

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 21 October 2011

Question: E11- 241

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS SUICIDE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

The latest CTG NT Monitoring report released last week shows that the number of attempted suicides and self-harm in remote territory communities has risen from 109 in 2007-2008, to 229 in 2010-2011. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-14/20111014-intervention-report-suicides-up/3571436>

- a) Is DoHA aware of other areas where suicide attempts by Indigenous Australians are increasing?
- b) Does DoHA actively monitor the reporting of suicide attempts by Indigenous Australian and/or suicides by Indigenous Australians?
- c) What action does DoHA take in communities and areas where attempted suicides are increasing?

Answer:

The *Closing the Gap NT Monitoring Report* is produced by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) as a way of measuring progress against the Closing the Gap measures.

- a) The most recent areas that are of concern in relation to rates of suicide and intentional self harm are the Kimberley Region, Mt Isa and the Northern Territory.
- b) The Department of Health and Ageing, including through its state and territory offices, is in regular contact with State and Territory governments and local service providers. Local service providers are often the first to raise issues.
- c) The Department works closely with State and Territory governments and local service providers to ensure a well informed and coordinated response in areas that are identified as being at high risk. This has occurred in the Kimberley region and more recently in Mt Isa (refer to answer to question E11-240).