

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000773

**OUTCOME:** 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

**Topic:** Tuberculosis

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 93, 3 June 2014

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

What was the severity of the cases of TB?

**Answer:**

On 20 June 2014, the Queensland Department of Health advised that since December 2013 there have been nine reported cases of Tuberculosis (TB) in the Torres Strait. Eight of the nine cases of TB are currently considered non-infectious and therefore do not pose a public health threat. There is no current evidence of any drug-resistance in these eight cases. The ninth case from Papua New Guinea (PNG) was transferred back to PNG for treatment and information on this patient's treatment regimen and welfare is not currently available. Seven of the nine cases are thought to be linked, including the index case, who was infectious at the time of diagnosis but has responded appropriately to therapy.