

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-231

**OUTCOME:** 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Nursing and Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 122, 5 June 2013

**Senator:** Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

- a) How much in locum payment goes directly to the nurse or allied health professional?
- b) How many locum placements have been provided every year since this program was established;
- c) The average duration of each placement; and
- d) The average total cost per placement?

**Answer:**

- a) All of the locum payment goes directly to the locum nurse or allied health professional. This includes:
  - an incentive allowance of \$200 per working day whilst on the placement for a maximum of 14 days;
  - a meal allowance of \$100 per day away from home per placement, including reasonable travel time to and from the placement, even where this exceeds 14 days;
  - wages (based on State/Federal Award or Enterprise Bargaining Agreement), which are reimbursed to the administrator by the host.
- b) A total of 1,765 placements have been provided since the beginning of the program.

Year	Nursing	Allied	Total
2011-12	391	58	449
2012-13	1213	103	1316
<b>Total</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1765</b>

- c) The average duration of a locum placement for nursing is 11.45 days and for allied health professionals 10.47 days. Total number of placement days provided for both nurses and allied health professionals since the program commenced is 20,023 days.
- d) The average cost per placement (approximately 11 days) for travel, accommodation and incentive allowance is \$5,500.00. The fixed costs for a placement would be the incentive and meal allowances. Accommodation and travel costs are variable. Accommodation can range from the higher end of \$205 per night in a peak season compared to \$7.41 staying in nurses' quarters. Travel can range from the most expensive being \$6397.10 in an RA5 area in Western Australia to an RA2 area in New South Wales costing \$174.88.