

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001276

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:

Where are we at in facilitating a sustainable and responsive health workforce, while maintaining a commitment to high quality and safe health outcomes?

a) Is our current health workforce and models of service delivery sustainable, cost-effective and able to meet the growing burden of disease in our country? I ask this question in light of the recent abolition of Health Workforce Australia, which was established upon the recommendations of the Productivity Commission.

Answer:

The Government gave a commitment to continue key functions undertaken by Health Workforce Australia, under streamlined administrative cost structures. The Department of Health is now supporting national health workforce planning and projections, and advising the Government on appropriate policy responses to ensure that the Australian health system continues to produce some of the best health outcomes in the world, through efficient and sustainable service delivery models.