

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 27 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000260

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Father Related Programmes

Type of Question: Hansard Page 061 27 February 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What are the newer measures looking at fathers?

Answer:

Through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme, the Better Start to Life approach involves the phased expansion of two established maternal, child and family health activities: the *Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program*¹ and *New Directions: Mothers and Babies Services*.

Guided by the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*, it is important for these maternal, child and family health services to acknowledge and include men in the raising of children in a culturally appropriate way. There may be scope to explore and develop strategies for these services to better engage with fathers and other male family members as new services are rolled out.

It is proposed that the Implementation Plan for the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013 – 2023* will include the role of fathers in the childhood health and development domain. The Implementation Plan is currently being finalised.

¹ The name *Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program* is used in the Licence agreement with the University of Colorado.