

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-172

OUTCOME: 7 – Hearing Services

Topic: Neonatal Hearing Screening

Type of Question: Hansard Page 122, 6 June 2013

Senator: Siewert

Question:

Regarding recommendation 8 of the Inquiry, the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee (a subcommittee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council) was to finalise the draft national framework for neonatal hearing screening for endorsement in early 2013.

- a) How come this has slipped from early 2013?
- b) When is it now likely to occur?

Answer:

- a) In order to finalise the National Framework for Neonatal Hearing Screening, it was necessary to update the accompanying document, National performance indicators to support neonatal hearing screening in Australia, originally prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2011.
- b) The draft National Framework for Neonatal Hearing Screening and the accompanying Australian Institute of Health and Welfare paper National performance indicators to support neonatal hearing screening in Australia, were endorsed by the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee in August 2013.

The National Framework for Neonatal Hearing Screening is now available on the Department of Health website at:

<http://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/neonatal-hearing-screening>.

The accompanying document, National performance indicators to support neonatal hearing screening in Australia is expected to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in November 2013.