

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11-486

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MATERNITY SERVICES REVIEW

Hansard Page: CA 10

Senator Adams asked:

I have another question on the maternity Services Review and what may be happening:

- a) How many additional scholarships have been provided to GPs and midwives to provide maternity services in rural and remote Australia?
- b) Have we got an increase there?

Answer:

a) and b)

The GP Procedural Training Support Program in the 2011 training year awarded 26 obstetrics scholarships and 16 anaesthetics scholarships to rural General Practitioners. Twenty scholarships per year will be available to support midwives to complete an accredited course to gain eligibility to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This is the first time these scholarships have been offered under the Maternity Services Plan.

In addition to the scholarships offered under the Maternity Services Plan, under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme, for the 2011 academic year, 86 scholarships were awarded to undergraduate students studying midwifery and three postgraduate midwifery scholarships. Some of these scholarships recipients will practice in rural and remote areas.