those medical practitioners that have moved and been approved to receive a RRIG since 1 July 2010.

	TO			
<i>FROM</i>	RA 2	RA 3	RA 4	RA 5
<i>RA 1</i>	35	10	5	8
<i>RA 2</i>	-	6	2	1
<i>RA 3</i>	-	-	0	2
<i>RA 4</i>	-	-	-	0

This table shows the number of medical practitioners that have been approved for a RRIg and the ASGC-RA classification of their 'from' and 'to' locations as at 21 June 2012.

e) Yes, see above.