

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 21 October 2011

Question: E11-091

OUTCOME 8: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Topic: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

The 2011 Budget announced the creation of a consolidated Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program which included an additional \$35.3m. In regard to the \$35.3m:

- a) Can the Department provide a breakdown of how the additional \$35.3m over 2011-15 announced in the Budget will be allocated?
- b) How much is allocated to the following areas:
 - I. Link Up reunification areas
 - II. Social and Emotional Wellbeing Services
 - III. Workforce Support Units
 - IV. National coordination and support
- c) Will the \$35.3m be used to cover any departmental expenses? If so, how much?
- d) Will the Department consult with Indigenous stakeholders, and in particular Stolen Generations national bodies, as part of the planning process for the additional funding?
- e) What does 'national coordination and support' include (it is one of the four program areas in the new SEWB Program)?

Answer:

- a) The \$35.3million of additional administered funding announced in the 2011 Budget is allocated across financial years as follows: an additional \$1.75million in 2011-12; \$9.35million in 2012-13; \$11million in 2013-14; and \$13.76million in 2014-15.
- b) The funding is provided primarily for continued services through Link Up, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Services, and Workforce Support Units. The funding recipients can use their allocations flexibly to meet increased demand, service costs and indexation and so that services can respond to emerging needs amongst Stolen Generations. Current services will be funded at existing or enhanced funding levels.

- c) No, the additional funding of \$35.3million does not include departmental expenses.
- d) The Department will engage a range of consultation mechanisms which include consulting with Indigenous stakeholders, in particular Stolen Generations national bodies, on the future directions of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing program.
- e) The funding includes a small component for national coordination and national projects which will focus on supporting service delivery and workforce development. This includes support to build the capacity of currently funded services; promote good practice; host national forums; sustain and enhance electronic client records and data collection; provide support for peak bodies; and develop a national Social and Emotional Wellbeing framework.