

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000309

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Health Workforce Scholarship Programme

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

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

- a) Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health have received \$1.72 million to allocate to allied health scholarships. Why has the government failed to ensure that students awarded these scholarships which are for the 2017 academic year have financial support in future years?
- b) Will there be any measures to ensure those students will receive funding for the future years of their studies?

**Answer:**

Funding for new allied health scholarships in 2017 under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme (NAHSSS) was offered as an interim arrangement until the new Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) is operational in the second half of the year. The arrangements were advertised by the administrator, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health to potential applicants to ensure they were aware of the single year status prior to accepting the scholarship.

The HWSP will target scholarship support to address local skills shortage, predominantly in rural and remote Australia. The number and type of scholarships awarded to health professions will be flexible and in accordance with community need. We anticipate that a process to engage an administrator will commence in the second quarter of 2017.