

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2010-2011, 22 October 2010

Question no: E10-390

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: DENTAL SERVICES IN ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

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Senator Scullion asked:

I understand the AMSs do not have the same capacity as the Territory government, for example, may have in the area of dental. So it is clear that dental, it is no mischief, is dragging the chain because the AMSs just do not have the capacity to assist, if you like, in the same way as they have in the other areas. I would be interested to hear on notice some sort of response that obviously the AMSs cannot help out in the same way they have with the rest of the health checks.

Answer:

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) have limited capacity to assist with dental follow-up because dental service provision is not within scope of their base funding. Some ACCHOs have a history of dental service provision through cooperative arrangements with the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families and by using funds derived from sources other than their base funding.

Some ACCHOs are assisting with dental follow-up and \$3.2 million has been allocated over three years from 2009-10 to support this. In 2009-10 the following ACCHOs received funding for dental follow-up:

- Katherine West Health Board;
- Laynhapuy Homelands Association;
- Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre;
- Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Danila Dilba Health Service.