

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000469

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Specialist Training Program

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

1. In terms of the review of the Specialist Training Program: When is the review due to commence?
2. What are the terms of reference for the review?
  - a) Who will lead the review?
  - b) Will it be an internal review by the Department, or engage clinicians and broader stakeholders?
3. How will feedback from stakeholders be invited.
  - a) Has there been an update to the data, first published in the HWA health workforce 2025 report, to inform this review?
  - b) In regards to areas of workforce shortages, which specialities will be a priority?
  - c) Are there any particular elements of the Program that the review is expected to target?
4. When will the review report and will the report of the review be made public?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Health is commencing work to redesign the Specialist Training Program in July 2015.
2. The objectives of the review are to better address community need for specialists in future, to work with the specialist colleges to identify opportunities to increase specialist training in regional, rural and remote locations and non-traditional training settings, and to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specialists. The Department is leading this work, as its core business includes medical workforce planning and projections and health workforce distribution policy and programme design. Stakeholders will be closely involved in the redesign, including specialist medical colleges and training settings. The National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) will also be asked to assist.

3. Stakeholder feedback will be sought in response to a discussion paper, through face-to-face meetings, written submissions, and discussion at NMTAN meetings.
  - a) In August 2014, *Australia's Future Health Workforce – Doctors* was published, which presents long-term national workforce projections for doctors to 2030.
  - b) Further review and refinement through statistical modelling of workforce projections is underway through the NMTAN, with focus on priority specialities of potential shortage. This will be supplemented by data provided by each of the medical specialist colleges.
  - c) See answer to question 2 above.
4. The outcomes of this work will be considered by government later in 2015 and it will be a matter for government to determine whether and when to make an announcement regarding the review.