

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-012

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: HEALTH WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

“Is Health Workforce Australia considering the needs of the health workforce beyond clinical areas, for example, Aboriginal health workers, and the public and preventive health workforce?”

Answer:

Yes. Health Workforce Australia is considering the needs of the health workforce beyond clinical areas.

Health Workforce Australia has a mandate to look at whole of health system workforce needs. A national strategy on Innovation and Reform for the health workforce is under development and will inform health workforce reform directions for the health system as a whole.

In relation to specific projects, the Clinical Training Funding program includes 22 health professional disciplines including Aboriginal health workers and allied health workers for both their clinical and preventive health functions. There is a specific project being undertaken on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers. This project is examining the role and contribution of this workforce which will inform development of the workforce and the national registration process intended for 2012 for this profession. Health Workforce Australia is also undertaking work in relation to the rural and remote health workforce and the organisation will continue to consider the needs of the whole health system workforce.