

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000514

OUTCOME: 8 – Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program

Type of Question: Hansard Page 6, 3 June 2014

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Questions:

1. The cut to the expansion of the VDGYP was going to save a \$35.7 million however the MYEFO says that the saving would be \$40 million. Why are the amounts different?
2. What was the rate of interest in the VDGYP in 2013 from Dentists and Dental Graduates?
3. What opportunities exist for practices to apply for funds to support infrastructure development?
4. How much funding has been spent on improving infrastructure?

Answer:

1. The 2012-13 Budget measure to expand the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program (VDGYP) by \$35.7 million covers the three year period 2013-14 to 2015-16. The 2013-14 MYEFO savings for \$40.7 million covers the four year period 2013-14 to 2016-17.
2. Only dental graduates are eligible to participate in the VDGYP (i.e. in the year after completion of their Australian qualification). For the 2013 round of the VDGYP (applications submitted in 2012), 101 applications were received from prospective participants of which 94 were deemed as being eligible. For the 2014 round of the VDGYP (applications submitted in 2013), 221 applications were received from prospective participants of which 199 were deemed as being eligible.
3. Dental infrastructure funding is provided under the VDGYP to better enable service providers to host graduates. Service providers are able to apply for infrastructure funding when they apply to host a VDGYP placement. Infrastructure funding can be used to purchase items such as dental chairs, dental equipment and for minor refurbishment of treatment areas.
4. The total amount of infrastructure funding provided under the VDGYP is \$7,293,675.85 (GST exclusive) since the appointment of the administrator on 20 June 2012.