Ref No: SQ14-000120

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:

There is currently $47 million that is not contracted under the Indigenous Chronic Disease Fund, which will need to be spent within this financial year.
a. The department indicated during Senate Estimates hearing on 28 February 2014 that it is currently going through approval processes in relation to this funding. How many projects are under consideration? When is approval expected to be given?
b. Was there an application process for projects, programs or services to be funded through this uncontracted pool of money? If so, please detail the application process and the selection criteria used in the approval process. How many applications for funding were received by the department?
c. If there was no application process, how are decisions being made about how the uncontracted money is spent, and who is responsible for making these decisions?
d. Are the applications under consideration expected to expend the entire $47 million? If not, how much do current applications undergoing approval total?
e. What will happen to funds not expended within this financial year?

Answer:

a) 30 projects are currently under consideration. Approval timeframes are a matter for the Government.

b) No.

c) Decisions are made consistent with the provisions of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chronic Disease Fund Guidelines.

d) and e)
Additional projects on top of the 30 projects mentioned above are under consideration. At this stage the Department of Health is not able to accurately estimate the probable end of financial year spend.