

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-362

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details in relation to registration equivalency for New Zealand trained psychologists and psychiatrists including:

- a) Recognition of New Zealand qualifications
- b) Recognition of New Zealand registration

Answer:

Under the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997* (TTMRA), a person registered to practise an occupation in Australia is entitled to practise an equivalent occupation in New Zealand, and vice versa, without the need for further testing or examination. The TTMRA covers the ten health professions currently regulated under National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), except for some medical practitioners registered in New Zealand who are still required to complete additional assessments before being registered in Australia.

The Department of Health and Ageing does not have responsibility for the registration of psychologists and psychiatrists. Detailed information about registration equivalency for New Zealand trained psychiatrists and psychologists under NRAS may be available from the Medical Board of Australia and the Psychology Board of Australia.