

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-300

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL LOCUM SCHEME FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Written Questions on Notice:

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Pursuant to the National Health and Hospitals Network – Workforce - Rural Locum scheme for allied health professionals, the government promised \$5.3 million over 4 years to establish a rural locum scheme for allied health professionals (2010-11 Budget, page 243) to undertake professional development opportunities and take leave. Please advise:

- a) How many locum placements have been provided under the scheme?
- b) How many locum placements were provided to cover leave, and how many were provided to cover professional development opportunities?
- c) Have stakeholders raised any concerns with the government concerning the operation of the scheme?

Answer:

- a) None to date. The scheme is currently being advertised and the first locum placements are anticipated to commence between July and September 2011.
- b) Not applicable, as placements have not commenced.
- c) In the initial consultation on the program, one organisation expressed its view that the allied health measure should also cover the salary for the locums. However this is not included in the measure.