

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-298

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL LOCUM SUPPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the Rural Locum support, during 2010-11 DoHA conducted a review to assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of locum activities. (Budget PBS 2011-12, Page 326). Please advise:

- a) How extensive and comprehensive will the engagement with stakeholders be?
- b) What stakeholder engagement has occurred to date to consider the findings?
- c) When will a recommendation be forwarded to Government? What is the timeframe for this?

Answer:

- a) Following the consolidation of the National Rural Locum Program (NRLP) programs to the new Flexible Funds, in July 2011, a consultation framework will be developed to inform the future delivery of the NRLP. Key stakeholders will be critical to this process and will be invited to participate in the consultation process which is likely to commence in August 2011
- b) Formal consultation on the Review of the NRLP findings has not begun.
- c) The Review of the NRLP is an internal review undertaken for the Department as part of the day-to-day management of the Program.

The establishment of larger, Flexible Funds will simplify and streamline grant funding processes for stakeholders, and the Review of the NRLP will inform the development of guidelines for the new Funds. The Department will be working closely with key stakeholders on implementation arrangements for the new Funds.