

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-178

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: DISTRICT OF WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) How many medical students currently have bonded medical placements in Australian University Medical Schools?
- b) How many medical students given a medical school place under the bonded placement program have graduated to date?
- c) What is the current practice distribution of these graduates across all ASGC-RA and RRMA groups?

Answer:

- a) 2,971 students currently have Bonded Medical Places (BMP) in Australian university medical schools. This figure may include students who graduated in 2011. Graduate data is still to be compiled in consultation with universities. 2012 BMPs are currently being finalised.

456 students currently have a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) Scheme place in Australian medical schools. This will increase to 490 students following the finalisation of the remaining places for 2012.

- b) 879 BMP Scheme participants have graduated medical school to date. This figure does not include BMP participants who graduated in 2011. Graduate data is still to be compiled in consultation with universities. 654 MRBS Scheme participants have graduated medical school to date.
- c) The BMP Return of Service Obligation (RoSO) to work in a district of workforce shortage is not compulsory until participants gain Fellowship of a medical college. Only one BMP participant is known to have attained Fellowship to date. This participant has chosen to not undertake the RoSO and the Department is in the process of recovering funds contributed for the participant's university place, in accordance with the BMP Deed of Agreement with the Commonwealth. Participants may elect to commence their RoSO during their prevocational or vocational training. The distribution of BMP doctors who have chosen this option is below.

Distribution of BMP Doctors undertaking Prevocational and Vocational Training

ASGC-RA	
RA 1 Outer Metro	5
RA 1 Non Metro	2
RA 2	16
RA 3	13
RA 4	1
RA 5	0
Total	37

RRMA	
RRMA 1 Outer Metro	23
RRMA 1 Non Metro	1
RRMA 2	10
RRMA 3	28
RRMA 4	5
RRMA 5	3
RRMA 6	1
RRMA 7	0
Total	71

Note :

A new geographical classification system, ASGC-RA, was introduced to the BMP Scheme by means of a Deed of Variation in 2010.

BMP participants undertaking Prevocational and Vocational Training in ASGC-RA areas have accepted the new conditions and undertaken training since 2010. BMP participants undertaking Prevocational and Vocational Training in RRMA areas have either not accepted the new conditions or undertaken training prior to 2010.

Similarly participants of the MRBS Scheme are not required to work in a rural and remote area until they have attained their Fellowship. Fifteen MRBS participants have attained their Fellowship and are undertaking their RoSO. The distribution of MRBS doctors undertaking their RoSO is below.

Distribution of MRBS Doctors undertaking their RoSO (post Fellowship)

ASGC-RA	
RA 2	12
RA 3	2
RA 4	0
RA 5	0
Total	14

RRMA	
RRMA 2	0
RRMA 3	0
RRMA 4	0
RRMA 5	1
RRMA 6	0
RRMA 7	0
Total	1

Note:

A new geographical classification system, ASGC-RA, was introduced to the MRBS Scheme in 2010 by means of a Deed of Variation.

One doctor declined the Deed of Variation ASGC-RA and is undertaking his RoSO in a RRMA 5 location. The remaining doctors undertaking their RoSO have accepted the Deed of Variation and are working in ASGC-RA areas.