## **Senate Community Affairs Committee**

# ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND

## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### 2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7 Question No: 54

**Topic:** Closing the Gap in remote areas

Hansard Page: Written

#### **Senator Scullion** asked:

Can you provide a breakdown for each result area in the Closing the Gap Report by:- Very Remote, Remote, Rural and Urban areas. Background: Most result areas in Closing the Gap did not have a geographic breakdown in remote and rural areas from urban. Some education items did. The report acknowledges that remote Aboriginal results are dragging down national averages.

#### **Answer:**

Within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), the Remoteness Structure classification comprises six categories called Remoteness Areas (RAs). The six RAs are: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; Very Remote Australia; and Migratory. Data is usually provided for the first five categories.

Estimates of Indigenous life expectancy and child mortality data are not currently available by remoteness area. However, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is currently investigating if Indigenous mortality and life expectancy can be reported by remoteness area at a national level.

The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection already provides data on participation in early childhood education for Indigenous children by remoteness area at the national level only. The latest data (for 2011) on this target has been summarised in the 2013 *Report on Government Services* (Chapter 3, page 3.24) which can be accessed at:

#### http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/rogs/2013

Breakdown of progress in halving the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy by remoteness is available in the *National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy Achievement in Reading, Persuasive Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy National Report for 2012.* Progress against some indicators by remoteness levels were reported in the Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2013. The full set of results by remoteness area for NAPLAN results from 2008 to 2012 can be accessed at

http://www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/naplan-results/time-series.html

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Data from the 2011 Census against updated remoteness area boundaries will be publically available with the third release of the 2011 Census results on 28 March 2013. FaHCSIA will provide the Committee with data on Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent attainment and employment by remoteness area when they become available.