

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13- 096

OUTCOME: 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Retention of Medical Practitioners in Rural and Regional Australia

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Moore

Question:

What plans are in place to provide additional support and training for the large numbers of overseas trained doctors who are currently working in rural and regional areas?

Answer:

Following the introduction of a national medical registration process in July 2010, international medical graduates (IMGs) in general practice with limited area of need registration were required to demonstrate progress towards achieving Fellowship.

To assist IMGs in rural and remote locations to attain Fellowship, funding is provided to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) for Fellowship Support Grants.

Funding is also provided to General Practice Education and Training Limited to deliver the Overseas Trained Doctor National Education Training program from 2013 to 2015.

Rural Workforce Agencies in each state and the Northern Territory are funded to provide a range of activities to support the recruitment and retention of Australian and overseas trained doctors in regional and remote areas of Australia. The support includes orientation, family support and visa assistance for IMGs. The Additional Assistance Scheme offers financial assistance to enable doctors to access education and up-skilling opportunities needed to obtain Fellowship of the RACGP or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

Funding is also provided for Workplace-based Assessments, which is an alternative to the Australian Medical Council Clinical Examination.