

## **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Wednesday, 13 February 2013 from 9.01 am to 11.01 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Health and Ageing portfolio, including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority, the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, the Australian National Health Performance Authority (ANHPA), the National Blood Authority, the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency, the National e-Health Transition Authority, Health Workforce Australia and the Private Health Insurance Administration Council.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the need for clarity around budget processes
- the interest from international jurisdictions in relation to Australian tobacco plain packaging laws
- bowel cancer screening programs, including the public distribution of screening kits and subsequent screening participation rates by members of the public
- national strategy documents between the Commonwealth and states and territories on HIV
- registries maintained by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for high-risk implantable devices and the potential adverse impacts of such devices
- TGA recommendations on the regulation of complementary medicines
- anti-microbial resistance and the need for a whole-of-government response including the development of a new steering group
- the alignment of responsibilities between ANPHA and the department, including recommendations made by the Auditor-General
- FSANZ reviews of low-THC hemp for food, including consultation with international bodies, potential conflicts with current legislation, and the legislative and governance forum established by Council of Australian Governments
- the proposed legislative changes to the Private Health Insurance Rebate, including the consultation process and the projected impacts of the changes
- the recent set of changes to the Aged Care Funding Instrument and the potential impacts on remote and regional aged care homes and smaller aged care homes
- progress of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records system and the methods by which consumers can register.