

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000598

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Programs

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Will the Government continue its commitment to Closing the Gap through its funding of chronic disease programs? How will this be demonstrated?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government is investing \$3.3 billion over the next four financial years on Indigenous health through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP). This is an increase of over \$550 million when compared with the previous four years.

The IAHP includes funding for chronic disease activities that focus on the prevention, detection and management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These programmes include Tackling Indigenous Smoking, Care Coordination and Supplementary Services, and Improving Indigenous Access in Mainstream Primary Care.

Care and management for chronic disease is supported more broadly through Medicare Benefits Schedule-Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) arrangements, including health assessments and GP management plans, access to cheaper PBS medicines, and outreach programmes.