

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001004

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Bonded Medical Programs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

We are now seeing students who went through university under the bonded medical programs complete their return of service – or commence their return of service. Can the Department please identify:

- a) How many students under the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship program have completed their return of service? How many are currently undertaking their return of service? What remoteness areas are they/did they meet their commitment in? Of those who have completed their service, how many remain in rural and remote communities?
- b) How many students under the Bonded Medical Places program have completed their return of service? How many are currently undertaking their return of service? What remoteness areas are they/did they meet their commitment in? Of those who have completed their service, how many remain in rural and remote communities?
- c) How many bonded students have completed their education but have not yet commenced their return of service? How many have gone overseas? How many have paid off their Bond?
- d) Can the Department please provide a table showing how many bonded students have completed their university training for each year since the programs commenced.

Answer:

- a) **How many students under the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship program have completed their return of service?** 17
How many are currently undertaking their return of service? 214

What remoteness areas are they/did they meet their commitment in?

Depending on their contract and speciality, the participants must complete their Return of Service Obligation (RoSO) in RRMA 3-7 or RA 2-5.

Of those who have completed their service, how many remain in rural and remote communities?

The Department does not monitor the status of individual Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) Scheme participants once they have exited the scheme.

- b) **How many students under the Bonded Medical Places program have completed their return of service?** 9

How many are currently undertaking their return of service? 135

What remoteness areas are they/did they meet their commitment in?

Depending on their contract and speciality, the participants complete their RoSO in a district of workforce shortage location for their specialty or Modified Monash Model categories 4-7.

Of those who have completed their service, how many remain in rural and remote communities?

The Department does not monitor the status of individual BMP Scheme participants once they have exited the scheme.

- c) **How many bonded students have completed their education but have not yet commenced their return of service?** 89 (BMP) + 56 (MRBS) = 145

How many have gone overseas?

The Department does not have any data available for the number of bonded students who have completed their education and gone overseas before commencing their RoSO.

How many have paid off their Bond?

There is no provision to 'buy out' of the return of service obligation under the BMP or MRBS. If the contract is breached, a financial penalty or medicare ban may apply depending on the terms of the contract and any extenuating circumstances.

The Department has reached a financial settlement with 48 participants in breach of their contractual obligations.

- d) **Can the Department please provide a table showing how many bonded students have completed their university training for each year since the programs commenced.**

The Department doesn't currently hold data on progress through undergraduate, pre-vocational and vocational training stages of the bonded program. University commencement data is provided below.

BMP Scheme commencements by year

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bonded Students	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	234	260
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bonded Students	256	544	620	678	688	709
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bonded Students	725	669	719	721	829	TBA

MRBS Scheme commencements by year

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bonded Students	N/A	101	99	102	105	104
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bonded Students	105	103	108	95	98	98
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bonded Students	101	99	97	98	N/A	N/A

Bonded student commencements by year

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bonded Students	N/A	101	99	102	339	364
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bonded Students	361	647	728	773	786	807
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bonded Students	826	768	816	819	829	TBA