

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-301

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: HEALTH WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to evidence provided in relation to clinical training and internships, could you ensure that the following is covered in relation to questions taken on notice:

- a) How much funding is provided for clinical training per medical student per annum in Australia at present?
- b) What is the proportional breakdown of funding provided by states and territories and the Commonwealth?
- c) Is the same level of funding provided for Commonwealth Supported students and full fee paying and international students?
- d) How does Australia's funding for clinical training of medical students compare to comparable systems overseas?
- e) Is there any data on the number of medical students per supervisor with respect to clinical training and how that compares historically (will vary across disciplines and placements, but is there an average or a trend apparent)?

Answer:

- a) Health Workforce Australia (HWA) does not have comprehensive information on all funding provided for clinical training for medical students in Australia. Funding for clinical training, explicit and implicit comes from a range of sources including Higher Education Base funding, state and territory government programs and through HWA funding. Other costs for support clinical training are embedded in operating costs of clinical training providers. The amount of funding which medical students are eligible to attract from the HWA Clinical Training Funding Program is \$52,000 for the duration of the course. This funding is a subsidy for the clinical training component of medical training.
- b) Refer answer a) HWA does not have comprehensive information on all funding provided for clinical training for medical students. With regard to the National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform, HWA receives funding from the Commonwealth to deliver the Clinical Training Funding program. This program has a total value of \$425.4 million from 2010-11 to 2012-13 and supports students in over twenty disciplines including medicine.

- c) The HWA Clinical Training Funding (CTF) Program only provides support for growth in domestic medical students. No CTF funding is directed to support international students.
- d) Data relating to Australia's system of funding for medical student clinical training to those in international systems is not available.
- e) The data relating to the number of medical students per supervisor is not available.