

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-212

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: LEPROSY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) How many cases of Leprosy have been reported in the last 6 months in Queensland and the Torres Strait?
- b) If the answer to the previous question is nil or zero how would explain the following events; My office has been speaking to a an Australian citizen in Cairns who came into contact with an infected PNG national in the past 6 months and who was subsequently put under a treatment regime for leprosy as a precaution. How could that be, if as you say there have been no reported cases of leprosy in the last six months?

Answer:

- a) No cases of leprosy have been reported by Queensland to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in the last 6 months.
- b) The NNDSS captures incident (new) cases that are diagnosed within Australia.