

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May and 3 June 2011

Question no: E11-166

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: HOUSING FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- (a) What special arrangements has OATSIH made to their funding arrangements to compensate Aboriginal Health Services in regions where housing is scarce and rents are very high?
- (b) Is OATSIH aware of the problems the housing shortage continues to cause Aboriginal Health Services in trying to attract and retain staff?

Answer:

- a) The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) has no formal general Capital Works program, although some specific measures have a capital component.
- b) Yes. Specific measures with a capital component usually include the capacity to fund housing for health professionals to assist funded organisations in the recruitment and retention of staff. OATSIH encourages funded organisations to include staff accommodation for health professionals as part of funding submissions where appropriate.