

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000450

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Dental Relocation Incentive Support Scheme

Type of Question: Hansard Page 67, 2 June 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

- a) how much does it cost to relocate a dentist and
- b) how many dentists will be expected to relocate with the available funds, given there is a cut of about \$30m out of the funding profile

Answer:

- a) Grants available under the Dental Relocation and Infrastructure Support Scheme (DRISS) vary according to the location from which the dentist is relocating from and the destination location (as shown in the table below).

DRISS relocation grants available under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas system (ASGC-RA)

Relocating to: Relocating from:	Inner Regional (RA2)	Outer Regional (RA3)	Remote (RA4)	Very Remote (RA5)
Major Cities (RA1)	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Inner Regional (RA2)		\$15,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Outer Regional (RA3)			\$15,000	\$30,000
Remote (RA4)				\$15,000

Dentists eligible for the relocation grant can also apply for an infrastructure grant of up to \$250,000 to assist in the purchase of equipment and equipping facilities.

After three grant rounds, the average grant amount awarded for relocating dentists is \$26,396. The average cost for relocating a dentist who has also obtained an infrastructure grant is \$202,198.

- b) After four grant rounds, around 100 dentists have been approved to receive financial assistance to relocate to a regional, rural or remote location. The streamlining of the DRISS in 2016-17 is not expected to reduce the number of approvals, if similar numbers of applications are received.

