

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.5 Workforce and Quality

Question No: SQ15-000265

Topic: Indigenous

Hansard page: Written Question

Senator Polley, Helen asked:

What services and projects are funded to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and facilities?

How many are “community controlled” operations?

What strategies are in place to develop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce?

Answer:

1. What services and projects are funded to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and facilities?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive most of their aged care service through mainstream residential and home care aged care services. In addition, there are a number of aged care programmes which support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These programmes include:
 - the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Programme funds organisations to build the capacity of aged care providers delivering care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and aged care providers located in remote and very remote areas;
 - the Remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Service Development Assistance Panel (SDAP) was established in October 2010 to support services providing aged care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians anywhere in Australia, and aged care providers located in remote and very remote areas;
 - the Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) Programme is a joint initiative of the Australian Government and state/territory governments, and provides integrated health and aged care services for small rural and remote communities. Multi-Purpose Services receive Australian Government funding for aged care (residential and home care) and state/territory government funding for a range of health services; and
 - the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants (ACSIHAG) programme aims to strengthen the capacity of the aged care sector to deliver high quality care and promote healthy ageing by targeting 6 priority areas including services providing aged care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people living in remote areas. Activities funded under this priority include projects aimed at supporting these services in a range of ways, including in areas such as facility maintenance. Additionally, a number of capital projects are funded under this priority, including some that aim to increase the security of both residents and staff of aged care facilities in remote Australia.

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- 2. How many are “community controlled” operations?**
 - Under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Programme 18 aged care services are considered “community controlled” operations.

- 3. What strategies are in place to develop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce?**
 - Development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce is supported through the following employment and training programmes:
 - the Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Traineeships (IRSDT) programme provides employment opportunities and relevant training in business and management to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in aged care and primary health services in rural and remote locations throughout Australia. Training packages from Certificate I through to Advanced Diploma in business, administrative and management contribute to building the business, administrative and management capacity of Indigenous aged care and primary health care services in remote areas. This training also provides transferable skills and experience that enables Indigenous aged care workers to gain employment in other sectors; and
 - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rural and Remote Aged Care Training programme provides a comprehensive employment and training scheme for Indigenous aged care workers. Culturally appropriate, targeted and accredited training is provided on-site within eligible communities in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. This training is also made available to unemployed Indigenous community members where a need such as work readiness and or pre-certificate training is identified.