

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000202

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Regional Health Workforce

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

What is the government's allocated budget for financial year 2014-5 and over the forward estimates for Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme? How much of the budget has already been committed?

**Answer:**

The 2014-15 budget allocation for the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (RPSS) is \$1.2 million (excluding administration funds). Actual expenditure to 31 January 2015 was \$506,000.

The RPSS is funded under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which expires on 30 June 2015. As a decision of Government has not yet been taken with regard to any future community pharmacy agreement, it is not possible to report any forward commitments of funding for this programme beyond 2014-15.