

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-253

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: DATA - NATIONAL PERINATAL STATISTICS UNIT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What are the details of the range of data kept by the National Perinatal Statistics Unit and where can these figures be accessed?

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit maintains three national data collections from which data are published as a series of reports as detailed below.

The National Perinatal Data Collection, incorporating the Perinatal National Minimum Dataset, is a national population-based data collection of pregnancy and childbirth. Data from live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation data are reported to the perinatal data collection in each state and territory in Australia. Data incorporates items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth, and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex and birthweight. Information from the data in the National Perinatal Data Collection are published annually by the AIHW in the *Australia's Mothers and Babies* report series.

The Australian Congenital Anomalies Monitoring System contains data about major congenital anomalies from seven jurisdictions. In Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales notifications are obtained from multiple sources and include congenital anomalies diagnosed in childhood and among pregnancies terminated for congenital anomaly before 20 weeks gestational age, in addition to those reported among live births and stillbirths. From Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, information about congenital anomalies is reported in the perinatal collections for live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation, but may be supplemented with information from hospital inpatient data collections. Data items relating to the woman, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the birth, and data items relating to the baby, including birthweight, gestational age and sex, are included. Congenital anomalies are coded using the British Paediatric Association Classification of Diseases, which is based on the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision. Information from the data in the Australian Congenital Anomalies Monitoring System are published in the AIHW's *Congenital Anomalies Australia* and the *Congenital Malformations, Australia* report series.

The Maternal Deaths Data Collection contains information on maternal deaths from 1994 to 2005. Information relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics, factors related to the pregnancy, labour and birth and information about the classification, maternal cause of death and outcome of the baby are included. Information from the data in the Maternal Deaths Data Collection were last published in 2008 in the AIHW's *Maternal Deaths, Australia* report series.

These AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit report series are available from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/subject/17>