

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 28 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000110

OUTCOME: 8 - Indigenous Health

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

A decision was taken at the last meeting of COAG on 13 December 2013 not to renew the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes (NPA). The department advised the Committee during the previous Estimates hearing on 22 November 2013 that State officials had advised that they were waiting for advice from the new government as to their intention with regard to the NPA.

- a. Was advice provided to the Minister prior to the COAG meeting on 13 December 2013 about the NPA? Was this advice a written brief?
- b. Was the decision not to renew the NPA consistent with this advice?
- c. Why did the Government decide not to renew the NPA?

Answer:

- a) Yes, written advice on the status of the National Partnership Agreement was provided to the Minister.
- b) The decision was taken by COAG, not by the Commonwealth Government. The advice provided is a matter for Government.
- c) The decision was taken by COAG, not by the Commonwealth Government.