

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-290

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE WORKFORCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to each of the new programs referred to at p. 165 of the Portfolio Budget Statement, namely:

- The Aged Care Education and Training Incentives program
- The Building Nurses Career Program; and
- The Aged Care Nurse Practitioner Program

Please advise:

- a) Is any or all of the money for such programs "new" money or recycled from the dumping of other programs such as Bringing the Nurses Back Program
- b) How many people have been recruited, retained, engaged or otherwise engaged under each program?
- c) Are the programs on track to meet the deliverables outlined in the PBS?

Answer:

- a) The 2010-11 Budget provided new funding of:
  - \$59.9 million for the Aged Care Education and Training Incentives program.
  - \$21 million for the Building Nurses Careers measure.
  - \$18.7 million for the Aged Care Nurse Practitioners project.

Consistent with the Government's deficit exit strategy, all new spending measures in the 2010-11 budget were fully offset across the forward estimates.

b and c)

- Eligible aged care workers commencing training on or after 1 July 2010 will be able to apply through Medicare Australia for an incentive payment under the Aged Care Education and Training Incentives program. Application forms and guidelines were released in November 2010.
- Undergraduate scholarships, under the Building Nurses Careers measure, were advertised by the RCNA on 10 July 2010 and closed on 1 October 2010. The RCNA are currently assessing applications with students expected to commence their nominated courses in 2011.

- The Department has sought applications from Registered Training Organisations approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to deliver enrolled nurse training places, with applications closing on 4 February 2011. Training is expected to commence once funding agreements are executed.
- Consultation with the sector (through the Aged Care Workforce Committee) on implementation of the Aged Care Nurse Practitioners project measure is underway.

The programs are on track to meet the deliverables outlined in the PBS.