

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2010-2011, 25 February 2011

Question: E11-047

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Scullion asked:

- a) In the most recent round of funding from the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program, could you please outline the amounts allocated to the six successful Aboriginal Medical Services and what the funds will be used for?
- b) How many Aboriginal Medical Services across Australia have applied for funding through the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program to address non-compliance issues identified under the Building Code of Australia and the *Disability Discrimination Act*, and been unsuccessful?
- c) Given the serious nature of non-compliance issues in relation to building standards and their impact on vital operations, will the Government take any action to ensure these Aboriginal Medical Services are operating in premises that meet legal standards?

Answer:

- a) There have been four completed funding rounds under the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP). In total, six Aboriginal Medical Services have received funding under the NRRHIP. In the most recent completed round, round four, Bourke Aboriginal Medical Service was allocated \$42,100.11 (GST inc) to purchase a standard four wheel drive vehicle for the visiting outreach eye team to service communities in western NSW.
- b) Since 2008-09, one Aboriginal Medical Service has sought funding to address non-compliance issues identified under the Building Code of Australia, and was unsuccessful.

- c) The terms and conditions of the OATSIH Funding Agreement require all funded organisations to undertake primary health care service provision in accordance with all relevant laws. Organisations unable to comply with these laws due to funding limitations, for example compliance with OH&S building standards, are able to make a submission for funding support. OATSIH gives consideration to requests for funding support on a case by case basis, ensuring compliance with the requirement for proper use of Commonwealth resources required under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

When funding major capital works projects, the OATSIH Capital Works Funding Agreement requires the funded organisation to:

- undertake construction in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and Local and State Government requirements; and
- enter into a Purposes Deed whereby the organisation agrees to safeguard the property against loss, damage or unauthorised use, and maintain the property in good condition.