

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-101

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MEDICAL RURAL BONDED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

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Senator Adams asked:

How does the total number of these bonded places compare with the number of scholarships for nurses and allied health professionals from rural areas? What is the comparison with scholarships there?

Answer:

There are currently 973 participants in the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) Scheme. Under the MRBS, 100 new additional Commonwealth Supported Places are made available each year to commencing first year Australian medical students in participating universities across the country.

Australian Government funded nursing and allied health scholarships are provided under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS). The allied scholarships are administered by Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Inc (SARRAH). There is a rural focus in the allied scholarships under NAHSSS in recognition of the need to improve access to health professionals in these areas. The nursing scholarships are administered by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia.

Under the NAHSSS there are currently:

	Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme	Clinical Placement Scholarships	Postgraduate and continuing education
Nursing - Total	171 (current scholars)	50 (new for 2010-11)	1205 (current scholars)
Nursing – Rural Students	16 (current scholars)	50 (new for 2010-11)	125 (current scholars)
Allied Health – Total	277 (current scholars)	259 (new for 2010-11)	163 (new for 2010)
Allied Health – Rural Students/ Professionals	277 rural origin (including 103 new for 2010)	54 rural origin (note all placements are undertaken in a rural/remote community)	143 (new for 2010)