

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-182

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: TORRES STRAIT TB CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Can DoHA advise what its specific policy response is to the WHO assessment conducted in late 2011?
- b) What recommendations have been made in the report which relate directly to DoHA?
- c) What actions is the Department taking, or considering taking, as a direct result of the report's recommendations?

Answers:

- a) The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government requested a World Health Organization (WHO) assessment of its TB program in late 2011. The report confirmed the importance of the use of WHO best practice for the treatment of TB. Department of Health and Ageing discussions of TB service delivery is informed by WHO best practice.
- b) Nil. See a)
- c) The Department of Health and Ageing is continuing to support the safe and ethical transfer of PNG TB patients to the care of PNG health authorities and two additional handover clinics have been announced for April and June 2012.