

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001392

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:

- a) Is the intent of the fund still aimed at reducing the risk factors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by providing tobacco campaign activities, a tobacco action workforce, a health promotion workforce, healthy lifestyle programs and increasing access to smoking cessation services?
- b) What funding has been allocated to each of these three functions?
- c) Have there been programs cut in any of these areas? If so, what are they and why?

Answer:

- a) The intent of the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme is to reduce smoking rates, the incidence of chronic disease and early death in Indigenous communities. This currently involves delivering 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 components that are available in 2014-15 include the Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams, workforce training in cessation and brief interventions (available until 31 December 2014), national coordination and governance, and enhancement of existing Quitline services to be more culturally appropriate for Indigenous clients.
- b) \$37.4 million is available in 2014-15 for the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme. In 2014-15, unspent funding held by organisations is also being utilised for the delivery of programme activities.
- c) The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme (including the healthy lifestyle components) is continuing in 2014-15, with a pause in recruitment.