

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 3 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000107

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Sexual Health

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 54, 3 March 2017

**Senator:** McAllister, Jenny

**Question:**

Senator McALLISTER: Did you ask the state based organisations whether they would be willing to partner with you in an evaluation of the program?

Ms Bobbi Campbell: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health undertook an internal review of all sexual health activities funded under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP). This review used regular performance reporting and feedback from grant officers working in the Department's state offices to assess the impact of the funded activities on national blood-borne virus and sexually transmissible infection rates. The review also assessed the activities against the Guidelines for the IAHP and government priorities for Indigenous primary health care.

The review recommended that IAHP funding for state based sexual health activities be ceased as:

- the organisations were providing state-based prevention and education services, which overlapped with state and territory responsibility for sexual and reproductive health;
- Commonwealth investment in Indigenous primary health care, including sexual health services, is delivered through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and the grants were found to be duplicative of this arrangement; and
- reporting produced by organisations did not demonstrate quantitative evidence of improved health outcomes.

State based organisations were not consulted as part of this review.