

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001400

**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:**

Can the department provide an update on the activities of the Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams? How many regions do these teams operate in?

**Answer:**

The Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams are currently operating in 57 regions nationally.

The teams develop and promulgate culturally secure community education, health promotion, and social marketing activities that promote quitting, establish smoke-free environments and encourage healthy lifestyle choices, including healthy levels of physical activity and good nutrition. Teams raise awareness of the health impacts of tobacco smoking and its link to development of chronic disease in Indigenous communities and also assist in timely access to appropriate health services as needed.