

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000964

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: GP Training

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) To what extent have savings been achieved in the finalisation of contracts with the new GP training organisations?
- b) Please provide specific details of the level of savings achieved and where they come from, including in relation to administration, education and funding for general practices
- c) What will be the level of funding provided for each trainee in the GP training program under the new arrangements and how will this compare to this year's level of funding?

Answer:

- a) The 2014-15 Budget measure 'Rebuilding general practice education and training to deliver more GPs' provides savings of \$115.4 million over four years from 2014-15 (\$16.4 million in 2014-15, \$40.9 million in 2015-16, \$35.9 million in 2016-17 and \$22.1 million in 2017-18). These funds have provided for an additional 300 training places per annum, bringing the total to 1500 GP training places.
- b) The Budget measure provided savings through:
 - Reducing overheads by closing General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) from 1 January 2015 and moving its policy and funding functions to the Department of Health;
 - Ceasing the Prevocational General Practice Placements Programme at the end of 2014;
 - Reducing the number of organisations administering the Australian General Practice Training Programme; and
 - Developing more innovative approaches to funding GP training, in consultation with the medical profession and state governments.
- c) There is no average level of funding for each trainee because it will vary between training required and needs in order to ensure individual GP trainees have the support required to achieve Fellowship of the relevant GP college.