

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000524

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Graduate Aged Care Nurses

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) What programs are in place to ensure there are sufficient numbers of graduate places available for graduates of nursing?
- b) Do programs exist to encourage people into other areas of nursing such as aged care?
- c) What programs are currently in place to get more RN's into the aged care sector?
- d) Have any programs recently ceased and what has been the impact of these programs no longer being in place?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health provides funding for the delivery of many health services by health service providers, which supports the employment of nurses in delivering services to the community. This funding includes public hospital funding, Medicare benefits for in-hospital services, private health insurance rebates to assist with the costs of hospital treatment, and many other programmes to support health service delivery, including by nurses.
- b) The Department funds scholarships for nursing students and professionals under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme. One of the current priority areas for support under this programme is aged care nursing.
- c) See part b) above.
- d) The Department has not recently ceased programmes.