

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-259

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Rural Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In the 2010-11 Budget, funding was announced to increase the number of training places for medical specialists from 360 to 900 by 2014. What progress has been made towards this goal and what proportion of these training places are outside major cities?

Answer:

The Specialist Training Program (STP) will increase the number of training places each calendar year from 2011 to 2014 as follows:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
360	518	600	750	900

Half of the 600 STP posts in 2012 involve at least a rotation to a regional, remote or rural location (RA 2-5). The STP provides a loading of up to \$20,000 for posts at these sites, in addition to the standard \$100,000 annual salary contribution.

The Department of Health and Ageing has assessed applications for the 2013 STP intake, which will include an additional 150 posts. Of the 150 new posts for 2013, 71 per cent of these will have a rural training component, and 58 of these will have more than 50 per cent of training undertaken in an RA 2-5 location.