

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-168

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF RURAL HEALTH PUBLICATION 'WHO SHOULD RECEIVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVES? IMPROVED TARGETING OF RURAL DOCTORS USING MEDICAL WORKFORCE DATA.'

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Has the Department considered recent research published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health showing that population size does matter when one considers medical workforce and the difficulty in attracting doctors particularly to small rural and remote communities? [Aust. Journal of Rural Health (2012) 20 3-10 Who should receive recruitment and retention incentives? Improved targeting of rural doctors using medical workforce data. Humphreys, McGrail, Joyce, Scott, Kalb]
- b) What is the Departments response to this research?

Answer:

a) and b)

The Department of Health and Ageing considers many research publications relating to rural health. The Department is aware that population size is one of the many factors that doctors consider when making a decision to relocate. The research referred to is very recent (February 2012) and at this time, it is being considered by the Department.