

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001351

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: National Action to Reduce Indigenous Smoking Rates and Chronic Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What programs are currently operational specifically in addressing improved nutrition, increasing exercise and quitting smoking? What is the total current expenditure allocated to programs in these three areas?

Answer:

The Health portfolio funds several programmes to improve nutrition, increase exercise and reduce smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Programme	Summary	Funding
Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme	This programme aims to reduce smoking rates, the incidence of chronic disease and early death in Indigenous communities. It delivers community education activities and interventions to reduce the uptake and prevalence of smoking, improve nutrition and increase physical activity, as these are risk factors for many preventable chronic diseases. The key programme components that are available in 2014-15 include the Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams, workforce training in cessation and brief interventions, national coordination and governance, and enhancement of existing Quitline services to be more culturally appropriate for Indigenous clients.	\$37.4 million (2014-15)
NT AFL	This programme aims to provide successful outcomes on and off the sporting field by giving Northern Territorians exposure to successful sporting programs at a high level. Funding is provided increase program delivery in remote areas of Central Australia and the Barkly Region. The program	\$0.8 million (2013-14 to 2014-15)

Programme	Summary	Funding
	<p>provides positive role models for children and teenagers, and helps unite Territorians by promoting a strong sense of community. It also supports education, employment, training, capacity building and health and wellbeing outcomes for all participants.</p>	
Indigenous Marathon Project	<p>The project promotes participation in physical activity and healthy non-smoking lifestyles through the selection and training of participants to run in marathons. The Indigenous Marathon Project incorporates a Certificate IV in Community Recreation. Accredited education assists with creating a pathway for the participants to progress to further areas of study and work.</p>	\$0.4 million (2014-15)
National Tobacco Campaign – More Targeted Approach	<p>The Break the Chain component of the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (NPAPH) was developed to specifically target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>The Break the Chain campaign aims to contribute to halving the smoking rate for Indigenous Australians (currently at 47 per cent) by gaining a higher level of personal acknowledgment of the health impacts of smoking. The campaign supports quit attempts amongst smokers and promotes strategies to avoid relapse among quitters. The Break the Chain campaign features television, radio, online and print advertising.</p>	\$5.4 million (2013-14)
The Indigenous adaptation of the Get Up and Grow Healthy Eating and Physical Activity package	<p>This package was launched in July 2013 and provides evidence-based practical information and advice on nutrition and physical activity to promote healthy behaviours in children (aged 0-5 years) attending early childhood services. The resources include a Staff book, seven brochures and five posters which target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education staff, parents and carers nationally. The resources are available online from www.health.gov.au and can also be ordered in hard copy through the same website.</p>	\$628,000 (2011-12 to 2012-13)
Healthy Bodies Need Healthy Drinks	<p>This includes the production, promotion and distribution of culturally appropriate resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school children that are designed to promote healthy drink choices and discourage excessive consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks. The resources comprise music videos, songs, activities and games, posters, brochures and fact sheets. Resources are available online from www.health.gov.au and can also be ordered in hard copy through the same website.</p>	\$235,000 (2011-2014)

Programme	Summary	Funding
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) - Indigenous Health research	The NMHRC aims to commit at least 5 per cent of its medical research endowment fund (MREA) towards the capacity building and translation of Indigenous health research. The NHMRC has committed \$6.1 million towards currently active grants and/or fellowships in the areas of cessation of smoking (8 grants), nutrition (4 grants) and/or increased exercise (2 grants) among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	\$6,173,894 (total current MREA commitment – refer Attachment A for details of each grant)

Other initiatives

Programme	Summary
<i>Healthy and Active Australia</i> website	<p>This website provides a range of information and initiatives on healthy eating, regular physical activity and overweight and obesity to assist all Australians to lead healthy and active lives: http://www.healthyactive.gov.au/</p> <p>This website links to Australian Government initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get set 4 Life - Habits for Healthy Kids • The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program • Healthy Spaces and Places • Learning from Successful Community Obesity Initiative • Healthy Weight information and resources