

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-169

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IN THE HEALTH WORKFORCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) What performance data is available to measure the success to date of attempts to increase “Indigenous Australians in the health workforce” (which is a performance indicator under the national Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health)?
- b) Have there been any reviews and reports which identify barriers to AMS’s attracting and retaining Indigenous staff.

Answer:

- a) Trends in the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce are monitored in the biennial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework and the annual COAG Reform Council reports for the National Healthcare Agreement. Data is derived from the 5 yearly ABS Census which collects data on Indigenous status and occupation for the Australian population.

For the period 1996 to 2006 there was a 64 per cent increase in the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce (3,371 to 5,536).

- b) The Department has not undertaken a review and is not aware of any others.