

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: E12-240

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Healthy Communities Initiative

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) Has the department sought to extend the Healthy Communities Initiative? If so, for how long, and has any additional funding been allocated to extend the program?
- b) When will a decision be made about the future of the Healthy Communities Initiative?
- c) How is the Department assessing the effectiveness of the Healthy Communities Initiative, given its strong focus on local government areas with lower SES populations? Are there any early indications of the programs success?

Answer:

- a) In the 2012-13 Budget the Australian Government extended the Healthy Communities Initiative by 12 months to 30 June 2014. No additional funds are available through this extension.
- b) The Healthy Communities Initiative will be reviewed as part of the broader National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health review that is expected to occur in 2014-15.
- c) The Department has contracted KPMG to evaluate the engagement of the target group, sustained participation, the benefits to participants and other measures such as the capacity of the LGAs to promote and support healthy behaviour. As the Healthy Communities Initiative is being implemented through a staged role out approach it is too early to determine the success of the program at this stage.