

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 17 February 2012

Question: E12-415

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS INTERPRETER SERVICES

Hansard Page: CA 56

Senator Scullion asked:

What specific Indigenous interpreter services are available to the hospital sector or, if you cannot break it down to that level, to the health sector more generally?

Answer:

We are aware of a small number of services that provide Indigenous interpreting. These are the NT Aboriginal Interpreting Services (NTAIS), the Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS) and the SA Interpreter and Translation Centre. There are also some individuals working independently as interpreters.

Through the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement, the Australian Government provides capacity building funding to the Northern Territory Government for NTAIS. Through the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership, the Government provides capacity building funding to the KIS.

In addition, the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) administers a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Territory Government for interpreter services for Aboriginal people in the Territory, supporting free access to interpreters for Northern Territory law and justice and health agencies and AGD-funded legal service providers.

State governments are responsible for facilitating access to appropriate interpreter services within their own health services.