

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 25 February 2011

Question: E11-210

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS TOBACCO CONTROL INITIATIVE

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Senator Scullion asked:

[National Healthcare Agreement with states and territories. The goal is to reduce the national daily smoking rate for the general population to 10 per cent by 2018, and halve the smoking rate for Indigenous Australians by that date as well.]

- a) I understand that was the process, but could you indicate the target benchmarks that were discussed earlier? We have 2018, but we do not want to get to 2018 and say, 'Oops.'. We want to know in 2012 that our target at 2012 is a reduction to a certain point. I understand that the Closing the gap report in that regard was going to try to target.
- b) Have you already established a target between now and 2018 – a series of targets which you believe we can meet?

Answer:

- a) The COAG Reform Council's *National Healthcare Agreement: Baseline Performance Report for 2008-09* (30 April 2010) states that:

*“nationally the proportion of adult Indigenous Australian smokers in 2008 was 44.8 per cent – in all jurisdictions, the rate of smoking among Indigenous adults was at least twice the rate for other Australians.*

*Based on these data, to meet the performance benchmark, the rate of Indigenous smokers needs to reach 22.4 per cent by 2018”* (p 232).

- b) COAG did not set interim targets for reducing Indigenous smoking rates between 2008 and 2018.