

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000946

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Hearing Health

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

**Senator:** Griff, Stirling

**Question:**

- a) Has the Department conducted an overall evaluation of the efficacy of existing health services in addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ear disease? If not, why not?
- b) The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is advocating for a national approach to address this issue as a matter of urgency. Has the Department conducted any modelling on a national approach to ear health?

**Answer:**

- a) An independent examination of the effectiveness of Australian Government funded ear health activities is underway. Findings will be available in the second half of 2017.
- b) The Australian Government is currently working with State and Territory Governments through the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council to consider whether there is a need for a national framework to tackle ear disease in Indigenous children.