

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-173

OUTCOME: 7 – Hearing Services

Topic: COAG Commitment to Health and Wellbeing Checks at School Entry Age

Type of Question: Hansard Page 123, 6 June 2013

Senator: Siewert

Question:

Recommendation 8 of the Inquiry regarding the COAG neonatal hearing screening commitment to school entry age:

- a) Can you advise in what locations the health and wellbeing checks are being trialled?
- b) Can you confirm that screening for hearing loss is being done as part of these trials?

Answer:

- a) The expanded Medicare Healthy Kids Check will be implemented across eight Medicare Local sites initially. These Medicare Local sites are:
 - Northern Melbourne - VIC
 - Inner East Melbourne - VIC
 - Townsville Mackay - QLD
 - Murrumbidgee - NSW
 - Frankston-Mornington Peninsula - VIC
 - South Western Sydney - NSW
 - Eastern Melbourne - VIC
 - Greater Metro South Brisbane - QLD
- b) The current Medicare Healthy Kids Check requires that the clinician undertake an ear examination and to elicit any parental concern. This line of clinical investigation will not change.