

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000909

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Health Workforce Scholarships

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What level of funding was available for new scholarships (as opposed to funding scholarships which had been granted in previous years) for the 2015 academic year?

Answer:

Approximately \$36 million (GST exc.) was available for health workforce scholarships (both new and granted in previous years but ongoing) for the 2015 academic year.

It is difficult to separate the 2015 new scholarship money from the funding for scholarships granted in previous years. This is because some of the funds are required to cover scholarship deferrals and rounds not yet completed. In addition, when students drop-out of or fail their course the scholarship money is available to be reallocated. The factors affecting the portion of funds available for new health workforce scholarships change constantly prior to and during a scholarship year and consequently affect the amount available for new scholarships.