

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-163

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: RURAL EYE HEALTH COORDINATORS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) How many Indigenous communities have a Rural Eye Health Co-ordinator (REHC)?
- b) What criterion is applied when funding an REHC in an indigenous community?

Answer:

- a) There are 23 regions which currently have a Regional Eye Health Coordinator (REHC). These regions cover a mix of urban, regional and remote areas and it is not possible to identify how many communities are covered.
- b) These positions were established in 1998. Implementation plans for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Program were developed for each jurisdiction based on projections of rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Zones, the number of eye health coordinators required and their location or area of responsibility. The plans were developed in consultation with, and endorsed by, individual Aboriginal State Partnership Fora at the time. There is currently no new grant funding for additional REHC positions.