

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000208

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Regional Health

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

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

What is the government's allocated budget for financial year 2014-15 and over the forward estimates for Visiting Optometrists Scheme? How much of the budget has already been committed?

**Answer:**

The estimated funding available for the VOS programme for the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18 is \$26.5 million.

**Summary of total VOS funding**

	<b>2014-15 \$m</b>	<b>2015-16 \$m</b>	<b>2016-17 \$m</b>	<b>2017-18 \$m</b>	<b>Total \$m</b>
Total	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.9	26.5

As at 13 March 2015, \$3.7 million has been committed in funding agreements with individual optometrists to deliver services to 30 June 2015. Further activities around the delivery of the VOS in 2014-15 are currently being finalised and are expected to fully expend the remaining \$2.6 million.