

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-197

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: GP INCENTIVES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) How much has been spent on rural incentives to encourage GPs to move from major cities to regional and rural areas?
- b) How many doctors have been encouraged to move?

Answer:

- a) The General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP) commenced on 1 July 2010. GPRIP comprises:
  - GP component (previously known as the *Rural Retention Program-RRP*)
  - Registrar component (previously known as the *Registrars Rural Incentive Payment Scheme-RRIPS*)
  - Rural Relocation Incentive Grant (RRIG).

Grants are paid on a retrospective basis and depending on the medical practitioner's circumstances payments are made after two or four active quarters.

The majority of payments will not be made until after the June 2011 quarter, which is after four active quarters. As at 13 March 2011, 2,333 medical practitioners have received payments under the GPRIP totalling around \$15.5 million.

- b) As at 9 May 2011, 38 medical practitioners have been approved under RRIG with the first grants payable after the June 2011 quarter.