

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000292

**OUTCOME:** 12 - Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** Health Workforce Scholarships

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

**Senator:** McLucas Jan

**Question:**

- a) How many scholarships were allocated by the Federal Government to nurses and allied health professionals last year?
- b) What is the planned allocation this year?
- c) What is the total value of scholarship programs by the Department?
- d) What is the best way for students to access information about the various types of scholarships they can apply for?
- e) Have applications exceed the number of placements available in the last four years?

**Answer:**

- a) In 2013:
  - the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme (NAHSSS) provided 2,256 scholarships to students and professionals already in the workforce. This included allied health and nursing undergraduate scholarships, postgraduate scholarships, scholarships for Continuing Professional Development activities, midwifery prescribing scholarships and nurse re-entry scholarships;
  - the Diagnostic Imaging - Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce Scheme provided 28 scholarships for postgraduate studies, and five scholarships for graduates undertaking the National Professional Development Program (now known as Supervised Practice Program) in rural and remote areas;
  - the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme provided 30 scholarships; and
  - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme provided three scholarships.

There are other schemes such as the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (172 new scholarships) and the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarships (40 scholarships) that are open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying a health related discipline (this includes other disciplines such as medicine).

- b) Over 2,000 scholarships have been offered for study in 2014 under NAHSSS. This number will grow as CPD and clinical placement scholarships continue to be offered throughout the year. The exact number of scholarships varies depending on the mix of applications for different types of scholarships across multiple rounds, and the number of acceptances for offered scholarships.

The 2014 planned allocation for the other scholarship programmes include:

- 25 through the Diagnostic Imaging - Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce Scheme;
- 40 through the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarships;
- 140 through the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme;
- 30 through the Rural Pharmacy Scholarships; and
- three through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarships.

c) In 2013-14 the total funding is:

- NAHSSS - \$29.3 million;
- Diagnostic Imaging - Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce Scheme - \$0.33 million;
- Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme - \$2.3 million; and
- Australian Rotary Health - \$0.22 million.

Under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (2010-15) between the Department of Health and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Scholarship programme is \$0.345 million and funding of up to \$6 million is available under the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship programme. This funding is available over the life of the Fifth Agreement.

d) Visit the following websites:

- Australian College of Nursing (for NAHSSS Nursing and Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships Scheme) [www.acn.edu.au/australian-government-scholarships](http://www.acn.edu.au/australian-government-scholarships)
- Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) (for NAHSSS Allied Health): <http://www.sarrah.org.au>
- Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) for the DI-ERRWS <http://www.air.asn.au/dierrws.php>
- Australian Rotary Health for the Indigenous Health Scholarships <https://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au/Information-About/Programs/Indigenous-Health-Scholarship.aspx>
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia: <http://5cpa.com.au/programs/rural-pharmacy-initiatives/rural-pharmacy-scholarship-scheme/>

e) Yes.