

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001007

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Rural Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The companion Rural and Remote Health Workforce Strategy was archived in 2014, when will it be replaced?

Answer:

The National Strategic Framework for Rural and Remote Health (the Framework) was released in 2011 and was prepared by the subcommittee of Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, the Rural Health Standing Committee. The Framework promotes a national approach to policy, planning, design and delivery of health services in rural and remote communities.

Establishing a National Rural Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) and reforming rural health through the development of sound policy, programs and models of care will provide a context for meeting the needs of local communities.

A Commonwealth Health Workforce Strategy is currently under development. The Strategy will involve consideration of the medical, nursing, midwifery and allied health workforces, recognising the valuable contributions made by all health professionals working in a team based practice. The Strategy will facilitate better targeting and re-prioritisation of existing health workforce programs to ensure the Australian community is able to access a quality health workforce. The Strategy will include a focus on workforce issues in rural and remote regions.