

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-224

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: Hearing Health

Type of Question: Hansard Page 39, 15 February 2013

Senator: Senator Siewart

Question:

Have you had any feedback yet about how successful teachers are being, with the new work that is rolling out, at identifying those particular problems?

Answer:

Interim evaluation of the 'Care for Kids Ears' campaign shows positive feedback from those using the teachers' resource kit. Feedback indicates the materials are considered to be appropriately pitched for both teachers and students, professional, of good quality, well presented, comprehensive and easy to use. The information and key messages are considered to be clear and easy to understand, and the illustrations and photographs are seen as supporting these messages and identified as a key strength of the resources.

Final evaluation is scheduled for June 2013.

It is important to note that:

- evaluation only measures improvements of teachers' awareness of hearing problems, their impact on children in the classroom and appropriate responses;
- available data doesn't inform us as to whether an ear check is a result of a teacher's actions in response to promotional/educational resources; and
- teachers are not expected to, or in a position to, make diagnosis - only to consider health issues as having potential impact on a child's educational performance or behaviour.