

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-218

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:

On 20 May 2013 an article in the Australian newspaper reported that a month after the announcement of the new funding, no states or territories had signed on to the deal and Minister Warren Snowdon had written to the states "begging" them to sign on. Can the department advise on what date the Minister wrote to the states and territories, and whether any have responded?

Answer:

On 14 May 2013, the Minister for Indigenous Health wrote to state and territory health ministers urging them to commit to a renewed National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes (NPA) and match this with funding and services at least equivalent to the commitment made by their jurisdiction under the current agreement. Responses as at 28 June 2013 to the Minister's letter have been received from:

- New South Wales on 12 June 2013;
- Tasmania on 21 June 2013; and
- Queensland on 24 June 2013.

In addition, all states and territories have participated in officer-level negotiations for the renewed NPA.