

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000728

OUTCOME: 5 – Primary Health Care

Topic: Rheumatic Heart Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

1. Do you intend to continue funding the rheumatic heart disease control programs in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland when the current funding ends in June 2016?
2. In the absence of funding for these coordinated control programs, a proven prevention strategy, who will provide support to the health professionals who care for over 5000 Australians currently on the rheumatic heart disease registers (40% of whom are under 24 and at risk of premature death and disability)?

Answer:

1. The Commonwealth has committed \$2.7 million in 2016-17 for the jurisdictional control programmes, as part of the Rheumatic Fever Strategy. (Budget Paper No.3 *Federal Financial Relations 2015-16*).
2. All jurisdictions, including those not directly funded through the Rheumatic Fever Strategy, have the opportunity to contribute to, and benefit from the activities of the Commonwealth funded National Coordination Unit (RHDAustralia). This includes professional and best practice advice on the diagnosis, notification, referral and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. The National Coordination Unit is funded until 30 June 2017.