

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-217

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL LOCUM SUPPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Page 6 DoHA 2010-11 Annual Report states that from 1 July 2012 the bulk of MSOAP will form part of the new Rural Health Outreach Fund. Also, says that the implementation of maternity services program has been slow.

- a) What did the review of barriers to locum placement under the Specialist Obstetricians Locum Scheme and GP Anaesthetic Locum Scheme Programs conducted by Communio P/L (open contract \$34,287) reveal?
- b) Is the report publicly available? (See P.394 DoHA 2010-11 Annual Report, Table 4.2.12: Health Workforce Capacity)

Answer:

- a) A short report titled *Barriers to the Success of the NRLP* has been subsumed into the Review of the National Rural Locum Program (NRLP) which was undertaken by Communio Pty Ltd.

The NRLP comprises three subsidiary programs - the Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme, the General Practitioner Anesthetist Locum Scheme and the Rural GP Locum Program.

The Review was commissioned to assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the three programs, in supporting the Australian Government's aim to provide Australians living in rural and remote areas with access to quality health care. In general, the report recommends the possibility of streamlining the current administrative structure of the program, and development of a more centralised national approach to improve locum supply.

The Review has found that the NRLP has achieved considerable success in a short time period and that there is a need for continued locum support to assist rural clinicians to take recreation and professional leave.

- b) No.