

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13- 127

OUTCOME: 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Medical Interns

Type of Question: Hansard Page 104, 20 November 2013

Senator: Moore

Question:

- a) What is the current status of internships?
- b) When do the resources required to fulfill the commitment come online?

Answer:

- a) Applications for Commonwealth Medical Internship positions opened on 14 October and closed 25 October 2013. Of the 185 applications received, not all applicants were eligible and some withdrew after accepting internships through jurisdictional positions. On 8 November 2013 the names of 142 eligible applicants were sent to participating private hospitals for their consideration.

Hospitals are currently recruiting eligible interns to accredited positions. The Department of Health is negotiating funding agreement amount conditions with the participating hospitals. The Return of Service Agreement has been provided to eligible interns for consideration and signature, once they have accepted an internship.

- b) Funding of \$40 million over four years was approved by the Government on 12 December 2013.