

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-214

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

TOPIC: REGIONAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

In a Media release dated 5 September 2011 Minister Roxon announced Labor was delivering record numbers of doctors and nurses to regional Australia according to new Medicare data released that day.

The release is at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr170.htm>

- a) What is the source data for the media release dated 5 September which claimed that Labor was delivering record numbers of doctors and nurses to regional Australia?
- b) Will this data be made publicly available?
- c) If the data is not publicly available please explain why?

Answer:

- a) The source data, that shows increases in the number of Full-time Workload Equivalent General Practitioners, working in regional Australia, is derived from Medicare billing data statistics.

b) and c)

Yes. The statistics can be accessed from the following website link:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/General+Practice+Statistics-1>