

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-236

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Machinery of Government

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas

Question:

Could you provide a list of activities in the Ageing section that have been relocated? I think that is quite clear, but it would be helpful if you could provide it for us. For clarity and understanding, in the Indigenous health area, could you provide us with what bits are left, numbers of staff that are left out of the old OATSIH, what has gone to PM&C and the functions of those that are left.

Answer:

All activities contained within Outcome 4 - Aged Care and Population Ageing, excluding Palliative Care, have been transferred to the Department of Social Services as part of the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes. Further detail relating to this Outcome is publicly available and can be found in the department's 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statements within the following link:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/2013-2014_Health_PBS

The functions that have transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) are consistent with the Hansard of the Senate Estimates Supplementary Budget Hearing of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee dated Friday 22 November 2013.

The MoG changes resulted in a total of 55 staff transferring to PM&C including program and corporate staff. There were 116 staff remaining in the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health as at 5 December 2013.

Separation of Responsibilities between PM&C and the Department of Health for the transfer of the Indigenous functions are as follows:

Indigenous policy, social wellbeing and drug and alcohol policies and programs that have transferred to PM&C include:

- strategic policy functions for Indigenous health, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework;
- life expectancy modelling project and health expenditure project;

- social and emotional wellbeing program including the Bringing Them Home and expanding Link-Up services for the Stolen Generation. That includes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group;
- renewal of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing framework;
- Stronger Futures National Partnership with the Northern Territory,
- Mobile Outreach Service Plus program;
- substance misuse service delivery grants for Indigenous drug and alcohol treatment services;
- alcohol and other drug workers funded through the Stronger Futures program;
- petrol sniffing prevention program;
- National Sorry Day Committee; and the
- National Stolen Generations Alliance.

Health program activities remaining with the Department of Health include:

- Indigenous primary health care services;
- child and maternal health programs for Indigenous Australians;
- further Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chronic disease flexible fund programs;
- Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory health apart from those MOS Plus that have moved to PM&C;
- Indigenous early childhood development, antenatal and reproductive health program;
- improving ear health services for Indigenous children;
- improving trachoma for Indigenous Australians;
- accommodation related to renal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Northern Territory;
- Torres Strait health protection strategy for Saibai Island clinic;
- renal dialysis services in Central Australia; Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory oral health services;
- Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory hearing health services; and the
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health plan.