

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17 October 2012

Question: E12-274

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL MEDICAL GENERALISTS AND RURAL TRAINED PHYSICIAN PROJECT

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) What consideration was given to the proposal by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia for a National Advanced Rural Training Program?
- b) On what basis was each project awarded to relevant jurisdictions, and how was each project's cost determined?
- c) What consultations did the department undertake prior to this announcement?

Answer:

- a) The Rural Doctors' Association of Australia (RDAA) was consulted in the key informant interview process and is a member of the Project Advisory Group for the Rural Medical Generalist project. The RDAA and the National Advanced Rural Training Program document are informing the current development process of a National Framework for the rural medical generalist workforce.
- b) Each state and territory was invited to submit a proposal through a targeted Request for Proposal process with funding up to a maximum of \$250,000 to build on existing efforts of the participating states and territories in developing a discrete pathway for the Rural Medical Generalist workforce.

Project costing considered key factors associated with achieving each project's stated objectives, including: methodology; partnering arrangements; project activities, timelines and deliverables; monitoring and evaluation processes; project reporting; and state/territory contributions.

- c) Health Workforce Australia undertook key informant interviews in early 2012 with state and territory health departments and key agencies including the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners National Rural Faculty, RDAA, regional training providers and rural health workforce agencies.

The Project Advisory Group for the Rural Medical Generalist project is a key consultation mechanism. It held its first meeting on 7 August 2012 and membership includes all of the states and territories as well as the Department of Health and Ageing, General Practice Education and Training Limited, Consumers Health Forum of Australia, the National Rural Student Network, the Remote Vocational Training Scheme, Rural Health Workforce Australia, the National Rural Health Alliance, the Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators and the Australian Rural Health Education Network.