

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000583

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

How will PHNs demonstrate effective ability to coordinate, purchase and deliver services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? How will the health assessment process to be undertaken in the first year engage with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector to ensure Aboriginal health need is understood?

**Answer:**

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) will be required to demonstrate effective ability to coordinate, purchase and deliver services as part of the PHN Performance Framework. This Framework outlines the arrangements for supporting, monitoring, assessing and reporting on the performance of PHNs and will encompass three tiers of performance: national, local and organisational.

PHNs will be required to understand the health needs of the communities by undertaking comprehensive needs assessments and engaging with stakeholders (including the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector) from across their region. Specific methods of community engagement will be a matter for each PHN depending on their regional circumstances. However, needs assessments must be informed by community consultation and market analysis, and health service priorities will be identified based on an in-depth understanding of the health care needs of the communities within the PHN region.