

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No: SQ15-000104**

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Hepatitis C

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

AIHW data analysed by Hepatitis Australia shows that 1,419 people die from liver cancer annually. How is the Government achieving the targets outlined in the 4th National Hepatitis C Strategy?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is working with all states and territories and non-government partners to finalise the Implementation and Evaluation Plan that details how the priority actions from the five national strategies will be implemented. Funding is not allocated against individual strategies.

Australian Government activities to implement the *Fourth National Hepatitis C Strategy 2014-2017* include subsidised services for the diagnosis and treatment of people with hepatitis C through the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) and subsidised medications through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

In 2013-14, under the MBS, \$41.9 million was spent on items for testing hepatitis C. In 2013-14, PBS expenditure specifically for the treatment of hepatitis C exceeded \$87 million.