Senate Community Affairs Committee ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO 2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 308

Topic: NTER

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Senator Siewert asked:

Is it possible to provide a full list of new data that was used in compiling the NTER evaluation compared to what had previously been available?

Answer:

New Data that was acquired for the NTER Evaluation

A range of data was included in the NTER evaluation that had not been available before. Two new studies were undertaken on community safety: the Community Safety and Wellbeing Research Study and the Community Safety Service Provider Study. These new studies filled an important gap in the evidence base regarding the systematic collection of data on the experiences of local people from NTER communities.

The Community Safety and Wellbeing Research Study was a large, complex and in-depth project which involved over 1,300 local Indigenous people in a representative sample of 16 NTER communities. Its purpose was to gain information from individuals to add the people's perspective and community context to existing information about programs and places. Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected.

The Community Safety Service Provider Study collected new data on community safety from service providers in the Northern Territory. A total of 699 service providers participated in the survey.

A co-ordination and engagement study was also undertaken to assess the effectiveness of coordination and engagement activities under the NTER. This study was provided in chapter four of the evaluation report.

In addition existing data was subject to more detailed secondary analysis.

Secondary Analysis of Existing Data

The Promoting Law and Order chapter written by the Australian Institute of Criminology included significant and detailed analysis of NT Police and NT Department of Justice data. This analysis was more detailed than any previous analysis of the impact of the NTER.

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The Improving Child and Family Health chapter prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare included a substantial new analysis of a range of data including data from the NTER Child Health Check Initiative, the National Hospital Morbidity Database and the Northern Territory Growth Assessment and Action (GAA) Program.

New secondary analysis was also undertaken on data from the National Perinatal Data Collection and the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set.

The Supporting Families chapter prepared by the Australian Institute of Family Studies included an analysis of statutory child protection area-level data from the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families (NT DCF). These data for the period 2000/01 to 2010/11 and had not been analysed in this way before.

The Enhancing Education Chapter prepared by the Australian Council for Educational Research, included a new analysis of data on school attendance, National Assessment Program –Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results, teacher retention and turnover and data from the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), for NTER communities.

The Housing and Land Reform chapter which was prepared by KPMG, included a new analysis of data from the Urgent Repairs to Infrastructure (URTI) program (also known as Tasks of Opportunity), and data on the number of permits issued and on land use approvals.