

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-389

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: REGISTRATION CATEGORY FOR RETIRED DOCTORS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What are the rights of retired doctors in the provision of a limited right to practice medicine?
- b) Do they have any rights or is it true that the Medical Board of Australia decided to abolish the present limited rights of practice for retired doctors?
- c) How was this decision made?
- d) How much consultation was there and who conducted it?
- e) What are the anticipated costs to Medicare in not allowing retired doctors a limited right to practice medicine?

Answer:

a – d)

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) and the relevant Board is responsible for the registration of health professionals.

Under the NRAS, the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) has responsibilities for the development of professional standards for medicine, handling notifications and complaints about medical practitioners and assessment of international medical graduates.

Questions regarding registration standards should be referred to:

Dr Joanna Flynn
Chair, Medical Board of Australia
G.P.O. Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

All other questions should be directed to AHPRA at:

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- e) The anticipated cost to Medicare in not allowing retired doctors a limited right to practice medicine cannot be estimated from Medicare data as the system does not record the retirement status of a medical practitioner.