

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001274

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Senate Inquiry into the Out-of-Pocket Costs in Australian Healthcare

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

In 2005 the Productivity Commission conducted a detailed study to examine issues impacting on the health workforce including the supply of, and demand for, health workforce professionals and propose solutions to ensure the continued delivery of quality healthcare over the next 10 years. It is now 2014 and 10 years has passed. Is it time to review our progress as a nation?

**Answer:**

All Australian Health Ministers meet regularly through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council to consider the supply of and demand for health workers, and to develop collaborative policy responses. The COAG Health Council periodically publishes workforce planning reports which provide information about progress.