

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-12, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-183

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: TB AND THE TORRES STRAIT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) What role does DoHA play in the administration of the Western Province TB program?
- b) Is DoHA involved in the governance of the program?
- c) Can the Department confirm that there are limited health facilities available in the Western Province of the Torres Strait to diagnose and manage TB?

Answer:

- a) The Department plays no role in the administration of the Western Province TB Program.
- b) The Department is not involved in the governance of the Western Province TB program.
- c) The Australian Government is working with Western Provincial Administration to develop a comprehensive approach to the public health management of TB and other communicable diseases in the South Fly District. AusAID has committed \$1.1 million to progress TB healthcare capacity in Western Province. This includes the recruitment of health staff to improve TB services at Daru General Hospital and outreach services to villages along the South Fly coast, construction of an interim TB isolation ward at Daru General Hospital and continuing support to increase laboratory diagnostic capacity.

AusAID will continue supporting Western Province TB services through building a new multi-drug resistant tuberculosis ward in Daru Hospital, supported by an x-ray unit for the radiology department and a machine to diagnose multi-drug resistant TB.