

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000083

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Indigenous Health

**Topic:** Aboriginal Ear Health Programs - Producing Improved Outcomes

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

**Senator:** Siewert Rachel

**Question:**

How does DOH measure progress and assure taxpayers that this money is producing improved outcomes?

**Answer:**

In accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines, June 2013, ear health programmes have clear accountability requirements. This includes the requirement for grant recipients to measure relevant activity and acquit use of funds.

Across the spectrum of programmes supporting the delivery of services to improve ear and hearing health, grant recipients are required to provide information including: service delivery arrangements, development of resources, workforce support activities and equipment provided.

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