

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012 – 2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-354

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BREASTSCREEN AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

Type of Question: Hansard Page 35, 19 October 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What are the specific outcomes in terms of Indigenous Women since the inception of the Program (other than statistics)?

Answer:

In May 2012, Cancer Australia published the report Study of breast cancer screening characteristics and breast cancer survival in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women of Australia. This describes a number of findings, including that:

- compared with other women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women:
 - participate less frequently in breast screening and rescreening;
 - had a lower detection of invasive breast cancers, which is consistent with their lower population-based incidence; and
 - had larger invasive cancer at diagnosis.
- compared with other women with breast cancer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women:
 - were generally younger;
 - had larger breast cancers with more evidence of nodal spread at diagnosis; and
 - had a risk of death from breast cancer 68 per cent higher than other women.