

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ16-000095

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Indigenous Eye Health Care

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

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question:**

How does the Government currently fund outreach ophthalmology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? What level of funding is committed to ophthalmology outreach services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

**Answer:**

The Government is committed to improving eye health for Indigenous Australians and has identified more than \$44 million (2013-14 to 2018-19) for eye health activities including ophthalmology.

Ophthalmology services are available through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme under elements including the Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Programme, through funding to the Fred Hollows Foundation, as part of the Project Agreement on Improving Trachoma Control Services for Indigenous Australians and through the Improving Eye and Ear Health Services for Indigenous Australians for Better Education and Employment Outcomes measure.

Services are implemented based on need, including for ophthalmology.

Funding for ophthalmology services is also available under the Rural Health Outreach Fund. Eye health is one of four priorities under the Rural Health Outreach Fund and funding of more than \$3 million will be provided for eye health services nationally in 2015-16, including \$1.8 million for ophthalmology services, which includes services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.