

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-158

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES FUNDING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Please detail all reviews which have been undertaken of AMS funding since their establishment (including who undertook the review, when, cost of review, and findings)?

Answer:

No formal comprehensive review has been undertaken of AMS funding. AMSs receive funding from a range of sources, including grant funding from Commonwealth and state/territory governments. Most AMSs are also able to generate revenue from Medicare benefits, which are accessed through a Direction issued under section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and practice incentive schemes, such as the Practice Incentives Program and General Practice Immunisation Incentive scheme. In addition, AMSs may also access other revenue streams, such as from non-government organisations and other Commonwealth agencies for non-health purposes.

Funding from the Department of Health and Ageing to AMSs for the delivery of primary health care services is reviewed annually based on the budgets and proposed action plans submitted by AMSs, which are assessed for reasonableness.