

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000521

OUTCOME: 8 – Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Medical Interns

Type of Question: Hansard Page 10, 3 June 2014

Senator: McLucas

Questions:

What (if any) is the number of eligible international or Australian medical students that have not been able to find an intern placement for 2014?

Why?

Answer:

The Department of Health is unable to provide this number. This is because internship positions continue to be vacated and filled throughout the year.

At 18 November 2013, 225 international full fee paying medical graduates were recorded on state application systems as still available for internship offers. In January 2014 a survey was sent to these applicants asking about their situation. Eighty-eight responses were received. Of these, 44 respondents had accepted an Australian internship position in Australia, 29 were still waiting for an offer in Australia, 18 had applied overseas and were still waiting and seven had accepted an overseas offer.

Since January 2014, hospitals have continued to fill vacancies, and no further surveys of unplaced applicants have been conducted. Some internship vacancies have arisen because occupants have accepted internships overseas. A survey of intern resignations in 2014 was conducted recently, which identified that 19 interns either did not commence an internship position or resigned since the commencement of the clinical year. More than half of these interns resigned to take up an intern position overseas.