

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020–21 – October 2020
Cross-portfolio on Indigenous matters
Questions on Notice

QoN No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard & Hearing Date, page or Written QoN
SQ20-000331	Department of Health	Thorpe	Mental Health Funding for Aboriginal Organisations	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator THORPE: How much of the funding in total was provided to Aboriginal community controlled organisations to deliver mental health services to their own communities, not to mainstream services that get Aboriginal money but to Aboriginal organisations? You mentioned the \$500,000 that went to the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, but that's based in Melbourne. Regional and rural communities in Victoria have to travel to Melbourne for mental health services. How far and wide are Aboriginal community controlled health services funded for mental health services?</p> <p>Ms Rishniw: I might need to take that on notice in terms of giving you a detailed response...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator THORPE: You say a chunk of the \$30 million goes to Aboriginal community controlled services from the PHNs. Could you detail what 'chunk' means? Mr Matthews: Yes. I don't have the figures with me today, but we can take that on notice and provide that.</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, page 41
SQ20-000332	Department of Health	McCarthy	Legislative Exemptions for Aboriginal Health Organisations	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Have any other Aboriginal community controlled health organisations received the legislative exemption that Danila Dilba applied for?</p> <p>Mr Matthews: Not for detention settings, no.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: What have they received them for?</p> <p>Mr Matthews: For example, we do allow community controlled health organisations to bill Medicare generally, and we provide resourcing directly to community controlled health organisations for comprehensive primary health care so that they have stable resourcing going in. Then we provide exemptions to allow them to bill for Medicare services over and above that block funding that we provide, which is an additional revenue stream that community controlled organisations can take up and many do use.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How many, then, have received it?</p> <p>Mr Matthews: I would have to take that on notice. There are quite a lot. There are many –</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: If you could take that on notice: how many and the organisations that have received it.</p> <p>Mr Matthews: Yes, I'd be happy to. We could probably provide a table.</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, pages 42–43
SQ20-000333	Department of Health	McCarthy	Royal commission into youth detention recommendation	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator McCARTHY: That's not the question. The question is: is there a decision being made as to whether to consider this particular recommendation of the royal commission into youth detention around the use of Medicare?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Unfortunately I'm going to have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of the deliberations that are being undertaken by the minister on this particular issue, but we'll certainly get back to you with a response to that.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Thank you, Minister. You'll take that as a question on notice?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Yes.</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, page 43
SQ20-000334	Department of Health	McCarthy	National Suicide Prevention Trial	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator McCARTHY: If I could go to the National Suicide Prevention Trial – is it still running?</p> <p>Ms Rishniw: Yes, Senator. As you might be aware, there were 12 sites selected for the National Suicide Prevention Trial. Earlier this year the minister announced an additional year's funding to enable them to continue while an evaluation was undertaken.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could you remind the committee of where there trials are?</p> <p>Ms Rishniw: Certainly, and I can table an update on the trials, because –</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, pages 43–44
SQ20-000335	Department of Health	McCarthy	PHNs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - breakdown	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Matthews, you gave \$29.6 million as your first figure. Could you break it down—and you can take it on notice if you need to—in terms of each organisation and state and territory jurisdictions?</p> <p>Mr Matthews: We can break that down on notice. That's the money that goes through the primary health networks. That was related to the question what is a reasonable portion of that that goes into the community controlled sector—</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: That's right.</p> <p>Mr Matthews: Yes. That breakdown is the same question that we took on notice for you.</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, page 45
SQ20-000336	Department of Health	Thorpe	Overcrowding in prisons	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<p>Senator THORPE: Thank you for that response. My last question: the Australian health sector response plan for coronavirus recommends, on page 31, that diversionary programs be implemented to reduce overcrowding in prisons. What advice is being provided to the government by the department for the responsible reduction of overcrowding in prisons? And did this include the responsible release of some people from prison—people on remand, for example?</p> <p>Ms Rishniw: I'm going to have to take that question on notice, as that would generally be advice that would be provided or at least discussed through the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, or AHPPC, and between chief medical officers and public health officials. I wasn't privy to those discussions or any advice that was going through. But obviously that forum includes our chief medical officer, who was at the time Professor Brendan Murphy, who is now the secretary, and now acting CMO Paul Kelly and includes all the state and territory jurisdictions. That was the mechanism, and still is the mechanism, for providing advice through the</p>	Hansard, 23 October 2020, page 48

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020–21 – October 2020
Cross-portfolio on Indigenous matters
Questions on Notice

QoN No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard & Hearing Date, page or Written QoN
					national cabinet to states and territories. So, I can't answer in terms of any advice that I'm aware of, but that really is a matter that would have gone through AHPPC.	
SQ20-000465	Department of Health	McCarthy	Health Insurance and National Disability Insurance Scheme for people in the Northern Territory	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a list of all exemptions that currently exist under Section 19(2) of the Health Insurance Act 1973, including names of organisations granted the exemption, who granted the exemption and dates of exemption. 2. Please provide a list of all organisations denied an exemption under s 19(2) since 2015? 3. Please provide details of services that are funded by the State/Territory Governments that do not hold an s 19(2) exemption but bill Medicare for services provided anyway. How this is allowed? 4. If young people in detention are able to access services through the NDIS, what is the rationale for allowing this access while at the same time excluding access to Commonwealth funded Medicare for these children? 5. What is the estimated cost of extending the s 19(2) exemption to young people in NT youth detention? 	Written
SQ20-000466	Department of Health	McCarthy	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy	2 - Health Access and Support Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of the agreement with Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia regarding the renewal of the 2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy. Please include tender details, \$ amount, details of consultations undertaken as part of the renewal strategy, including attendees. 2. What resourcing has been committed to attaining the new Target under the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap - Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero. 3. Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia was established in late March 2020, yet Minister Greg Hunt announced \$4.5mil to Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia on 9 Sept 2019. How did a Federal Government grant come to be made to an organisation that wasn't established at the time? 4. When is the renewal of the NATSISP due to be completed? 5. What is the total amount of IAS funding currently directed to Indigenous Suicide prevention projects? How is the success and impact of these programs measured and evaluated? 	Written