

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-169

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: HEALTH WORKFORCE CAPACITY

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

Please advise what retraining programs/initiatives are available to doctors and nurses who want to re-enter the medical profession after taking time off to start a family?

Answer:

The specific requirements for re-entry to the workforce following extended absence are determined by the registration board for the relevant health profession and depends on the field of practice, level of experience of the practitioner and length of absence. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website at www.ahpra.gov.au contains further information about registration requirements and links to the websites of the national registration boards.

There are no programs that specifically target re-entry for medical practitioners. The Australian Government provides scholarships under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS), including scholarships for nurses and midwives, undertaking re-entry courses. The Australian College of Nursing administers the nursing and midwifery component of NAHSSS. More information is provided at www.rcna.org.au

It is possible that states and territories may also offer re-training support. However the Department of Health and Ageing does not hold information about this and the Committee would need to approach individual health Departments for details.