

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018-19 – MAY 2018
 CROSS PORTFOLIO INDIGENOUS MATTERS– Department of Health**

Question No.	Portfolio No.	Division / Branch	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page or Written Q	Due Date
1	SQ18-000571	Department of Health	Siewert	Lowitja Institute	a) What specific funding commitment has the Government made to the Lowitja Institute, Australia's national research institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, beyond their current funded period to 30 June 2019? b) How does the Government propose for the Lowitja Institute to operate, in conducting and translating critical research for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, policy makers and service providers alike, while uncertainty of funding remains? c) What assurances does the Government give to ensure investment for the Lowitja Institute continues, with at least the current level of funding?	Written	06/07/2018
2	SQ18-000938	Department of Health	Dodson	Ear Health Measure	a) The Government announced in the 2018-19 Budget \$30 million for hearing health assessments, what's the implementation plan? How will the government deliver a new targeted outreach program with the states and territories? b) Has this outreach model been agreed upon by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council? c) Where and how will the first 18,000 children receive these assessments, at school? d) Can the department profile the \$30 million allocation by activity?	Written	06/07/2018
3	SQ18-000939	Department of Health	Dodson	Ear Health Measure	We are aware the government has been working closely with Professor Hugh Taylor, a trachoma specialist, should we anticipate the development of a road- map for ear health similar to the eye-health roadmap?	Written	06/07/2018
4	SQ18-000940	Department of Health	Dodson	Ear Health Measure	Why was the ear health budget statement package released with the eye health package?	Written	06/07/2018

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5	SQ18-00941	Department of Health	Dodson	Aboriginal Community controlled primary health care funding	With the new arrangements to the Aboriginal Community controlled primary health care funding model: a) Can the department inform the Committee around the new Indigenous health service measure? b) How will this measure improve Indigenous health outcomes? c) How does it intend to provide a more transparent primary care funding model based on patient numbers, episodes of care, remoteness and need? d) From July 1 2019 what should Aboriginal Medical Services anticipate?	Written	06/07/2018
6	SQ18-00942	Department of Health	Dodson	Aboriginal Community controlled primary health care funding	In the Departments budget statement it states [the model] "Over time, providing support and creating an incentive for services to appropriately claim Medicare entitlements which will help target grant funding to the areas of highest need." a)The Medicare entitlements the departments referring to is mainly the MBS 715 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Health Assessment? b)Can the Department confirm the current uptake of the Medicare 715 entitlement is 28.9% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population? c)Does this mean services that currently use the 715 Medicare entitlements may in the future potentially see a reduction in grant funding?	Written	06/07/2018
7	SQ18-00943	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Since we last met in February the Multijurisdictional syphilis outbreak surveillance reporting has only released on months' worth of communique, the month of April has not been released and it has been generally delayed are there any reasons for this?	Written	06/07/2018
8	SQ18-00944	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Can the Department confirm since we last met in February the percent of cases reported in 15-29 year age group have slightly increased in WA and SA?	Written	06/07/2018
9	SQ18-00945	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Can the Department confirm between March 1 2018 to March 31st 2018 there have been 40 new cases of syphilis across Northern Australia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?	Written	06/07/2018

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10	SQ18-00946	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Have there been any fatalities from congenital syphilis in the affected regions, other than Queensland?	Written	06/07/2018
11	SQ18-00947	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	How many point of contact tests have occurred since we last met?	Written	06/07/2018
12	SQ18-00948	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Of the \$8.8 million can the department provide a break down on the allocation of spending by activity and by jurisdiction?	Written	06/07/2018
13	SQ18-00949	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	How much funding over the forward estimates has SAHMRI been allocated to deliver an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community awareness, education and testing campaign for syphilis and other sexually transmissible infections?	Written	06/07/2018
14	SQ18-00950	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Can the department confirm there was no further funding allocation in the 2018-19 budget towards the control of the outbreak?	Written	06/07/2018
15	SQ18-00951	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Can the department confirm there is no funding allocated in 2020-2021 onwards?	Written	06/07/2018
16	SQ18-000952	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	How much funding has the Department allocated to the functions of the Multi-jurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Working Group?	Written	06/07/2018
17	SQ18-00953	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	Can the department outline their long-term strategy to manage STI/BBV beyond the surge workforce?	Written	06/07/2018
18	SQ18-00954	Department of Health	Dodson	Syphilis Outbreak	The Australian Medical Association has called for the immediate establishment of an Australian National Centre for Disease Control (CDC), with a national focus on current and emerging communicable disease threats, such as syphilis; surely the Department is considering this proposal given the state of affair across northern Australia with HTLV-1 and syphilis?	Written	06/07/2018
19	SQ18-00955	Department of Health	Dodson	Renal MBS Item	a) Can the department confirm what the MBS schedule fee is for then new remote renal item? b) How did the department determine the price?	Written	06/07/2018
20	SQ18-00956	Department of Health	Dodson	Renal MBS Item	National Efficient Cost each year for health care services provided by Independent Hospital Pricing Authority for remote renal dialysis is \$690. Currently in remote areas of the NT the price for an episode of dialysis care is \$731.00. How do you	Written	06/07/2018

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					propose remote health services deliver the episodes of care with \$200 less than they're currently being given?		
21	SQ18-00957	Department of Health	Dodson	Renal MBS Item	Dr Paul Lawton who has been working as a nephrologist across the Northern Territory since 1999 believes anything less than \$690 per episode of care will not cover the costs needed to provide the Medicare Schedule Item. Can the department appreciate Dr Lawton's concerns? What is the clinical governance around the delivery of episodes of care?	Written	06/07/2018
22	SQ18-000960	Department of Health	Dodson	Lowitja Institute	Can the Minister confirm the Lowitja Institute are leaders in Aboriginal research and evaluation and therefore explain why no commitment has been made in this 2018-19 Budget to the Lowitja Institute?	Written	06/07/2018