

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000627

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Catch-up Vaccines

Type of Question: Hansard Page 127, 29 May 2017

Senator: Singh, Lisa

Question:

Senator SINGH: What percentage of currently unvaccinated 10- to 19-year-olds are expected to have completed catch-up schedules by the end of the program?

Ms Somi: Can I take that on notice? We did do some calculations to try to estimate the number of children we expected to take up the catch-up program. It is a little bit complicated because we anticipate there will be some children who might be missing one vaccine; whereas other children may not have received any vaccines at all. It is a little bit complicated. We have not done a lot of work in this 10 to 19 age group, so we know we need to do some research to better understand their needs.

Answer:

The 2017-18 Budget included \$14.1 million over four years for *Supporting No Jab, No Pay – National Immunisation Program – Expansion* – providing access to catch-up vaccines equivalent to those received in childhood for: all young people aged up to the age of 19 years; and refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age.

This measure will replace, expand and make ongoing the existing *No Jab, No Pay* catch-up vaccination program.

Under the new measure:

- almost 375,000 currently unvaccinated 10-19 year olds will be able to access free vaccines with around 4 per cent (15,000) expected to vaccinate each year;
- more than 3,000 refugee and humanitarian entrants will be able to access the 10-19 year old catch-up each year; and
- more than 8,000 adult refugee and humanitarian entrants will be able to catch up on the critical early childhood vaccines each year.