

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 542

Topic: Remote, Rural and Regional

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

- 1) Is there a dedicated unit and/or staff to address aged care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, both remote and urban? If yes, how many and where are they located? How many identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- 2) What is being done to address the aged care needs of these communities?
- 3) Please outline the number of visits departmental staff have made to these communities in this financial year?

Answer:

- 1) The Department has a Section with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care, both remote and urban, as well as expecting all aged care staff to consider these matters as part of their day to day work.
- 2) To address the aged care needs of these communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are designated under the *Aged Care Act 1997* as a 'special needs group' and as such aged care places can be made available with a focus on access for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. There are also a number of Indigenous specific programmes to support access to aged care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- 3) Delivery staff have made 70 visits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations during 2013-14, as follows:

New South Wales and ACT State Office	12
Northern Territory State Office	29
Queensland State Office	23
South Australian State Office	3
Tasmanian State Office	2
Victorian State Office	1
Western Australian State Office	0
Total	70