

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000519

OUTCOME: 8 - Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) What work does the department currently do to project expected shortages and over-supplies in health workforces?
- b) Which areas of the workforce are expected to have shortages?
- c) Which areas are likely to have oversupply?

Answer:

- a) The *Australia's Future Health Workforce (AFHW) - Doctors*, *AFHW – Nurses* (detailed and overview reports) and *AFHW – Oral Health* (detailed and overview reports) were published on the Department of Health website in December 2014. These provide updated modelling of the national medical and nursing workforces projected to 2030 and for the first time, national oral health workforce projections to 2025.

The Department of Health is working with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to maintain and further refine the National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS). NHWDS information is critical to workforce planning and projections for the 14 health professions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. These include the medical, nursing, dental and eleven allied health professions.

The states and territories and the Australian Government are working together on workforce projection modelling through the Jurisdictional Workforce Planners Working Group.

- b) *Health Workforce 2025 (HW 2025) Volume 3* provides information on expected medical workforce shortages. It was published by the former HWA in November 2012 and can be accessed at https://www.hwa.gov.au/sites/default/files/HW2025_V3_FinalReport20121109_0.pdf
- c) *AFHW – Doctors* provides information on areas of expected oversupply of the medical workforce. It was published by the Department in December 2014 and can be accessed <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/australias-future-health-workforce-doctors>