

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Budget supplementary estimates 2009-2010; October 2009

Answers to questions on notice from AusAID

AusAID correction to question 9

Governance service delivery

Child and maternal health

Question 9 (original)

Senator Payne asked on notice:

Does this small proportion of funding for child and maternal health in the aid program reflect the relative importance of child and maternal health as a development priority for AusAID?

If not, why is the quantity of funding so small?

If so, is this not inconsistent with the priority placed on child and maternal health under the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in light of the lack of progress towards achieving the MDG objectives for child and maternal health?

Answer

Maternal and child health is a key priority for the Government and should be seen in the broader context of overall health sector funding, not just in specific child and maternal health programs. The estimated expenditure of \$80 million for specific child and maternal health programs is a significant increase on previous years and is likely to increase further as funding to strengthen health systems more broadly increases. Funding for health programs is estimated to be \$595 million in 2009-10, representing around 16 per cent of the total aid program and an increase of **35 per cent** over 2008-09).

Revised question 9

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