Question: E12-263

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce

Topic: Rural Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of Pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question

What is Health Workforce Australia's (HWAs) approach towards developing an allied health evidence database to inform strategies for workforce development and reform funding the collection of allied health workforce and service delivery data, especially in rural and remote areas across Australia?

Answer:

Health Workforce Australia is developing a National Statistical Resource (NSR) as a comprehensive data source from which health workforce planning can be carried out. It will include data on as many health professions as possible from a variety of sources. This data will be made available to the public on HWA's website.

A major data source for this facility is the information that is obtained from the national registration process overseen by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency (AHPRA). This includes 12 Allied Health professions, and the workforce survey component includes questions relating to work undertaken in rural and remote locations.

It is intended that the NSR will extend to professions well beyond those which are AHPRA registered. Initial work with a much broader range of Allied Health professions is occurring through identifying existing data sources, developing a National Minimum Dataset specification and providing assistance to professions in developing data collection instruments.

The resource will also hold data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Medicare Australia, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations as well as other sources. This will enable a comprehensive picture of the health workforce, its capacity to train workers and the drivers behind both workforce supply and demand.

All data collected will be at the lowest feasible geographical level which will allow the analysis of issues in rural and remote areas.