

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000673

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Integrated Rural Training Pipeline

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) What is the status of the expansion of the Specialist Training Programme?
- b) Have contracts been issued yet? If not, when will they be issued?

Answer:

a) b)

The Specialist Training Program is on track to expand by 50 extra rural training places in 2017, bringing the number of ongoing places to 950. These new places are part of the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline measure announced through the 2015-16 MYEFO.

The allocation of the new rural places for 2017 has been agreed by the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, following consultation between the Department and the medical specialist colleges earlier in 2016. The new places will be reflected in Deeds of Variation to the existing Specialist Training Program funding agreements with participating colleges. These variations will also extend funding for the 900 existing places in the program until the end of 2017.

Agreement variations are being negotiated with each college and are expected to be in place before the end of 2016.