

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000313

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Rural Health Commissioner

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) How soon after the legislation has been passed does the Government expect to appoint the Rural Health Commissioner?
- b) Has anyone been identified for the role of National Rural Health Commissioner?
- c) What skills will the Commissioner be expected to have?
- d) What resourcing will be provided to the Commissioner by the department?
- e) Does the Government believe that it will have resolved all of the Rural Health problems in 3 years?

Answer:

- a) The recruitment process for the Rural Health Commissioner will commence once the legislation is passed.
- b) No. An appointment process will commence when the legislation has passed.
- c) The Rural Health Commissioner will have extensive experience within the rural health sector, be capable of collaborating and consulting closely with a broad range of stakeholders, and have a passion for improving health outcomes in regional, rural and remote Australia.
- d) The Rural Health Commissioner will be supported by Departmental staff.
- e) Rural health challenges are long term and complex. The Rural Health Commissioner's role will be to support and establish appropriate policy responses to this long term challenge.