

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-505

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: THE INDIGENOUS MARATHON PROJECT

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Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Is that (the evaluation of the Program) publicly available?
- b) Can you tell me what the general findings were?
- c) If you are not able to give me the evaluation per se, I would like as much detail as possible. When would you expect to have an external evaluation of the program done?

Answer:

a) The SmartStart for Kids! Indigenous Marathon Project Report is available on the project's website <http://themarathonproject.com.au/>

b) and c)

SmartStart for Kids! reports indicate that the Indigenous Marathon Project 2010 has been very well received by the Indigenous community, the Tobacco Action and Healthy Lifestyle workers and the broader community.

As role models within their communities, participants in the 2010 Indigenous Marathon Project have significantly increased awareness and generated significant interest in physical activity and healthy lifestyles. It is reported that the participants have been able to generate substantial social capital and, as a result, with SmartStart for Kids! and communities they have developed local community events. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the project and the associated events have been well received and effective. Examples include:

- an Alice Springs fun run which was co-hosted by the town mayor, and supported by the Northern Territory Police, APEX and the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club which provided human resources, a BBQ, gas bottles, drinks stations, marshals and a large timing clock.
- Charlie Maher, Caleb Hart and Robert de Castella spoke at the event about the importance of living a healthy, active life, project goals and achievements and answered questions from the public including school children;

- Charlie Maher ran the Boston Marathon in April 2011, raising \$1,800 for the Western Desert Dialysis House and clocked a personal best;
a fun run at Maningrida which departed from the Council lawn. Maningrida Council provided \$100 for the winner and a bag full of fun physical activity games and toys, (frisbees, bats, balls, etc);
- Joseph Davies presented at a local Kununurra High School in front of approximately 500 students;
- a fun run was held departing from Kununurra Youth Centre with approximately 150 people participating. Joseph Davies orchestrated the entire event, including marketing the event, leading warm up stretching session and starting the run; and
- Joseph Davies also hosted a BBQ following the fun run for which he secured in kind sponsorship of \$500 for meat and other items from the local butcher.

A documentary on the program highlighting the success and challenges is due to be aired on the ABC shortly.