

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001402

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 individualised support is there for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders currently to help quit smoking?

Answer:

Quitline services in each jurisdiction have received funding from the Department of Health to provide more culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, by providing cultural awareness training for all Quitline counsellors and employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counsellors.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smokers who wish to make a quit attempt can attend their local Aboriginal Medical Service or General Practitioner. An appropriately qualified medical practitioner can conduct the Fagerstrom test for nicotine dependence and can prescribe Nicotine Replacement Therapy if necessary. Eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who are registered for the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payment are entitled to receive their prescriptions either for free or at a reduced cost, depending on their individual circumstances.