

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000311

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Health Workforce Scholarship Programme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) Has any funding been allocated for nurses under the NAHSSS for the 2017 year or beyond to any other body, if so whom and how much?
- b) How does that compare with funding for the 2016 academic year?

Answer:

Funding for a 2017 round of nursing scholarships under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) has been awarded to the existing administrator, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN). The ACN will also provide ongoing management of pre 2017 nursing and midwifery scholarships until finalisation of these commitments.

Funding in the 2016 year was provided for the former NAHSSS program structure, with longer term scholarships. Funding of the 2017 NAHSSS round with previous years as it is an interim measure for a single year only, pending the commencement of the new Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) later in 2017.

The new HWSP will target scholarship support to meet local skills shortage, predominantly in rural and remote Australia. The number and type of scholarships awarded across the various health professions will be flexible and in accordance with workforce need. A process to engage an administrator will commence in the second quarter of 2017.