

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000551

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Healthy Communities Initiative

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

Through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health the Government provided funding for the Healthy Communities Initiative to support Local Government Areas.

What was the evaluation process for the programs funded under this initiative?

Given the funding finished on 30 June 2014 and the last reports were provided by the LGAs slightly before that has the Department undertaken any work to evaluate the effectiveness of the different initiatives?

What were the findings/results of any evaluation?

Will any feedback be provided to the relevant LGAs?

Answer:

1. The programs funded under the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) were evaluated as agreed in each Local Government Area's (LGA's) implementation plan and as guided by the HCI's evaluation plan. This included reporting against a variety of criteria such as engagement of the target group, sustained participation, benefits of participation and the capacity of the LGA to promote and support healthy lifestyle behaviors.
2. The Department of Health has not undertaken any work to evaluate the effectiveness of the individual initiatives/programs implemented by LGAs.
3. The Department contracted KPMG to undertake an evaluation of the HCI. The Collaboration of Community-based Obesity Prevention Sites (CO-OPS) undertook a synthesis of LGA data in conjunction with the findings from KPMG's evaluation.

Findings & Results:

- Since inception, the HCI delivered more than 750 different strategies to engage participation in HCI programs.
 - Activities and events totalled more than 230,000.
 - The programs and activities delivered direct benefits to participants and contributed to reducing levels of overweight and obesity in the target population.
4. It is not intended that the findings/results of the HCI evaluation will be provided to LGAs. However, it is expected that these findings will inform future Government policy and programme development in the areas of obesity and chronic condition prevention.