

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000719

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Healthcare Workforce

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

- a) What has been the impact on workforce planning since disbanding HWA?
- b) Is there still HWA program funding in the Budget?

**Answer:**

- a) Health Workforce Australia (HWA) activities were transferred to the Department of Health following HWA's closure on 6 August 2014. Workforce data and planning activities are now managed by Health Workforce Division in the Department. This includes the preparation of supply and demand studies for health professions and the ongoing development and maintenance of the National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS)

The Department has continued the operations of the National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN). The main function of the NMTAN is to provide policy advice on medical workforce planning and produce medical training plans to inform government, health and education sectors. In addition, NMTAN is developing policy advice about the planning and coordination of medical training in Australia.

The NMTAN is currently progressing three key projects:

- modelling of the supply and demand projections of the medical specialties;
- assessment of health workforce impact due to the increased burden of chronic disease, with a focus on the primary care setting; and
- development of a series of fact sheets on medical specialties intended as a career planning resource for students, graduates and doctors in training.

It is expected that from 2016, the NMTAN will also oversee the development of an annual report on medical education and training (currently the Medical Training Review Panel report).

Health Ministers have recently agreed to the establishment of a National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network to provide advice to Health Ministers on issues relating to the planning and co-ordination of education, employment and immigration for nurses and midwives.

- b) Funding previously allocated to HWA was transferred to the Department following the closure of HWA on 6 August 2014.