

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-174

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: DISTRICTS OF WORKFORCE SHORTAGE (DWS)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

How many towns or suburbs across all RRMA categories are classified as Districts of Workforce Shortage (breakdown by numbers and percentage of totals)?

Answer:

The building block for the Districts of Workforce Shortages (DWS) calculation is the Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Local Area (SLA) geography. The Department of Health and Ageing does not calculate DWS based on other geographical boundaries such as postcodes or towns as they can cross boundaries and are subject to change. Of 764 SLAs (at September 2011), 556 (73 per cent) were classified as DWS for general practice.