

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: E12-241

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: Rheumatic Heart Disease Strategy

Type of Question: Written question on notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) What commitments has the government made to extend the rheumatic heart disease strategy?
- b) What efforts and funding allocations have been made to extend the rheumatic heart disease strategy beyond the four states/territories currently in the program to include South Australia and New South Wales?

Answer:

- a) The 2008-09 Budget measure *New Directions: An equal start in life for Indigenous children* included funding of \$11.2 million over five years (2007-08 to 2011-12) for a *Rheumatic Fever Strategy (RFS)* to establish rheumatic heart disease and acute rheumatic fever register and control programs in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland, supported by a national coordination unit (NCU).

The Government will continue to invest in the RFS. Project Agreements are currently being negotiated with funded jurisdictions to continue their register and control programs across 2012-13 to 2015-16. The Department of Health and Ageing is also considering a proposal for the continued operation of the NCU until 30 June 2015.

- b) Funding for the *Rheumatic Fever Strategy* did not extend beyond the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland.

However, all jurisdictions, including those not directly funded through the Rheumatic Fever Strategy, have the opportunity to benefit from the activities of the National Coordination Unit.