

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 16, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No: SQ16-000200**

**OUTCOME:** 0 – Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** AIHW Involvement in Committees Related to Adoption and Permanent Care of Children

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 40, 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question:**

- a) Is there an interdepartmental committee on which AIHW works with other areas on the issue of adoption?
- b) Does the AIHW look at permanent care, where there are orders for permanent care, rather than adoption, through to 18?
- c) Do you include that in that committee work?

**Answer:**

- a) The AIHW obtains interdepartmental input for its adoptions and related child protection data work through the Children and Families Data Network (CAFDaN).

In addition to CAFDaN, the AIHW also establishes temporary working groups comprised of state, territory and commonwealth representatives on an 'as needs' basis to provide specialist advice for specific adoption data projects.

For issues relating to intercountry adoptions, the AIHW also consults with the Intercountry Adoptions Central Authorities committee as a guest member. This committee comprises representatives from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, state/territory departments responsible for adoption services, the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection, and DSS.

- b) The AIHW collates data provided by states and territories on child protection order types, which provide the basis for statistics published in AIHW's *Child protection Australia* report in the broad national categories (for example, finalised third-party parental responsibility orders, finalised guardianship or custody orders, interim and temporary orders, etc.). The *Child protection Australia* report is available at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>>.

The AIHW is also undertaking a DSS-funded project exploring options for collecting data from states and territories on children who are adopted by a 'known' carer, such as a foster carer.

- c) CAFDaN currently provides oversight of the AIHW's data work relating to both adoptions and permanent care arrangements, including the project referred to in b) above.