

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000310

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Health Workforce Scholarship Programme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Why has the number of scholarships for the allied health stream been cut by 65%?

Answer:

The number and type of scholarships awarded to allied health professionals is determined by the current administrator, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH). Reporting of the number, type and placement of scholarships for 2017 has not yet been provided by SARRAH to the Department of Health.

A smaller amount of funding is available for 2017 nursing and allied health scholarships as an interim arrangement until the new Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) is operational in second half of the year. The interim round provides a proportional amount of funding for a single year of financial support. Further funds will be directed through the HWSP in 2017.