

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-013

OUTCOME: 5 – Primary Care

Topic: Rural Health Funding – Practice Incentives Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) How much will the increased PIP payment be for rural and remote general practices that provide teaching payments?
- b) Will all general practices across the country receive the increase?
 - i. If not, what is the process for deciding which practices will receive the increase?
- c) How will the increase be rolled out?
 - i. Over what period of time?
- d) Will the PIP rural loading continue to be determined by the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification?
 - i. If not, which classification system will be used?
- e) Has the Minister for Health consulted the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) in deciding upon the amount of the increase?
 - i. If so, what was the nature of the consultation?
 - ii. If so, what issues were raised during the consultation?
 - iii. If so, what was the response of the RDAA?
- f) Which other stakeholders were consulted in deciding upon the amount of the increase?
- g) Is other funding available to rural and remote practices that are not accredited, or registered for accreditation, against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standard for general practices?
 - i. Is funding assistance available for rural and remote practices that wish to become accredited for the purpose of obtaining the PIP payment?
- h) Will the increased PIP payment come at the cost of other vital services?

Answer:

a) to d)
Implementation options for the increased payment are under consideration.

e) and f)

The Department of Health is unable to comment.

- g) Funding is not available under the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) for practices that are not accredited or registered for accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for general practices.
- i) There is no funding available through the PIP to assist practices to gain accreditation.
- h) Implementation options for the increased payment are under consideration.