

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000645

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

- a) When will the tender calling for applications to administer the Health Workforce Scholarship Program be publically released?
- b) What are the options for potential applicants who will be seeking scholarships in 2017 if the implementation of the Health Workforce Scholarship Program continues to be delayed?
- c) If Health Workforce Scholarship Program continues to be delayed what will the government do with the program dollars that are not committed?

Answer:

The 2015-16 Budget Measure, *Streamlining Health Workforce Scholarships* announced the development of a new scholarship program to better target financial support to health professionals working in communities most in need. The new measure will consolidate existing scholarships into a single program. The program is currently in its development stage, following consultation with stakeholders.

Existing scholarship recipients will continue to be supported through the current arrangements. The number, type and amount of scholarships to be offered to students will be finalised following the appointment of an administrator.

Consistent with the Government's commitment, new rounds of scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce will continue.

Funding for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program is a notional allocation that fits within the broader Health Workforce Program. Uncommitted funds from activities within the Health Workforce Program remain within the Health Workforce Program.