

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-183

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: TORRES STRAIT TB CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) How many PNG nationals are expected to continue presenting to Australian health facilities in the Torres Strait seeking TB treatment?
- b) What protocols have DoHA formulated with other Commonwealth and State government agencies to deal with continued presentations?

Answers:

- a) Services in Saibai and Boigu are provided by Queensland Health. It is not possible to predict the number of Papua New Guinea (PNG) TB patients likely to continue to present at Australian health facilities.
- b) Nil. Protocols for the transfer and management of PNG TB patients are being refined by Queensland Health and PNG TB teams.