

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Safety and Wellbeing Programme

Senator: Senator Jacqui Lambie

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Type of question: Written

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Question:

- a) Can the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet advise what evidence was used in deciding that these health targeted interventions should not be administered and managed by the Department of Health?
- b) What mechanisms has PM&C established that ensure targeted investments that affect positive health outcomes in relation to social and emotional wellbeing are in line with a whole of health approach which the Department of Health manages for its existing mainstream and targeted investments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- c) How does the Department of PM&C engage with community representatives to ascertain areas of unmet or emerging additional need that focus on the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- d) How frequently are senior interdepartmental officials meeting to identify and coordinate a holistic administration and programmatic approach to Mental Health?
- e) How are these priority areas established?
- f) What needs based system has been identified and agreed between agencies (PM&C and DoH) as the authoritative system?
- g) Name the other service level reporting systems with which the IAS service reporting data is shared?
- h) Is the service level data collected by Prime Minister and Cabinet in its administration of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy shared with Department of Health?
- i) Are these administrative data sets available to all key stakeholders to assist inform service planning, reporting and development of submissions?
- j) Outline what costs are associated with key stakeholders accessing these administrative data collections and the compliance of these arrangements with Commonwealths open data principles?

Answer:

- a) Evidence has shown that emotional and social wellbeing and substance misuse are strongly connected with the social determinants of health such as education, employment and culture. These health targeted interventions were transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to maximise outcomes for Indigenous people and minimise disruption to clinical services. The consolidation of Indigenous policies and programmes under the Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) has streamlined administrative processes which has resulted in efficiencies for both Government and service providers.
- b) PM&C and the Department of Health (DoH) developed the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 to provide an overarching Commonwealth framework to guide future investment and efforts to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. PM&C and DoH are also working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group (ATSIMHSPAG) to renew the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing.
- c) PM&C engages with community representatives through ATSIMHSPAG, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership Forums, and the PM&C Regional Network.
- d) Senior interdepartmental officials identify and coordinate a holistic administration and programmatic approach to mental health by:
 - o meeting at least monthly to discuss Indigenous health matters including mental health;
 - o attending ATSIMHSPAG, which convenes approximately four times per year; and
 - o participating in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership Forums which occur in all states and territories four times per year. PM&C Regional Network officers also participate in these Forums.
- e) Refer answer (c) and (d). In addition, PM&C's Regional Network drives community engagement with local Indigenous people throughout Australia to develop priorities in Indigenous health.
- f) There is no one single source of data in Australia on the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of Indigenous Australians. In the biennial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework (HPF) reports, evidence is collated from 65 different data collections and research studies on 68 performance measures covering health outcomes, determinants of health and health system performance. The HPF includes a performance measure on Social and Emotional Wellbeing and one on access to mental health services that brings together administrative data collections on levels of access to a wide range of mental health service types. This report is prepared by PM&C and signed off by Commonwealth and state health departments through the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council.
- g) The Online Services Report (OSR) is completed by Indigenous health services funded by both the DoH and PM&C. In addition, IAS funded organisations undertake performance reporting and submit these reports to PM&C for monitoring over the term of their IAS agreement.
- h) Service level data are collected by PM&C to support grant administration. The data is shared with DoH to assist with performance management of jointly funded services.
- i) Performance reporting data collected by PM&C to support grant administration is not made publicly available. OSR data are provided to key stakeholders via:
 - o Annual release of a public report;

- Service level reports (to services only). Services can access a pdf of their OSR report (finalised data) through OCHREStreams (a web based portal) – which commenced in 2013/14; and
 - Peak Bodies can request OSR data from the Improvement Foundation (though only from health services that have agreed to share their data). The Improvement Foundation has provided OSR data to NACCHO in the past, when this has been requested.
- j) The AIHW returns the OSR data to the services for free and publishes a report and tables on line with free access. If additional data analysis is required, the AIHW has a cost recovery user pays system for special tables.