

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-185

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: TB AND THE TORRES STRAIT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Is DoHA's report to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade about activities to address cross-border health concerns in the Torres Strait Treaty Zone publicly available?
- b) If not, what is the general nature of the concerns held by DoHA?

Answer:

- a) The Department, as chair of the Torres Strait Cross Border Health Issues Committee (HIC), reports to the Foreign Affairs and Trade's Joint Advisory Council on the Torres Strait Treaty (JAC) regarding activities to address cross border health concerns in the Torres Strait Treaty Zone from HIC meetings. These reports are not publically available.
- b) The last meeting of the JAC was held on 26 October 2011 in Kokopo, Papua New Guinea. The Department's report included an update on HIC's work over the past year, in particular the progress made in implementing elements under the joint Papua New Guinea/Australia Package of Measures to address health concerns.