

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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OUTCOME: 0 – Whole of Portfolio

Topic: AIHW Releases on Mothers and Babies

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Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) What is the status of the National Maternity Data Development Project?
- b) Is the *Australia's mothers and babies* publication annual?
- c) How is information on mothers and babies and maternal deaths obtained?

Answer:

- a) The National Maternity Data Development Project is in its 3rd stage; Stage 1 commenced in May 2011. The purpose of the Project aligns with the objectives of the National Maternity Services Plan to develop nationally consistent maternal and perinatal data collections in Australia to support the surveillance and reporting of maternal, perinatal morbidity and mortality.

Stage 3 of the Project which ends on 30 June 2016, involves enhancing reporting in the form of: the Maternity Information Matrix (a summary of data items in Australian national and jurisdictional data collections relevant to maternal and perinatal health); perinatal data in dynamic web portal; development of data items for psychosocial risk factors such as screening for domestic violence, mental health, alcohol use and substance use in pregnancy in the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). As part of the Project, 2 electronic tools are in development, one for use in maternity settings to capture data on women's models of maternity care currently in use in Australia, and the other so that states and territories can securely provide maternal mortality data online.

- b) *Australia's mothers and babies* is an annual publication; the latest edition *Australia's mothers and babies 2013* was released on 14 December 2015, complemented by the perinatal interactive data portal and downloadable data tables. State and territory health authorities supply annual data under the terms of the National Health Information Agreement. The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council subcommittee, the National Health Information and Performance Principal Committee and its standing committee, the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee have overall governance for the data collected in the NPDC.

- c) State and territory health authorities supply maternal deaths data so that *Maternal Deaths in Australia* can be produced. The latest edition *Maternal deaths in Australia 2008–2012* was released in June 2015. As part of the National Maternity Data Development Project, an electronic tool is in development so that that states and territories can securely provide maternal mortality data online.