

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000221

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Project on Burden of Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

What is the progress on the AIHW project to update the burden of disease estimates? When is that project due to be completed? Is funding guaranteed for the life of the project? When will a report be published?

Answer:

Progress on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) project to update the burden of disease estimates is proceeding to plan and on time, following the workplan agreed in the Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AIHW and the Department of Health.

- Phase 1 has been completed. This phase assessed the most appropriate methods for estimating the burden in the Australian and Indigenous populations. This specifically considered the new Global Burden of Disease study published in December 2012 by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation and partners.
- Phase 2 is now underway which will update the Australian burden of disease estimates including the fatal and non-fatal components, and the attribution of this burden to various risk factors. Estimates will be produced for both the total Australian population and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Sub-national estimates will also be produced, where valid.

The project is due for completion in the second half of 2015 when the final deliverables under the agreed Schedule to the MoU are due.

Funding for the whole project is part of the agreed Schedule to the MoU, with the last payment scheduled for mid-2015.

The final reports are expected to be published in early 2016.