

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 74  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 7  
**Programme:** Adaptation and Science Division  
**Topic:** Health Department Report  
**Hansard Page:** 57  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Pratt asked:**

Senator PRATT: Is the department aware of a report from the health department which says that heat related death is likely to increase by 500 per cent in some centres in Australia over the next 40 years?

Ms Mummery: I have to admit that I am not aware of that particular report. We have certainly worked closely with ANU and the Centre for Population Health and Epidemiology in understanding how health risks will change over time. I am not aware of any figures which are quite in the ballpark of 500 per cent. The sort of analysis which the ANU has been sharing with us has been likely for an increased risk, particularly in northern Australia, of heat related deaths. I understand it is more in the order of 45 to 100 per cent, which could happen by the end of the century. That is a significantly higher rate than what you would likely see in southern Australia. But I am not aware of figures of that order of magnitude.

Dr Kennedy: We are happy to take it on notice and check back at the department whether other staff are aware of the report.

**Answer:**

Yes. The information was in the 2003 Department of Health report *Human Health and Climate Change in Oceania: A Risk Assessment*.