

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000178

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Funding to Alcohol and Drugs Council of Australia

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 55, 26 February 2014

**Senator:** McLucas Jan

**Question:**

- a) Did the Minister's office request options for de-funding the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council?
- b) What was the specific request from the Minister's office in relation to options on ADCA?
- c) How much would ADCA have been in deficit if they were allowed to continue operating?
- d) What evidence did the Department or Minister have that ADCA was in financial difficulty?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

The office of the Assistant Minister for Health, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, sought advice regarding future funding of the Alcohol and Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA).

c) The Department of Health is not able to speculate on the operations of ADCA.

d) As referenced in Hansard on 26 February 2014, Minister Nash stated "My understanding is that, last year, the previous government gave an undertaking to ADCA that they would continue their funding. ADCA was actually not funded from 30 June last year because the previous Labor government had not put those funding arrangements in place. Indeed, the previous Labor government then had five months to finalise that contract. That then led to the situation where ADCA came to me expressing the immediacy of their financial difficulties."