

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000068

OUTCOME: 14 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: enHealth Standing Committee

Type of Question: Hansard Page 146, 26 February 2014

Senator: Di Natale Richard

Question:

Can you explain to me about the enHealth Standing Committee – who they are and the nature of the advice that is being provided? Are they doctors? Are they Health Professionals?

Answer:

The Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) is a committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), under the COAG framework. Members include environmental health directors from each state, territory and the Commonwealth, the National Health and Medical Research Council, and an observer from New Zealand. enHealth members have a range of backgrounds and qualifications including in clinical medicine, epidemiology, Indigenous environmental health and toxicology.

enHealth provides environmental health policy advice and technical guidance to the AHPPC on a range of matters including air quality, water quality, emergency management and chemical regulation. enHealth also publishes a number of practical guidance documents intended to assist environmental health professionals and the general public.

enHealth is supported by three specialist working groups: the Environmental Health Workforce Working Group; the Working Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health; and the Technical Working Group on Environmental Health. Working Group membership comprises state and territory government representatives, technical experts, academics and other relevant personnel as required.