

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-504

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: THE INDIGENOUS MARATHON PROJECT

Hansard Page: CA 53

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Could you tell me, for each year that you have run the program, how many people were initially selected and how many people finished the program?
- b) As you do not have the figures for the earlier years, could you characterise the drop-out rate of the program? Was it one, two or a significant number? I was told that the 2010 squad started out with 12 and finished with four, so I thought you might remember that, if that was the case, and be able to characterise that as not a terribly good retention rate.
- c) How many of last year's squad are people with full-time jobs?
- d) What about people with university degrees?
- e) What about the 2011 squad? Perhaps you could have a look at that for me. I have been told that the people were graduating from Murdoch with a bachelor of commerce degree, work for a mining company and people who work as liaison officers at a university are amongst the people who are participating in this program and being funded to go to New York to run.

Answer:

a) and b)

The Department engaged SmartStart for Kids! to undertake the Indigenous Marathon Project Health Education Program. The program aims to assist Indigenous communities to promote running, healthy lifestyles and complement existing Indigenous community health initiatives, including where practicable, Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams engaged under the Closing the Gap Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle measures.

One objective of this project was to develop Indigenous role models through the selection of six Indigenous athletes to run the New York marathon. A squad of 11 was initially selected with the aim to take six participants to compete in the 2010 New York City Marathon. Four runners successfully completed the New York City Marathon in November 2010.

c) Two of the four participants from the 2010 Indigenous Marathon Project who completed the marathon, who prior to the Project were unemployed are now employed in full time jobs. The remaining two participants have casual employment.

In addition, it is expected that the participants who completed the project will have various roles throughout the Indigenous Marathon Project with two of the runners already being involved in the Try Out tour. This includes involvement as personal mentors for runners in the 2011 Indigenous Marathon Project.

d) In the 2010 squad 11, none of the participants had university degrees.

e) In the current 2011 squad, nine of the 20 participants have full time employment.

In the 2011 Indigenous Marathon Project, three participants currently have university degrees and three participants are enrolled in university programs.

The squad has a wide range of education qualifications and study interests across the country, which is encouraging in the development of such role models. The education details are as follows:

#### University degrees

1. A squad member from Derby (WA) holds a degree in Finance from the University of Western Australia;
2. A squad member from Weipa (QLD) holds a degree in business at University of Queensland; and
3. A squad member from Mt. Gravatt (QLD) holds a degree in Arts at Griffith University.

#### Enrolled at university

1. A squad member from Karratha (WA) is Studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Western Australia;
2. A squad member from Orange (NSW) is studying Psychology at Charles Sturt University; and
3. A squad member from Adelaide (SA) is studying building construction management at Deakin University.