

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 28 February 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-000078**

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Indigenous Health

**Topic:** Aboriginal Children's Ear Health

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert Rachel

**Question:**

Does DOH aggregate national data on the state of Aboriginal children's ear health?  
If not, why not? If so, can we see the data please?

**Answer:**

There is no national aggregate data on the state of Aboriginal children's ear health. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health survey and the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social survey includes self-reported data regarding conditions diagnosed by a doctor.

The self-reported ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health survey (2012-13) states that: 'between 2001 and 2012-13, the prevalence of ear/hearing problems in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population decreased significantly from 15 per cent to 12 per cent.'