

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ16-000679

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

**Topic:** Health Workforce Scholarship Programme

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

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Will the programme commence in time for the 2017 academic year and if not what alternatives have been put in place for students?

**Answer:**

The Health Workforce Scholarship program is in its design stage following consultation with stakeholders. The Department is currently working through a number of options to determine the most efficient model to deliver the consolidated program. Implementation has been delayed while the department works through the complex nature of return of service obligations being administered by an external provider.

It is anticipated that scholarships will be delivered in the 2017 academic year, but the implementation date will not be known until the design has been completed.

Existing scholarship recipients will continue to be supported through the current arrangements.

Consistent with the Government's commitment, new rounds of scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce will continue.