

**Estimates Committee 2010**  
**Questions Taken On Notice**

( 11/06/2010 to 18/06/2010 )

Date: 18/06/2010

Output:

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Subject: ALP Youth Platform 2008

**From:**Mr Peter Styles to Hon Robert Knight

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**9-9**

**Question:**

As part of the ALP Youth Platform 2008, there is a commitment to fund public education programs in relation to health, sexuality and lifestyle. Minister, what programs are there, and what is the financial amount spent on these programs?

**Answer:**

Answered On: 27/08/2010

## QUESTION ON NOTICE 9.9

As part of the ALP Youth Platform 2008, there is a commitment to fund public education programs in relation to health, sexuality and lifestyle. Minister, what programs are there, and what is the financial amount spent on these programs?

## ANSWER

In 2008/09, the Australian Government provided funds through the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement. The Northern Territory Government used these funds to further develop partnerships with non-Government Organisations as follows;

| Non govt. service provider       | Project title        | Expenditure 2009/2010 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Anglicare                        | Pandanus project     | \$200 000             |
| Youth Family Education Resources | Core of Life Program | \$223 000             |

The Pandanus project is a pregnancy awareness/childbirth education and antenatal project for young people. This project supports young people through childbirth education, parenting education linking with other support services and where necessary providing case management for individuals or the young family. Anglicare provides this project as part its range of youth services.

The Core of Life Program is primarily aimed at youth aged 14 to 17 who are at risk of early pregnancy. This evidence-based program targets both boys and girls, recognising that boys play a large part in teenage pregnancies and have a need for information and support. This prevention/early intervention program seeks to empower adolescents with factual information related to pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and the short and long-term consequences of pregnancy and parenthood.

Since 1997, an ongoing partnership has existed between the Department of Health and Families and the Department of Education and Training for the Healthy School-Age Kids program for remote areas. This program has three components;

1. Health promotion in the school and community setting;
2. Integration of other services and programs for school-age children; and
3. Health checks (screening).

This program is aimed at all school-age children living in remote areas, with identification of the differing health and educational needs for children as they move from early childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

The Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Unit (SHBBVU) has employed a youth health policy officer since January 2009 to:

- support youth specific services including clinical services from Clinics 34;

- provide a central point of contact for youth focused community education activities;
- develop key relationships with government and non-government health and youth organisations across the NT to support collaborative activities; and
- establish and maintain informal youth networks so as to ensure youth input to SHBBV program activities.

Under the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development the Department of Health and Families has employed a project coordinator and will soon recruit seven health promotion officers. The aim of the project is to provide culturally appropriate sexuality education and health promotion to Indigenous youth in a consistent way building on local capacity. This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training.

### **Ongoing annual targeted health promotion programs**

The SHBBV unit provides public education programs on an annual basis, large scale programs differ yearly. Recent and current programs are:

1. The Northern Territory Department of Health and Families' **Safe Sex No Regrets** campaign was conducted September 2008-September 2009. The campaign aim was to increase awareness, increase testing and treatment and reduce the incidence of Chlamydia and other sexually transmissible infections amongst people aged 15-29 in urban areas of the Northern Territory. This included the following components:
  - Television advertisements, Radio advertisements, Print resources, Nightclub promotions, Campaign launches, Accompanying resources, Website, Media, Collaboration with stakeholders.
2. In response to an increasing number of HIV cases diagnosed in 2009 of which an increase was noted in those who acquired the infection when travelling in high prevalence countries, a six-month HIV and Travellers Campaign has been developed by the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Unit and the NT AIDS and Hepatitis Council. It was launched on 20 April 2010.
3. **Youth Futures: Studio 34** Grant funding to Menzies School of health in partnership with the SHBBV unit. This is a collaborative music project. The aims are twofold. The first is to engage young Indigenous people in the Darwin region in the production of a music DVD, containing messages about sexual decision making and relationships. The second is to develop a resource (the DVD) which can be used to facilitate conversations with young people. This resource will be enhanced and supported by social networking sites such as Facebook and Youtube through the use of emergent technology and concepts in contemporary health communication strategy.

### **Research**

**Culture, context and Risk:** Research into sexual behaviour among young Indigenous people: In partnership with the Menzies School of Health Research began in 2010. Funding has been received by the Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

- The goal of the research is to identify risk-taking behaviour among young people in remote indigenous communities in order to develop STI/BBV program approaches to address the high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in remote Indigenous populations.

#### Aims and Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of young peoples' reasoning behind and influences on risk-taking behaviours
2. Gain an understanding of the broader societal attitudes towards and influences on Young Peoples behaviour
3. Use the research findings to develop models of intervention that influence behaviour change
4. Build local capacity to meet the needs of their YP by integrating research with a community development approach
5. Improve the capacity of the communities and their services to meet the needs of their YP
6. Identify what is or is not effective in the current approach to STI prevention and management