

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001363

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Supporting Primary Care Providers to Co-ordinate Chronic Disease Management

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Does the Practices Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive (PIP-IHI) still exist to support accredited general practices and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health services to provide better health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

- a) How many practices are currently registered nationally?
- b) How many are dedicated indigenous health services?
- c) How much funding has the current Government administered through the PIP-IHI?
- d) How many patients have registered for the PIP-IHI in the 2013-14 financial years?
- e) What measures have been put in place to ensure GP's and health services are making effective use of clinical information to deliver best practice in chronic disease care?
- f) What measures have been put in place to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identify practices that participate in the PIP-IHI?

Answer:

The Practices Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive (PIP IHI) still exists to support general practices and Indigenous health services to provide better healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, including best practice management for chronic disease.

- a) As at 31 July 2014, there were 3,559 practices registered for PIP IHI.
- b) As at 31 July 2014, approximately 150 of the registered PIP IHI practices were Indigenous health services.
- c) From 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014, payments of approximately \$24.4 million, plus \$4.4 million in rural loadings, have been made through the PIP IHI.
- d) In 2013-14, a total of 62,266 patients were registered for PIP IHI.

- e) To participate in the PIP, practices must be accredited against the Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards of general practices and maintain up to date accreditation at all times. As part of the process to achieve independent accreditation against the RACGP's Standards, practices must be able to meet all indicators to demonstrate the practice is providing high quality, safe and effective care to standards of excellence determined by the general practice profession. This includes effective use of clinical information to deliver best practice in chronic disease care.

- f) To enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to identify practices that participate in the PIP IHI, the Department of Human Services has established a telephone helpline which patients can call to find out which practices participate in the PIP IHI.