

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

Question: E13-170

**OUTCOME 8:** Indigenous Health

**Topic:** Indigenous Smoking

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Scullion

**Question:**

- a) When will the "Tackling Indigenous Smoking" measure terminate?
- b) What are the KPIs for this measure?
- c) How much of the \$100m allocated has been spent so far?
- d) What were the funds used for? Can you provide a breakdown of funding for all programs and measures?
- e) What results have been achieved in reducing the rate of Indigenous people smoking?
- f) With Indigenous women smoking while pregnant raised as a problem in the Closing the Gap report how much of the \$100m in funding for Indigenous smoking has been targeted at stopping pregnant women smoking?
- g) What special measures have been employed in this area?

**Answer:**

- a) The majority of funding for the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package, including the Tackling Indigenous Smoking measure, has been consolidated within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chronic Disease Fund from 1 July 2011. Consolidating programs from the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chronic Disease Fund will provide ongoing funding to address key priorities in chronic disease prevention and management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to increase life expectancy.

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking measure is the key Australian Government initiative designed to meet the 2008 National Healthcare Agreement target to halve the Indigenous smoking rate by 2018.

- b) The National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes includes the following table outlining the Performance Benchmarks for the priority area Tackle Smoking:

Priority Area	Key	Performance Benchmarks
Tackle Smoking	S1	Number and key results of culturally secure community education/ health promotion/ social marketing activities to promote quitting and smoke-free environments.
	S2	Key results of specific evidence based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brief interventions, other smoking cessation and support initiatives offered to individuals.
	S3	Evidence of implementation of regulatory efforts to encourage reduction/cessation in smoking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.
	S4	Number of service delivery staff trained to deliver the interventions.

The Commonwealth's National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes Implementation Plan includes the following Performance Benchmark Measurements for the priority area Tackle Smoking:

- Number of tobacco action coordinators;
- Number of Indigenous participants in smoking cessation and support activities; and
- Number of health workers and community educators trained in smoking cessation.

- c) \$48.5 million has been spent up to June 2012.

d)

	2009-10 to 2011-12
Tackling Indigenous Smoking workforce	\$28.8M
Tackling Indigenous Smoking training, resources and support for health and community workers	\$6.4M
Targeted health promotion and social marketing including locally developed campaign workers	\$8.5M
Research and evaluation	\$3.0M
Quitline enhancement	\$1.8M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48.5M</b>

- e) The 2008 COAG National Healthcare Agreement set a target to halve the Indigenous smoking rate by 2018. The 2008 baseline rate was 44.8 per cent of Indigenous current, daily smokers aged 18 years and over (age standardised) [Source: ABS 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey].

The next update of Indigenous smoking rates will be provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, conducted in 2012-13, with results due for release in 2013-14.

The Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyles program is the flagship initiative of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Tackling Indigenous Smoking measure. Under this program, Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle Teams are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop regional and local approaches to reducing smoking rates, and improving nutrition and physical activity levels, including through social marketing campaigns and community events.

Regional Teams are being rolled out in 57 regions across Australia, with the first tranche of Teams in place in 2010-11, the second in 2011-12 and the final tranche of Teams being rolled out during 2012-13.

The Indigenous Chronic Disease Package evaluation framework recognises that the roll out of a national workforce and the reduction of chronic disease risk factors takes time.

However, anecdotal evidence in the form of stories about individuals and organisations, suggests that a positive change in attitude and behaviour is occurring.

f) and g)

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (Indigenous Chronic Disease Package) measure is addressing smoking during pregnancy through the flagship initiative, the Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyles program. Under this program, Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle Teams are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop regional and local approaches to reducing smoking rates, and improving nutrition and physical activity levels, including through social marketing campaigns and community events.

Smoking, poor nutrition and physical inactivity during pregnancy are important lifestyle issues being addressed through the work of the health promotion focussed Regional Teams. Examples of activities which Regional Teams have undertaken to address smoking during pregnancy include:

- Providing pregnant smoking mothers who are receiving antenatal, prenatal and postnatal care with smokerlyzer (personal carbon monoxide tester) readings and explaining CO2 levels and the impact of smoking on the unborn baby. Interested women have then been referred for Quit support packs and information;
- Promotional events with mothers and pregnant women receiving a pack if they are willing to be screened and will answer the short Fagerstrom Nicotine Dependence Test. Pregnant women may then be directed to follow up support and Quitline services; and
- Locally developed social marketing to raise awareness of dangers of smoking and also second hand smoke for pregnant women and children.

It is not possible to quantify the proportion of funding spent on these activities.

#### Other initiatives addressing smoking during pregnancy

The work of the Regional Teams builds upon six projects funded under the Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative (\$14.5 million over four years to 2011-12), which trialled ways to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women and their families to quit smoking and to raise awareness of health risks of smoking.

In addition, the Australian Government is targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women through the Quit for You, Quit for Two campaign, part of the National Tobacco Campaign - More Targeted Approach 2012-13.

The campaign includes a range of advertising material (including TV commercials), specifically developed to target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women, without stigma, and raise awareness of the harms associated with smoking while pregnant, the support which is available to assist with quit attempts, including Quitline, and the downloadable Quit for You – Quit for Two mobile app to support the quit journey.