

## Senate Community Affairs Committee

### ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### HEALTH PORTFOLIO

#### Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000983

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Indigenous Healthcare in Tasmania

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 53, 21 October 2015

**Senator:** Lambie, Jacqui

**Question:**

Senator LAMBIE: On Aboriginal health, do you know how many Indigenous people are eligible for health care in Tasmania?

Mr Bowles: No. We would have to take that on notice. I do not know the specific breakdown by state of the Indigenous population offhand. Prime Minister and Cabinet might have a better clue, because they run the broader Indigenous programs. We just look at it from a health perspective.

Senator LAMBIE: I want those figures. I am not sure if you realise, but there happen to be some issues in Tasmania when it comes to Indigenous people. You have to be seen as Indigenous by a group of people down there—that being the TAC. There are 19,000 of us down there and they are only recognising 3,000. So I want to know whether or not you are getting the money for the full 19,000 yet only 3,000 are receiving that money. That is what I am looking for. That is the angle I am coming from. So it would be nice to see exactly how many you are funding down there.

Mr Bowles: All right.

**Answer:**

The 2011 Census on Population and Housing provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported the population of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania to be 19,625. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania are eligible for acute and primary health care.

In 2013-14 the Commonwealth funded 6 organisations just over \$23 million to provide primary health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme:

- Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Inc.
- Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
- Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated
- South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc
- Women's Karadi Aboriginal Corporation

This funding was not provided on a per capita basis. All services are able to treat a wide client base. Patients are able to voluntarily self-identify as Indigenous when seeking treatment.