

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-235

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: DEMENTIA IN THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION

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Senator Adams asked:

As Aboriginal people age, is there an increase in dementia in the Indigenous population?

Answer:

Research funded in part by the Australian Government Dementia Initiative, and undertaken by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, reported that the most detailed picture of dementia to date is from rural and remote communities in WA. It showed that dementia affects around 12.4 percent of Indigenous people compared to around 2.6 percent of the general population.

In 2007 the National Health and Medical Research Council funded the University of New South Wales to undertake a research project entitled *What is the burden of dementia in urban dwelling Indigenous Australians?* The project commenced in 2008 and is due for completion towards the end of 2010/11.