

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000611

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

**Topic:** Medicare Benefits Schedule

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Will there be a dedicated sub-group that focuses on Aboriginal health? Will Aboriginal peak organisations be guaranteed formal roles in the review process?

**Answer:**

The Primary Health Care Advisory Group (PHCAG) will investigate options to provide better care for people with complex and chronic illnesses. Within this context, indigenous health will be considered throughout the Group's identification of opportunities for health system reform. While there will not be a dedicated sub-group of the PHCAG that focuses on Aboriginal health, an Indigenous general practitioner is a member of the group.

To inform its deliberations, the PHCAG will be undertaking a national consultation process in the coming months and as part of this process, members of the PHCAG will undertake face to face consultations with peak health sector organisations, including peak Aboriginal health groups.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce is anticipated to finalise its approach to the Review, including the establishment of Clinical Committees that focus on particular parts of the MBS, at its next meeting on 18 August 2015.