

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000523

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: GP Training

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) What was the process for selecting the new training regions for the future delivery of GP specialist training?
- b) Will any organisations be worse off as a result of these changes?
- c) What evidence is there that the changes will lead to better training outcomes?
- d) What is the process for selecting members of the General Practice Training Advisory Committee?
- e) Who are the members of this committee?

Answer:

- a) The process for selecting the new training regions, involved significant liaison and consultation with key general practice training stakeholders, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), General Practice Supervisors' Australia (GPSA), General Practice Registrars' Australia (GPRA), the Australian Medical Association and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. The boundaries were established in line with the preferred option identified by these groups. The views of current Regional Training Providers (RTPs) were also considered as provided via their Association of Chief Executives. Considerations included population size, number of GP registrars likely to be training in each region and available training capacity, alignment with the new boundaries for Primary Health Networks and the need to achieve administrative efficiencies.
- b) Until the outcomes of the open competitive approach to market to administer the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme are known it is not possible to provide a definitive answer to this question.
- c) GP training will continue to be governed by the standards and requirements set by ACRRM and the RACGP, under authority from the independent Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Medical Council.
- d) The General Practice Training Advisory Committee (GPTAC) will be a non-government committee, led by the RACGP and ACRRM.

The Minister for Health will appoint people to the roles of the independent Chair, the two independent clinicians and the independent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander GP.

The RACGP, ACRRM, GPRA and GPSA will select members to represent their respective organisations.

- e) The GPTAC membership is as follows:
- an independent chair to be appointed by the Minister for Health;
 - two independent clinicians to be appointed by the Minister for Health;
 - an independent Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander GP to be appointed by the Minister for Health;
 - two representatives from ACRRM;
 - two representatives from the RACGP;
 - one representative from GPRA;
 - one representative from GPSA; and
 - one representative from the Department of Health.