

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000299

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Medical Scholarships

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The Mason Review notes that if the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships (MRBS) cannot be suitably completed, the government should look to implement less harsh penalties in the form of a buyout for graduates who are unable to complete the MRBS. Will the government do this?

Answer:

The Government has decided to close the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships (MRBS) to new entrants from the end of 2015. In future, bonded medical places will be offered to students under a different programme which permits graduates to 'buy out' the return of service obligation.