

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-156

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: WORKFORCE AND RURAL DISTRIBUTION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Has there been any communication with the AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) or the Nursing and Midwifery Board (NMBA) regarding recency of practice requirements for nurses and midwives?

If so, what issues have been considered and what was the outcome?

Answer:

Yes. The Department of Health and Ageing maintains regular communication with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on a range of issues.

In regards to nursing, issues considered include the availability and cost of re-entry courses, and the lack of uniform re-entry requirements across Australia before the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme was established.

The Department understands that the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is currently reviewing its policy on re-entry to practice. More information about this review is available at www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au