

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000054

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers

Type of Question: Hansard Page 81, 1 March 2017

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

Question:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Perhaps on notice you could provide the committee with the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers currently employed.
Dr Southern: Certainly.

Answer:

From 1996 to 2011, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, a health profession not regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, almost doubled to 1,256; an increase of 584 people, or 87 per cent.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011

As at 31 December 2016, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners in Australia, a health profession registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, was 630.

Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

In 2015, the total number of employed registered health professionals identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander was 4,249. Registered health professions include:

Profession	Total Employed	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	% of total workforce	Absolute growth 2013 to 2015
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners	451	451	100.0	180
Chiropractors	4,483	15	0.3%	3
Chinese Medicine Practitioners	3,933	18	0.5%	7
Dental Practitioners	19,075	62	0.3%	10
Medical Practitioners	88,599	286	0.3%	52
Medical Radiation Practitioners	12,833	61	0.5%	19
Nurses and Midwives	306,472	2,906	0.9%	473

Occupational Therapists	15,060	67	0.4%	13
Optometrists	4,559	14	0.3%	8
Osteopaths	1,833	14	0.8%	5
Pharmacists	23,130	58	0.3%	19
Physiotherapists	23,568	117	0.5%	18
Podiatrists	4,131	28	0.7%	17
Psychologists	24,522	153	0.6%	25
	532,649	4,249	0.8%	848

Source: National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS)

Indigenous is self-identified in the survey; data is then further defined by adding country of birth as Australian Born only