

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000680

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Health Workforce Scholarship Programme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Does the Health Workforce Scholarship Programme combine six health workforce scholarships into a single programme?

Answer:

The 2015-16 Budget Measure, *Streamlining Health Workforce Scholarships* announced the development of a new scholarship program to better target financial support to health professionals working in communities most in need.

The new measure will consolidate existing scholarships into a single program. While the program is being developed, existing scholarship recipients will continue to be supported through the current arrangements.

The number, type and amount of scholarships to be offered to nursing and allied health students under the new program is not yet known.

Support for health students is available through the Rural Workforce Agency (RWA) network. RWAs, located in each state and the Northern Territory receive Commonwealth funding to provide support to rural and remote medical, nursing and allied health professionals. RWAs also work with high school and tertiary students who are interested in pursuing a career in rural health.

Consistent with the Australian Government's commitment, new rounds of scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce will continue through the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship and the Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarship.