

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-012

OUTCOME: 5 – Primary Care

Topic: Rural Health Funding – Practice Incentives Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) How does the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) payment for teaching encourage general practices in rural and remote areas to provide teaching opportunities for medical students?
- b) Does the payment offset the cost of lost consultation time due to teaching?
- c) Is there evidence that the current PIP teaching payment does not adequately compensate general practices?
 - i. If so, what is the evidence?
 - ii. If so, what is the gap?

Answer:

- a) The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) encourages general practices to provide teaching sessions by providing incentive payments for each three hour teaching session. Practices participating in the PIP that are situated in rural and remote areas receive a rural loading as further encouragement. The loading varies with the remoteness of the practice.
- b) PIP teaching payments are intended to compensate practices for the reduced number of consultations due to the presence of a medical student.
- c), i and ii.
Implementation options for the Election Commitment to increase the PIP teaching payment are under consideration.