

**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. SQ15-000741**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Medical training in regional centres***

**Question**

In regards to provision of medical training in regional settings:

- (1) Is the Department aware of a plan to establish a medical school in one or more regional centres, under the joint auspices of La Trobe and Charles Sturt Universities?
- (2) What are the details of that plan?
- (3) Has the Department conducted an assessment of that plan?
- (4) Has any decision been made?
- (5) Has the Department briefed the current or former Minister's office on the plan?
- (6) If so, what dates was advice offered?
- (7) What types of support for training of medical practitioners is offered by the Commonwealth in regional settings?

**Answer**

- (1) Yes. The department is aware of a proposal put forward jointly by La Trobe University and Charles Sturt University to establish a new Murray Darling Medical School (MDMS).
- (2) Details of the MDMS can be found at [www.mdms.edu.au](http://www.mdms.edu.au).
- (3) The department has reviewed the request.
- (4) No.
- (5&6) Information about the MDMS proposal has been provided to the former and current Ministers' Offices in September 2014, April 2015 and November 2015.
- (7) The Government is operating a number of programmes to increase the supply of doctors in regional and remote areas through exposure to rural settings. These programmes are mainly administered by the Department of Health and include the:
  - Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Programme, which supports 17 rural clinical schools to deliver rural clinical training to medical students (note this programme also supports 11 University Departments of Rural Health and six dental schools offering extended rural placements)
  - John Flynn Placement Programme, which provides financial support for medical students to undertake a vacation placement in the same rural community each year for four years.