

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-329

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In the Prime Minister's press release of 9 June he used the figures "Presently only 75 per cent of newborns are screened. This varies from over 95 per cent in some states and territories to less than 40 per cent in others. Where did the then Prime Minister and Health Minister obtain these figures in 2009?"

Answer:

Currently each state and territory operates and manages a separate neonatal hearing screening data management system. The 2009 press release used estimates compiled from data collected and collated by the National Newborn Hearing Screening Committee (now known as the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee) based on the available data from each state and territory.