

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 30 May 2014

Ref No: BE14-037

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Department of Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What are the real funding cuts to Indigenous health services from the 2014-15 Budget (combining both the Department of Health or by PM&C Budgets)?

Answer:

Reductions of \$121.8 million over five years were outlined in the 2014-15 Budget from the Department of Health's Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (covering 2013-14 to 2017-18).

However, overall funding levels for Indigenous health will continue to grow over the next four years. From 2014-15 to 2017-18, the Government will invest \$3.1 billion in Indigenous specific health programmes and activities – an increase of over \$500 million compared to 2009-10 to 2012-13. This does not include funding provided through Medicare and access to pharmaceuticals through the PBS.

Reductions from other portfolios are a matter for those agencies.