

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Department changes: Department of Health

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

What will the process be under these new administrative arrangements for the implementation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policies?

Answer:

Under the arrangements for Indigenous Affairs, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has responsibility for some strategic health policy functions, including the Health Performance Framework, health expenditure analysis and life expectancy modelling.

PM&C also has responsibility for a range of Indigenous health programmes and activities (see http://www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs/index.cfm).

The Department of Health continues to be responsible for Indigenous health including Indigenous primary health care, targeted disease based programmes (including chronic disease, eye and ear health), maternal and child health programmes and health aspects under the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory. The Health Portfolio remains responsible for further consideration of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan.

Collaborative arrangements between PM&C and Cabinet and the Department of Health will support the development and implementation of health policies in Indigenous Affairs.