

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

**Question:** E12-057

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Smoking Bans

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 45, 30 May 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

Could I draw your attention to the portfolio budget statement at page 63, which sets the target for the reduction of smoking rates over the next 4 years. If the figure is 15.9 per cent, according to the table, haven't we already met the 2012-13 target? It tells us that it is 16.4 per cent and then the year after it is 15.6 per cent. Is the department setting targets that have already been met?

**Answer:**

Smoking reduction targets in the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) built on the projections set out in the 2011-12 PBS. These projections used the ABS 2007-08 National Health Survey adult daily smoking prevalence data as the baseline.

This is in line with COAG's use of the 2007-08 ABS National Health Survey adult daily smoking prevalence data as the baseline for setting the 2018 target of a reduction to 10 per cent in the adult daily smoking rate. The 2018 target is set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health and the National Healthcare Agreement.

The AIHW 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) report, published in July 2011, reports the smoking rate for people aged 18 years and older as 15.9 per cent. (The Department's response to Question: E12-059 provides an explanation of the two national population surveys: the NDSHS and the ABS National Health Survey.)

It should be noted that the 2012-13 PBS target was "<16.9per cent" (that is, less than 16.9per cent). The Department will be reviewing the smoking reduction targets for the 2013-14 PBS.