

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000669

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Integrated Rural Training Pipeline

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

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Will the Specialist Training Programme posts for 2017 be allocated before the Regional Training Hubs are established?

**Answer:**

The Specialist Training Program currently funds 900 ongoing training positions, which are allocated to 12 participating medical specialist colleges and will continue to be funded at existing sites in 2017. In addition, 50 new rural places from the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline measure will be added to the program in 2017 and 2018, increasing the number of ongoing positions to 1,000.

The 50 new rural places commencing in 2017 have been allocated to 10 medical specialist colleges, following an application and assessment process conducted by the department earlier in 2016. To ensure these places are able to commence next year it was necessary to complete this assessment process before the establishment of the Regional Training Hubs.