

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000710

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Health Workforce

**Topic:** GP Training

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

What has been the impact of abolishing the GP education and training company and ceasing the pre-vocational GP placement scheme?

**Answer:**

The 2014-15 Budget measure '*Rebuilding general practice education and training to deliver more GPs*' included the closure of General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) and cessation of the Prevocational General Practice Placements Programme (PGPPP) by 31 December 2014. Savings were re-directed to expanding the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme by 300 training places, from 1,200 to 1,500 commencing places per year, from 2015.

The functions, and some staff, transferred to the Department of Health from GPET, when the agency was closed. Active funding agreements were also novated to the Department.

The PGPPP was announced at a time when there was insufficient demand for GP training places. The PGPPP was an expensive programme, with a twelve week placement costing a similar amount to a full year of training under the AGPT programme. The AGPT programme is now oversubscribed; with more than 3,500 junior doctors applying for 1,500 training places for the 2016 calendar year, a number consistent with 2015, so the rationale for the PGPPP no longer exists.