

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000187

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What is the government's allocated budget for financial year 2014-5 and over the forward estimates for Ear and Training Initiative for Aboriginal Health Workers? How much of the budget has already been committed?

Answer:

The Improving Eye and Ear Health Services for Indigenous Australians measure provides \$66 million for ear and eye activities over four years (2013-14 to 2016-17). Of the \$66 million, around \$29 million has been committed for ear health activities including approximately \$6.3 million in 2014-15, \$8.6 million in 2015-16 and \$7.4 million in 2016-17.

This funding is provided for activities including:

- Multidisciplinary ear and hearing outreach services;
- Supply, maintenance and repair of ear and hearing health equipment; and
- The Care for Kids' Ears Campaign.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has advised the Department of Health that it will be delivering Commonwealth funded ear and hearing health training commencing in mid 2015.