

## **Senate Community Affairs Committee**

### **ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No: SQ16-000093**

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Indigenous Eye Health Care

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

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question:**

Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash announced \$4.6 million over four years from 2015-16 to enhance Indigenous eye health through the provision of eye care coordinators.

- a) Who will be the recipient of this funding? Current Fund holders?
- b) How will funding be administered? Direct allocation or tendering process?
- c) What level of coordination does this new funding provide?
- d) How many eye health coordinators will be funded from this money?
- e) How will locations of eye health coordinators be determined?
- f) How will eye health coordinators interact with PHNs?

**Answer:**

- a) In June 2015, up to \$1 million was approved for use in 2015-16, principally for Indigenous eye health coordination by the fundholders for the Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF). An additional \$4.6 million for eye health coordinators was subsequently approved in September 2015. The recipients of this funding are currently being finalised.
- b) Current RHOF fundholders, selected through a competitive approach to market in 2012, have received initial funding for Indigenous eye health coordination (excluding Tasmania and NT) and are in the process of developing these roles.
- c) The new funding was approved to embed improved coordination and facilitate integration of clinical eye health services for streamlined eye care for Indigenous patients. As system managers, each jurisdiction determines the level of coordination required.
- d) Fundholders have the responsibility of determining need for eye health services, including coordination, in their jurisdictions and collaborate with other eye health stakeholders such as Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to ensure eye health needs are met at both the local and regional level.
- e) The location of coordinators is not prescribed by the Commonwealth, however there is an expectation that coordinators be able to respond flexibly to the needs of populations for local and regional eye care support.
- f) Comprehensive needs analysis and planning with all relevant community and sector stakeholders including PHNs is undertaken prior to the commencement of any health activity and is reviewed annually to ensure health activities meet the needs of the population.