

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000613

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: ATSI Australian General Practice Training Salary Support Programme 2016

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

- a) Is the Department aware of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's (ACCHO) concern that the registrar salary support program has been reduced to 12 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) months, where previously eligible training facilities could support registrars under this program for up to 36 months?
- b) Is the Department aware that Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) maintain that the restricted period of 12 months of salary support under this initiative has directly impacted on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce? What is the Department's response?
- c) Has any modelling been done on the impact changes to this policy will have?
- d) How many registrars access this program?
- e) How many ACCHOs access the program?
- f) Are you aware of retention rates within ACCHOs for GP registrars who have accessed the program?

Answer:

a), b) and c)

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Salary Support Program does not restrict registrars to 12 months of salary support.

The Department of Health tested a draft Salary Support Policy in November and December 2015 through consultation with key stakeholder groups. This process included the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The draft policy issued for consultation in November 2015 proposed limiting registrars to a maximum of 12 months of Salary Support. The final 2016 policy removed this proposed limitation.

d) Number of AGPT registrars accessing the Salary Support program

Calendar year	Registrar Headcount	FTE registrars
2015	397	157

e) Number of Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) facilities accessing the AGPT Salary Support program

Calendar year	Number of AMS facilities
2015	181

f) The Department does not have data on the retention rates for registrars who have accessed the AGPT Salary Support program.