

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 30 May 2014**

**Ref No:** BE14-020

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Tackling Smoking programme review

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

In relation to the pause on the growth of the Tackling Smoking programme, the Department of Health's website states 'while the Review is underway there is a pause on recruitment, which means that no unfilled positions can be filled and if workers leave during the Review their positions will not be replaced'. Why are teams potentially being left short-handed with less resources if the pause is only on the growth of the programme while it is subject to review?

**Answer:**

The pause on recruitment will allow the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme to continue in 2014-15 while a review of the programme is undertaken to ensure it is being implemented efficiently and in line with the best available evidence.