

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000608

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Medicare Benefits Schedule

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

What decisions have been made regarding the AHW 715 issue? When will these outcomes be relayed to the Sector?

Answer:

On 3 June 2015, the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, approved changes to the base qualification level for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional assisting a general practitioner with item 715 to a certificate III (in line with pre-2012 arrangements). This is scheduled to take effect on 1 September 2015.

The Department of Health sent letters to the peak body, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and its Affiliates, on 16 June 2015.