

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-248

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Indigenous Workforce Measures

Type of Question: Hansard Page 47, 15 February 2013

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce on page 69 of the report on the operation of the Aged Care Act, specifically in the Indigenous space, is this the only measure that assists to address workforce issues?

Answer:

The programs referred to on pages 69 and 70 of the Report on the Operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997* are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific and targeted to remote areas. There are three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific aged care workforce initiatives.

The Northern Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Training Project and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rural and Remote Aged Care Training Project provide on-site, nationally accredited and culturally appropriate training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care workers in rural and remote regions, to deliver aged care services in their communities.

The Indigenous Remote Service Delivery program provides traineeships in Business and Management to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care workers. The program aims to build the business, administrative and management capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care and primary health care services in remote areas of Australia.

The Indigenous Employment Initiatives provide more than 750 permanent part-time positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in aged care services nationally. Funding for these positions includes award wages, access to superannuation and leave entitlements.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care workers may also access the full range of workforce support programs as detailed on pages 67 to 69 of the Report on the Operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997*.