

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000251

OUTCOME: 6 - Rural Health

Topic: Rural Health Education Foundation

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

- a) Was the department aware of the Rural Health Education Foundation closure and its cessation of operations?
- b) Was the RHEF running any programs on behalf of the department? If so, what programs were they running?
- c) Did the RHEF seek or request any funding for continuation of their organisation or their activities?
- d) Has there been any correspondence with the RHEF since September 2013?
- e) What programs or initiatives was the RHEF running on behalf of the Department or contracted by the Department prior to its closure?

Answer:

- a) Yes. On 8 January 2014, the Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) advised the Department of Health of its decision to cease operations and close.
- b) Yes. The Department had a funding agreement in place with RHEF for the period 2009-10 to 2014-15, due to expire on 31 December 2014. At the time of closure, RHEF were funded for the following projects:
 - Indigenous Male Health Program on the Rural Health Channel;
 - Reduce Indigenous Smoking Rates and Healthy Lifestyles;
 - Continuing Education and Training Support Program; and
 - Hepatitis B – Multi-Media Package for Hepatitis B.
- c) Yes.
- d) Yes.
- e) See response to question b) above.