

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** COAG – Indigenous Health Reform

**Senator:** Senator Payne

**Question reference number:** 36

**Type of Question:** FPA, Monday 27 May 2013, page 98

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator PAYNE: Ms Cross, are you able to at least advise us as to whether any progress had been made in negotiating that renewed agreement with the states and territories before it was announced on 18 April?

Ms Cross: I would have to take that on notice, Senator. It is not part of the national partnerships that has been coming to COAG, so we have not had the same line of sight of that one as others.

**Answer:**

The former Prime Minister wrote to First Ministers on 20 April 2013 to seek their agreement to negotiate a renewed National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes. Negotiations had not commenced with states and territories prior to this date.