

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-171

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION –  
REMOTENESS AREAS (ASGC-RA) SYSTEM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the breakdown within this classification of doctors moving to communities previously identified as RRMA 3, 4 and 5 localities?

Answer:

From 1 July 2010 the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification system was replaced by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system.

The new ASGC-RA classification is used to determine eligibility for various rural health incentive programs (including the General Practice Rural Incentives Program). For these particular programs, the RRMA classification is no longer coded into the Information Technology payments system and therefore reporting at RRMA level is not possible.

Given the considerable time and resources required to re-code the data based on the RRMA classification, the Department of Health and Ageing has responded to this request with ASGC-RA related data, contained in the response provided to Question on Notice E12-170.