

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-368

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RE-REGISTERING DOCTORS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What steps are being taken to overcome ongoing difficulties re-registering doctors?
- b) Fees for late registration have been waived: for how long will this apply?
- c) How will the substantial loss of AHPRA funds be recouped?
- d) Registration fees for doctors have doubled: for how long will there be no further increase in registration fees?
- e) Will the Australian Medical Board partly address problems resulting from most registrations becoming due at the same time by registering doctors from their date of birth (as was the case in NSW) which would stagger registration dates through the year?
- f) Are problems similar to those encountered re-registering doctors occurring with respect to the other nine groups of health professionals? If so, what is planned to deal with these problems?

Answer:

a – f)

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 doctors' registration applications including re-registering, fees and renewals should be referred to AHPRA at:

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