

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 17 February 2012

Question: E12-185

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: GOVERNANCE ISSUES - FINANCIAL

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) What actions have been taken by OATSIH in relation to those organisations that had adverse findings made in an audit?
- b) Have any criminal charges been laid (or convictions, or referrals to the DPP) as a result of audits? If so how many?
- c) Have any organisations been fully or partially shut down as a result of an audit?
- d) Have conditions been placed on services and what are they?
- e) What kind of recovery action has commenced?
- f) How much funding in total was estimated to have been misappropriated last year?

Answer:

- a) Of the seven audits conducted in 2010-11 Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) worked with each organisation to develop a remediation plan to resolve the problems identified. In three cases, a Funds Administrator was appointed and in another case a Health Management Advisor was appointed to ensure efficient and effective use of Commonwealth funds and to assist the organisation to mitigate its risks.
- b) There was no criminal activity identified in any of the seven audits.
- c) As a result of an investigation undertaken in 2010-11 one organisation was advised in February 2012 that no further funding will be provided by the Department of Health and Ageing.
- d) Conditions have been included in the funding agreements of the audited organisations and all audited organisations are required to report regularly about progress in implementing the agreed remediation plans.
- e) In 2010-11, \$2.3 million was recovered by the Commonwealth as a result of the audits for misuse of funds.
- f) The seven audits did not identify any misappropriation of funds.