

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 24 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001192

OUTCOME: 2 – Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Indigenous Smoking Rates

Type of Question: Hansard Page 057, 24 October 2014

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What is the current update figures for the nicotine replacement therapy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Answer:

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of nicotine replacement therapy was extended from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only, to include all Australians from February 2011. Indigenous status is not recorded for general PBS prescriptions.

However, under Closing the Gap (CTG) PBS Co-payment measure, which is only accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in non-remote (urban or rural) areas, the number of scripts for nicotine replacement therapy supplied in 2013-14 was 7,385. This includes CTG scripts dispensed under the Repatriation PBS.