

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-233

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Access and Equity

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

How is the Department ensuring that Government funded mainstream health services are adequately addressing the needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Australians?

Answer:

Cultural diversity principles are incorporated into the design and implementation of the Department of Health and Ageing's program and service delivery. The Department takes into account the needs of target groups, and sub-populations within these groups, when designing and implementing policy, managing programs, and monitoring and evaluating programs.

Many of the Department's programs contain aspects to assist sub-populations to access mainstream services. Examples include:

- targeted approaches within the National Tobacco Campaign to tailor messages to high-need and hard to reach groups, including culturally and linguistically diverse groups with high smoking rates;
- a Medicare funded health assessment for new refugees to identify needs and improve access to existing services; and
- the Mental Health in Multicultural Australia project which focusses on improving access to services and supporting health professionals to better respond to mental health needs in culturally and linguistically diverse population groups.