

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000339

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Scholarships

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Has the Government considered the implications of offering Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) scholarships for 1 year only in 2017, and what future funding support will be available to these recipients after this?

Answer:

The implication of offering a single year of nursing and allied health scholarships in 2017 was considered by Government. The administrators, the Australian College of Nursing and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health advertised information about the interim arrangements to potential applicants to ensure students were aware prior to accepting a scholarship.

A new Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) will commence later in 2017 with the objective of targeting scholarship support to address local skills shortage, predominantly in rural and remote Australia. The number and type of scholarships awarded across health professions will be flexible to meet the needs of the community. A process to engage an administrator for the HWSP will commence in the second quarter of 2017.