

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000798

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Indigenous Health Cuts

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Which indigenous programs are affected by the cuts?

Answer:

From 1 July 2014, the Indigenous Australians Health Programme was established, consolidating four existing funding streams: primary health care base funding; child and maternal health programmes; Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Health); and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chronic Disease Fund.

This will give more flexibility to ensure funding is allocated to where the need is greater and will reduce red tape and workload for grant recipients.

Overall, funding levels for Indigenous health will continue to grow over the next four years. From 2014-15 to 2017-18, the Australian Government will invest \$3.1 billion in Indigenous specific health programmes and activities – an increase of over \$500 million compared to 2009-10 to 2012-13 (excluding funding through Medicare and access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme).