

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-009

OUTCOME: 6 - Rural Health

Topic: Rural Health Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) Which communities have received outreach services through the Rural Health Outreach Fund?
- b) What financial disincentives to health professionals does the fund seek to address?
- c) What is considered a 'financial disincentive'?
- d) How does the fund improve access to medical specialists?
- e) To which medical specialist does the fund improve access?
- f) How are recipients selected?
- g) What criteria are considered?
- h) What types of outreach services are provided?
- i) How does the funding of telehealth services improve access to quality health care?
- j) Do telehealth services discourage patients from accessing face-to-face care?
- k) Is patient care compromised?
- l) Which allied and other health providers are eligible for the funding?
- m) Which state and territory organisations administer the fund?
- n) How are the organisations selected?
- o) Which stakeholder groups were consulted to identify community needs?
- p) Who else attended the Advisory Forums?
- q) Is funding guaranteed by the Government for these funds?

Answer:

- a) A list of communities that received outreach services through the Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF) in 2012-13 is provided at Attachment A.
- b) to h)
Please refer to the RHOF Service Delivery Standards available at:
http://www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au/internet/rha/publishing.nsf/Content/Rural_Health_Outreach_Fund
- i) Telehealth services facilitate timely access to essential specialist services and extend the scope of practice of rural generalists to provide comprehensive care for patients in their local community.

- j) No. Telehealth provides an option to support patients who have barriers preventing them from accessing face to face services.
- k) The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and other colleges representing medical professionals have developed clinical guidelines to assist health professionals to provide safe, high quality care in a telehealth setting.
- l) Registered medical specialists, general practitioners, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, dietitians, diabetes educators, psychologists, occupational therapists and podiatrists are eligible for funding through the RHOF to deliver services.
- m) State and territory organisations administering funds are:
- New South Wales: NSW Rural Doctors Network
 - Northern Territory: NT Department of Health
 - Queensland: CheckUP Australia
 - South Australia: Rural Doctors Workforce Agency – South Australia
 - Tasmania: Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services
 - Victoria: Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
 - Western Australia: Rural Health West
- n) Fundholder organisations were selected through an open competitive funding round.

o) and p)

Please refer to the RHOF Service Delivery Standards available at:

http://www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au/internet/rha/publishing.nsf/Content/Rural_Health_Outreach_Fund

Advisory Forum members, fundholders and the Secretariat, which is provided by the Department of Health, are the only attendees at Advisory Forum meetings.

- q) The Rural Health Outreach Fund is an ongoing measure. Funding agreements are in place with fundholder organisations until 30 June 2016.

Communities that received outreach services through the Rural Health Outreach Fund - 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

State	Communities
New South Wales	Albury, Armidale, Ballina, Batemans Bay, Bathurst, Bega, Blayney, Boggabri, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Casino, Cobar, Coffs Harbour, Cooma, Cootamundra, Coraki, Corowa, Dareton, Darlington Point, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Finley, Forster, Glen Innes, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Gunnedah, Hay, Inverell, Ivanhoe, Kempsey, Kingscliff, Kyogle, Leeton, Lightning Ridge, Lismore, Lithgow, Macksville, Menindee, Merimbula, Milton, Moree, Moruya, Muli Muli, Murwillumbah, Muswellbrook, Nambucca Heads, Narooma, Narrabri, Narrandera, Nimbin, Nowra, Nyngan, Orange, Pambula, Parkes, Port Macquarie, Quirindi, Singleton, Tabulam, Tamworth, Taree, Temora, Tumut, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, Warren, Wauchope, Wee Waa, Werris Creek, Wilcannia, Yass, Young
Northern Territory	Adelaide River, Ali Curung (Warrabri), Alice Springs, Alpururulam (Lake Nash), Alyangula (Groote Eylandt), Amooinguna, Ampilatwatja (Ammaroo), Amunturangu (Mt Liebig), Angurugu, Anyinginyi, Aputula (Finke), Atitjere (Harts Range), Bamyili (Barunga), Batchelor, Belyuen, Borrooloola, Bulla, Bulman, Djabiluka (Jabiru), Elliott, Galiwinku (Elcho Island), Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella), Gove District Hospital, Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Gundayanga (Marngarr, Ski Beach), Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Kalkarindji (Wave Hill), Kaltukatjara (Docker River), Katherine, Kintore (Walangkura), Lajamanu (Hooker Creek), Ltyentye , Apute (Santa Teresa), Maningrida, Mataranka, Milikapiti (Snake Bay), Mililingimbi, Minjilang (Croker Island), Minyerri (Hodgson Downs), Miwaji (Nhulunbuy), Mount Liebig, Mutitjulu (Ayers Rock Yulara), Nauyuu Nambiyi (Daly River), Nganmariyanga (Palumpa), Ngukurr (Roper River), Nhulunbuy (Gove), Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Numbalwar (Rose River), Nyirppi (Waite Creek), Orwatjilla (Canteen Creek), Papunya, Peppimenarti, Pine Creek, Pirlangimpi (Garden Point), Ramingining, Robinson River, Tara (Neutral Junction), Tennant Creek, Ti Tree, Timber Creek, Titjikala (Maryvale), Umbakumba, Urapuntja (Utopia), Wadeye (Port Keats), Waruwi (Goulburn Island), Watarraka (Kings Canyon), Willowra, Wilora (Stirling), Wugularr (Beswick), Wurli-Wurlinjang, Wurrumyanga (Nguuu/Bathurst), Yarralin, Yirrkala, Yuelamu (Mt Allan), Yuendumu, Yulara
Queensland	Alpha, Atherton, Aurukun, Badu Island, Bamaga, Barcardine, Bedourie, Biggenden, Biloela, Birdsville, Blackwater, Boggabilla, Boulia, Bowen, Bundaberg, Burketown, Camooweal, Charleville, Charters Towers, Childers, Chinchilla, Clermont, Cloncurry, Coen, Cooktown, Croydon, Cunnamulla, Dajarra, Darnley Island, Doomadgee, Dysart, Eidsvold, Einsaleigh, Emerald, Eulo, Forsayth, Gayndah, Georgetown, Gin Gin, Glenden, Goondiwindi, Hope Vale, Horn Island, Innisfail, Julia Creek, Jundah, Karumba, Kingaroy, Kowanyama, Kubin, Laura, Lockhart River, Longreach, Mabauig Island, Mapoon, Mareeba, Mer, Middlemount, Monto, Moranbah, Mornington Island, Mossman, Mount Isa, Mount Surprise, Mundubbera, Napranum, Normanton, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Proserpine, Quilpie, Roma, Roma, Saibai Island, Springsure, St George, St Pauls, Tannum Sands, Thargomindah, Thursday Island, Tieri, Tully, Urandangi, Warraber Island, Weipa, Windorah, Winton, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal, Yam Island, Yarrabah, Yorke Island

South Australia	Amata, Ardrossan, Balaklava, Barmera, Berri, Bordertown, Burra, Ceduna, Clare, Coober Pedy, Crystal Brook, Fregon, Indulkana, Iwantja, Jamestown, Kadina, Keith, Kingscote, Loxton, Maitland, Meningie, Millicent, Mimili, Minlaton, Moonla, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Nyapari, Oak Valley, Oodnadatta, Peterborough, Pika Wiya, Pipalyatjara, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Pukatja, Renmark, Riverton, Roxby Downs, Streaky Bay, Taillem Bend, Tumbay Bay, Waikerie, Wallaroo, Whyalla, Yalata
Tasmania	Alonnah, Burnie, Currie, Deloraine, Devonport, East Coast, Flinders Island, George Town, Huonville, King island, Launceston, Nubeena, Ouse, Queenstown, Rosebery, Scottsdale, Smithton, Somerset, St Helens, Strahan, Ulverstone, West Coast
Victoria	Alexandra, Apollo Bay, Ararat, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Castlemaine, Cobram, Cohuna, Colac, Corryong, Echuca, Foster, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kilmore, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lakes Entrance, Leongatha, Mansfield, Maryborough, Mildura, Moe, Morwell, Mount Beauty, Myrtleford, Nhill, Numurkah, Orbost, Ouyen, Portland, Robinvale, Sale, Seymour, Stawell, Swan Hill, Terang, Timboon, Warrnambool, Wonthaggi, Yarram, Yarrowonga
Western Australia	Albany, Balgo, Broome, Busselton, Carnarvon, Collie, Cotton Creek, Dampier Peninsula, Denmark, Derby, Esperance, Exmouth, Fitzroy Crossing, Geraldton, Gibb River, Halls Creek, Jerramungup, Kalgoorlie, Kalumburu, Karratha, Katanning, Kununurra, Kutjungka, Laverton, Leonora, Manjimup, Meekatharra, Merredin, Moora, Morawa, Mount Barker, Mount Magnet, Mount Margaret, Narrogin, Newman, Ngaanyatjaraku, Nullagine, Onslow, Port Hedland, Punmu, Roebourne, South Hedland, Three Springs, Tjuntjuntjara, Tom Price, Warmun, Wiluna, Wyndham