

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into Factors Affecting the supply of Health Services and Medical Professionals in Rural Areas
11 May 2012

Question no: 1

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUPPLY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AREAS

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In relation to the Indigenous workforce – a regional Top End training workforce support infrastructure:

Chair (Senator Siewert) asked:

Any additional information you can provide would be appreciated.

Answer:

Health Workforce Australia

Health Workforce Australia is providing \$32 million over three years from 2011-12 for the development and implementation of Integrated Regional Clinical Training Networks (IRCTNs).

The IRCTNs facilitate the co-ordination, planning and delivery of quality clinical training activity across a number of health sectors, including public and non government health providers, and higher education and training providers. The scope of clinical training includes professional entry, postgraduate, vocational and specialist training.

There are 27 established IRCTNs across the States and Territories (11 in Victoria, 8 in New South Wales, 3 in Queensland, 1 each in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, ACT and the Northern Territory).

Further information about HWA and the activities they are funding can be found at www.hwa.gov.au/

The Greater Northern Australian Regional Training Network (GNARTN)

The GNARTN will draw on existing clinical workforce initiatives funded by HWA and complement the role of the IRCTNs. Though in its early development phase, the GNARTN aims to develop better coordination of clinical education and training effort across the Northern Territory and the northern rural and remote areas of Western Australia and Queensland.

The primary issues to be addressed by GNARTN include:

- shared approaches to the implementation of HWA work programs;
- sponsorship of best practices in clinical education and training research and innovations;
- development of common clinical placements approach, sharing of clinical placement capacity;
- facilitation of cross jurisdictional placements;
- development of common workforce planning methodologies; and
- development of greater northern Australia workforce strategies in northern Australia, including recruitment strategies.