

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-302

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: GENERAL PRACTICE RURAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM (GPRIP)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What evaluation has been done on the roll out of the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP) which is based on the Australian Standards Geographic Classification-Remotess Area classification system (ASGC-RA)?

What were the main findings?

Answer:

Program performance and uptake is monitored by the Department on a quarterly basis. The Department has also commissioned GISCA to study the effect of the Government's \$134 million Rural Workforce Strategy, which forms part of the Government's regional workforce investments.

GPRIP is currently in its implementation phase. Payments to eligible medical practitioners located in ASGC-RA 3-5 locations commenced in December 2010. Payments for the final cohort of practitioners (those in ASGC-RA 2 locations) commenced on 1 July 2011. It is anticipated that this group will comprise the majority of payments made under the program. Payments under the Rural Relocation Incentive Grant component of the Program were also released after 1 July 2011.