

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15-17 February 2012

Question: E12-208

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: University Departments of Rural Health program (UDRH)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Nash asked:

- a) Please provide the annual budget allocation for the University Departments of Rural Health program (UDRH) for each of the years since commencement.
- b) Please specify the proportion of UDRH funding directly allocated to metropolitan and regional HEI each year.
- c) Please provide the total funding allocation to each participating HEI under the UDRH for each of the years since commencement (broken down into capital and recurrent).
- d) Please set out the performance targets, reporting requirements and provisions relating to non-performance or breach of contract specified for each HEI in the contract under the UDRH (if the performance targets and reporting requirements were common for each HEI this can be specified as a single item).
- e) Please provide the number of students from RRMA3, and RRMA 4-7 (in separate columns) supported by the UDRH each year as a proportion of total students supported each year.

Answer:

a)

Financial Year	96-97	97-98	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
Allocation (\$ Million)	2.913	7.448	12.889	12.281	15.508	15.352	17.013	16.408	15.126

Financial Year	06-07	07/08	08/09	09-10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Allocation (\$ Million)	15.398	17.326	18.270	20.323	25.315	21.165	21.524	21.890

- b) Funding under the University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) program is directed to regional, rural and remote areas of Australia, except as specified in the UDRH funding agreement with each university, that states:

..where the university uses UDRH funds to support activity in an urban campus, those funds must not exceed a net 5 per cent of the total of UDRH funds allocated in this Project Schedule and the university must be able to demonstrate that the use of these funds directly supports the delivery of the Project. The Department will not approve the use of funds by central universities which cannot be linked to the achievement of Project outcomes. Funds may not be diverted to general university revenue without generating subsequent benefits to the UDRH Project.

c)

Recurrent funding allocation to each participating university under the UDRH program:

	Total recurrent expend from 96-97 to end 02-03 (\$)	03-04 (\$)	04-05 (\$)	05-06 (\$)	06-07 (\$)	07/08 (\$)	08/09 (\$)	09-10 (\$)	10/11 (\$)	11/12 (\$)
Flinders University Alice Springs UDRH	7,500,000	750,000	750,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Sydney Broken Hill UDRH	9,000,000	1,375,000	1,375,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Western Australia Geraldton UDRH	9,000,000	625,000	625,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Tasmania Launceston UDRH	4,483,360	1,125,000	1,125,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Sydney Lismore UDRH	2,750,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
James Cook University Mt Isa UDRH	3,750,000	1,125,000	1,125,000	0	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Melbourne Shepparton UDRH	7,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of Newcastle Tamworth UDRH	1,750,000	500,000	500,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
Flinders University Warrnambool UDRH	3,750,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	651,525	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
University of South Australia Whyalla UDRH	9,000,000	1,125,000	1,125,000	781,830	1,594,933	1,628,427	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
Monash University Moe UDRH	896,000	198,000	198,000	300,000	600,000	1,041,420	1,660,995	1,847,537	1,888,183	1,924,059
TOTAL	59,379,360	10,573,000	10,573,000	5,642,505	16,549,330	17,325,688	18,270,949	20,322,910	20,770,014	21,164,644

Capital funding allocation to each participating university under the UDRH program:

	Total capital expend from 96-97 to 02-03 (\$)	Total capital expend from 03-04 to 11-12 (\$)
Flinders University Alice Springs UDRH	2,200,000	4,930,745
University of Sydney Broken Hill UDRH	1,700,000	3,577,967
University of Western Australia Geraldton UDRH	350,255	278,000
University of Tasmania Launceston UDRH	789,000	630,000
University of Sydney Lismore UDRH	0	2,669,809
James Cook University Mt Isa UDRH	798,600	3,987,059
University of Melbourne Shepparton UDRH	2,500,000	391,727
University of Newcastle Tamworth UDRH	1,000,000	418,182
Flinders University Warrnambool UDRH	1,250,000	420,725
University of South Australia Whyalla UDRH	0	1,287,019
Monash University Moe UDRH	0	1,372,443
TOTAL	10,587,855	19,963,677

- d) Under the current 2011/12-13/14 UDRH funding agreement there are common requirements for each university:
- increase and improve rural experiences, including training to encourage cultural awareness and sensitivity to Indigenous health issues, for undergraduate students in the health professions (KPI 1);
 - expand educational activities, training and support relevant to rural and remote health practice, particularly for existing rural and remote health professionals and including students, consumers and communities (including activities such as university courses, preceptor training, conference presentations and seminars) (KPI 2);
 - undertake research, consultancies and other projects related to rural and remote health issues in Australia (KPI 3)
 - contribute to innovation in education, research and service development through formal collaborations with universities, health services and professional and community organisations, including Indigenous communities (KPI 4);
 - embrace a strong public or population health focus; and contribute to the development of innovative service delivery models in rural and remote health (KPI 5a and 5b);
 - with funds provided by the UDRH Mental Health Project, work to increase access to mental health services for people in rural and remote regions, train local health professionals to better recognise and deal with mental health problems, engage directly with the community to raise awareness of mental health issues and supervise students of mental health disciplines on rural clinical placements (KPI 6);
 - encourage Indigenous Australians to undertake a health career. Develop, implement and facilitate the training, education, employment and support of Indigenous Australians in the health service disciplines and people who work as health professionals in Indigenous communities, particularly in Aboriginal Medical Services. Support research and educational activities which involve and/or benefit Indigenous people. Contribute to regional and national forums focussed on Indigenous health improvement (KPI 7); and
 - endeavor to progress the rural health agenda within the medical and other health sciences faculties or departments (KPI 8).

Reporting requirements include:

- Six monthly progress reports (due 15 August each year) which must address achievements for the first six months of the academic year against the relevant KPIs and include a financial statement of receipts and expenditure for the relevant period.
- Annual reports (due 28 February each year) which must address achievements for the previous academic year against the relevant KPIs and include a financial statement of receipts and expenditure for the relevant period;
- A Final Report (due 15 August 2014) which must address achievements against the Project Objectives for the term of the entire funding period and include an independently Audited Financial Statement for the relevant period.

The payment of funds to the university is contingent upon the Department of Health and Ageing's receipt and acceptance of the required reports (outlined above).

Clause in the Header Agreement allow the Department to defer, reduce or not make payment of funds to the university. The following is an excerpt:

4.4 *Without limiting its rights, the Commonwealth may at its discretion:*

- (a) *defer;*
 - (b) *reduce; or*
 - (c) *not make a payment of Funds*
- for a Project until the University has performed all of its obligations*

The Header Agreement also allows the Department to suspend or terminate the Agreement. The following is an excerpt from the Agreement:

18. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

18.1 *If:*

- (a) *the Commonwealth, by notice in writing, requests the University to comply with a term or condition of the Deed or the Project Agreement and, after 28 Business Days from the date of the notice (or such longer period as is specified in the notice), the University has failed to comply with such a request for compliance;*
- (b) *the Commonwealth is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the University is unable or unwilling to satisfy the terms of the Deed or the Project Agreement;*
- (c) *the Commonwealth, by notice in writing, requests the University to take action to meet a timeframe or perform an activity in accordance with the Deed or the Project Agreement and, after 28 Business Days from the date of the notice (or such longer period as is specified in the notice), the University has failed to take such action;*
- (d) *the Commonwealth is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any statement made by the University is incorrect or incomplete in a way which would have significantly and adversely affected the original decision to approve the Funds for the Project;*
- (e) *the Commonwealth is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the purposes and activities of the University have become incompatible with:*
 - (i) *the Aim of the Project; or*
 - (ii) *the objectives and outcomes of the Program under which the Project was funded;*
- (f) *the Commonwealth, by notice in writing, requests the University to provide an amended Report on the grounds that a Report given by the University is not complete or accurate and, after 28 Business Days from the date of the notice (or such longer period as is specified in the notice), the University has failed to provide such an amended Report;*
- (g) *the University:*
 - (i) *becomes bankrupt or insolvent or is wound-up;*
 - (ii) *makes an assignment of its estate for the benefit of creditors or enters into any arrangement or composition with its creditors or has a receiver, manager or administrator appointed on behalf of debenture holders or creditors; or*
 - (iii) *goes into liquidation or passes a resolution to go into liquidation or becomes subject to any petition or proceedings in a court for its compulsory winding-up or becomes subject to the supervision of a court either voluntarily or otherwise; or*
 - (iv) *suffers any execution against its assets having adverse effect on its ability to perform the Project Agreement; or*
 - (v) *anything analogous to, or of a similar effect to anything described above under the Law occurs in respect of the University; or*
- (h) *the University, by notice in writing given to the Commonwealth, withdraws from the Deed or the Project Agreement; or*
 - (i) *the Commonwealth considers it appropriate for any other reason, the Commonwealth may, by written notice to the University, immediately:*
 - (ai) *terminate the Project Agreement*
 - (aii) *terminate this Deed; or*
 - (aiii) *require the University to immediately suspend dealings with the Funds (including interest earned on the Funds) for the Project.*

e) All students are eligible to be considered for a UDRH placement regardless of whether they are from a

rural area, so this information is not reported by the universities to the Department.