

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No: SQ14-000097**

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Indigenous Health

**Topic:** National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023

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

**Senator:** McLucas Jan

**Question:**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSIHP) enjoys wide support across the sector and was developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- a. Is the Government committed to the NATSIHP?
- b. What consultation has taken place with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the implementation of the plan?
- c. Has the department provided advice to the Minister about the implementation of the NATSIHP? If yes, when? Was it via a written brief? Was it in the Incoming Government Brief? If not, why not?
- d. Please detail the specific steps taken by the Minister and the Department to implement the Plan since 7 September 2013.
- e. What plans are in place for the development of jurisdictional plans with targets and timelines foreshadowed in the strategy?
- f. How will Aboriginal communities be involved in setting the priorities and targets in these plans? Are there any formal processes in development to facilitate this?
- g. Has the Minister or the department discussed the implementation of the NATSIHP with the States and Territories? If so, which States and Territories, and when?

**Answer:**

- a) The Government is actively considering the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSIHP) and is committed to making real and lasting improvements in the lives of Indigenous Australians.
- b) Consultation during the development of the NATSIHP was extensive. The Government is now considering the plan.
- c) The Department of Health provided information to the Assistant Minister for Health in late 2013. The information is under active consideration.
- d) to g)  
It is premature to discuss implementation of the NATSIHP while it is still under consideration by the Government.