

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000588

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

How, if at all, does the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) intend to involve WA Aboriginal Peoples in strategic governance? In deciding on resource allocations between metro and country? In deciding on resource allocations between different regional and remote parts of WA? In making operational decisions?

**Answer:**

Specific methods for involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in strategic governance and operational decisions of the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA Primary Health Networks (PHNs) will be a decision for each of the PHNs dependant on regional circumstances.

As outlined in the *Primary Health Networks Grant Programme Guidelines*, PHNs will establish GP-led Clinical Councils and representative Community Advisory Committees to report to the Board on locally relevant clinical and consumer issues. These governance structures will influence PHN Board decisions on the unique needs of their respective communities (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities), to ensure that decisions, investments and innovations are patient-centred, cost-effective, locally relevant and aligned to the local care experiences and expectations.

Resource allocation between metropolitan and country Western Australia has been determined through separate Commonwealth funding allocations for the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA PHNs. Resource allocations between different regional and remote parts of Western Australia, within the Country WA PHN, will be an operational decision for the PHN.