

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates, 2015-2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000890

OUTCOME: 8- Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Health workforce planning and pipelines

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What planning systems are currently in place to align the number of students studying health professions with the number of training places available once they complete their studies?

Answer:

The Government supports a number of initiatives to assist in planning the education and training of health professionals.

The National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN), established in response to the *Health Workforce 2025 – Doctors, Nurses and Midwives* (HW2025), models supply and demand projections for individual medical specialties by collecting and analysing data from multiple national sources. Developing workforce projections from a national perspective enables NMTAN to make recommendations on medical workforce capacity and distribution. These projections are also used to assist with career planning for junior doctors through the development of a series of fact sheets on each of the medical specialties. In addition, the modelling will allow the Government to better target health workforce training programmes.

The annual Medical Training and Review Panel Report provides data on all trainees in undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational training programs. Details of overseas trained medical practitioners, their education levels and their migration patterns to work in Australia are also documented to provide a complete picture of the supply of medical practitioners. The MTRP Report is a national resource for statistics on medical education and training. Following the abolition of MTRP, which is currently underway, NMTAN will oversee the production of future reports.

The Government has taken a leadership role in the establishment of the National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN). Recently agreed by all Health Ministers, it will be an advisory body responsible for the provision of advice to Health Ministers on issues relating to the planning and coordination of education, employment and immigration for nurses and midwives.