

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-217**

**OUTCOME:** 8 - Indigenous Health

**Topic:** National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes.

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Payne

**Question:**

- a) On 18 April 2013 the government announced \$777 million for a renewed National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes, which expires on 30 June 2013. Can the department provide an update on progress towards finalising the renewed agreement with the states and territories?
- b) Can the department provide advice about what progress was made in negotiating the renewed agreement with the states and territories before the announcement on 18 April?
- c) Were the states and territories advised in advance that the Commonwealth would be making this announcement of \$777 million in funding, and if so, when were they advised?

**Answer:**

- a) The current National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes (NPA) expired on 30 June 2013. Negotiations at officer level on the renewed NPA were completed on 19 June 2013. The Commonwealth and the states and territories are continuing to work through the process of agreeing the renewed NPA.
- b) No formal negotiation of the renewed NPA occurred prior to 18 April 2013. However, from late 2012, the Department of Health and Ageing has been progressing work with states and territories through the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council to review the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of the NPA. All jurisdictions participated in the review.
- c) No.