

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 October 2012

Question: E12-320

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MEDICAL INTERNS

Type of Question: Hansard Page 115, 17 October 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) When was the department first notified that there would be a shortfall in medical internships?
- b) What is the current shortfall and projected shortfall for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) discussed the provision of medical internships commencing in 2013 at its meeting on 15 June 2012. AHMAC subsequently commissioned urgent work to quantify the extent of any potential shortfall of internships in 2013.
- b) The Australian Government secured agreements with five jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory) to create additional intern training positions for 2013. All eligible Australian-trained medical graduates have been offered an internship position for 2013.

It is not possible to project a shortfall of internships in future years as the number of internships which each State and Territory jurisdiction will actually fund is unknown at this stage and is dependent on budgetary decisions by each jurisdiction.