

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-365

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: NATIONAL REGISTRATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What impact has national registration had on overseas trained medical practitioners working in areas of need?
- b) How many overseas trained doctors will be affected by changes to registration requirements who are currently working in areas of need?

Answer:

The 'Area of Need' (AON) Program has been implemented to allow doctors who hold conditional medical registration to practise in unfilled medical vacancies in each State and Territory. The AoN Program is administered by the State and Territory Health Departments within their respective jurisdictions.

- a) The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is not a Commonwealth scheme, it is a national scheme. The legislative framework for the Scheme is an applied laws model. Queensland, as the lead state, introduced the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (Qld)* (the National Law) which established new national boards and detailed the substantive provisions for registration and accreditation. The National Law was then applied in the remaining states and territories except Western Australia, which enacted a corresponding law. The Department therefore is unable to provide this information.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for providing administrative support to the ten national health practitioner boards, including managing the registration processes for health practitioners and students around Australia and publishing national registers of practitioners.

Questions regarding the registration of overseas trained medical practitioners working in areas of need should be referred to AHPRA at:

Mr John Ilott
Director, Operations
AHPRA
Level 7, 111 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
john.ilott@ahpra.gov.au

- b) The Department does not gather data on AoN. Any further information on the registration of medical practitioners working in areas of need should be directed to AHPRA as per above.