

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000654

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 61.

Curtin University - Hospital clinical training for medical students and interns

Question

Senator KIM CARR: Are you able to provide any advice on the numbers of clinical training places in hospital that Curtin will utilise for its medical students as interns? Do you have that information?

Ms Borthwick: Can we take that one on notice?

Senator KIM CARR: I would like to know which hospitals will be used and, obviously, the number of places that are available.

Ms Borthwick: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: Has the university identified a suitable and willing hospital that offers a full range of practical experience for medical students and interns, including an emergency award?

Ms Borthwick: I understand that with the case the state government had agreed to provide clinical training places.

Senator KIM CARR: State government?

Ms Borthwick: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: But I am interested to know whether or not a hospital has actually been found.

Ms Borthwick: We will have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Was there a new private hospital engaged with that? Can you confirm that?

Ms Borthwick: I do not recall. I will have to take it on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I am particularly interested to know whether or not there would be a full range of experiences provided to actually provide those interns with the necessary experience.

Ms Borthwick: We will take that on notice.

Answer

Curtin University will initially enrol 60 Commonwealth supported medical students in 2017 into its five-year undergraduate medical programme. Curtin University has advised that the commencing intake is expected to increase to 110 places per year in 2022. The first cohort of 60 graduates will require internships in 2022, increasing to 110 per year from 2027 once the medical school is at full capacity.

Before students will be permitted to enrol, the Curtin University medical programme will need to be accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to ensure the course meets the required standards for students to register as a medical practitioner. These accreditation standards include requirements for medical students to undertake supervised clinical training with patients in a range of models of care across metropolitan and rural health settings.

Curtin University has advised the Department of Education and Training that a range of hospitals in Perth's eastern and southern suburbs have indicated an interest in providing clinical training for their students.

As a condition of the Australian Government's approval to establish the new medical school, the Western Australia (WA) Government agreed to provide the necessary clinical training and supervision for all medical students and interns from the Curtin University medical school.

State and Territory governments are responsible for the provision of internship positions and they guarantee an Australian internship to all Commonwealth supported medical graduates. The WA Government is responsible for how internship places are allocated for Curtin University's medical graduates.