

**Opening Statement**  
**Department of Health and Aged Care**  
**Cross Portfolio Senate Estimates 24 May 2023**

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- Health would like to clarify one aspect of the 2023-24 Budget material for First Nations health.
- Some of the public material includes reference to overall direct expenditure for First Nations health of **\$818.5m**
- This comprises a number of significant initiatives targeting cancer, smoking and vaping, prevention and aged care for First Nations people.
- One of the aged care initiatives included in this total, which provides targeted indexation to increase salaries as part of the response to the Fair Work Commission wage case includes actions for other target group programs, as well as funding for First Nations aged care programs.
- To be clearer the headline total figure is being revised to ensure it only reflects the aged care funding that directly targets first nations aged care delivery.
- This will revise the First Nations specific funding to **\$654.4m**.
- This change will be made to relevant documents to ensure there is no misinterpretation or misrepresentation.
- To note, this figure does not include the impact for first nations people from many other mainstream measures in the health and aged care portfolio, such as the tripling of the bulk billing incentives, lung cancer screening initiative and other such changes that will also significantly benefit First Nations people through improved access and quality of services.
- We would like to table the updated Health 2023-23 Budget Overview document now for transparency and to ensure it is on the public record.