

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 24 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001190

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Tackling Smoking Programme Review

Type of Question: Hansard Page 56, 24 October 2014

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

What are you doing about their level of activity when people cannot recruit new staff but already have obligations on work that are supposed to be performing? Can you give me examples of where that has occurred? At this stage I have spoken to people where that, in fact, is not the case and they think that they are still obligated to deliver on what they are originally asked to deliver.

Answer:

Delivery of the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Programme by Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle Teams is continuing in 2014-15 while there is a review of the programme. There is currently a pause on recruitment pending the outcomes of that review. There was also an underlying level of position vacancy in the programme prior to the recruitment pause.

The Department of Health has drafted a 'frequently asked questions' document on the review and associated programme arrangements and circulated these to funded organisations. During 2014-15, expectations and funding are being adjusted according to the number of staff in each team. However the department has not required funded organisations to submit revised Action Plans as staff numbers change, as this would create a further administrative impost.