

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000642

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Rural Health/Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Please outline in detail the role of the Rural Health Commissioner.

- a) What will the Commissioner be responsible for?
- b) What is the budget for the Commissioner?
- c) When will the Commissioner be appointed?
- d) Who will the commissioner report to?
- e) What consultation will the commissioner engage in?
- f) Will the commissioner examine the barriers to better health outcomes for those in rural and regional areas?
- g) Will the commissioner be a clinician or from the broader sector including consumers, allied health etc?

Answer:

- a) The National Rural Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) will work with rural, regional and remote communities, the health sector, universities, specialist training colleges and across all levels of government to improve rural health policies and champion the cause of rural practice.
- b) Funding for the Commissioner will be considered by the Government as part of the 2016 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook process.
- c) and d)
It is intended that the Commissioner be established as a statutory position. Governance for the role will be established as part of the legislative process.
- e) The Commissioner will consult with stakeholders and across all levels of Government.
- f) Yes.
- g) The Government will consider a wide range of candidates.