

**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:** E12-090

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Older Australians and Preventative Health Program

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Siewert

**Question:**

What is the role of the Preventative Health Program in meeting the needs of older people?

**Answer:**

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (the Agency) has noted in its Strategic Plan 2011-15 that it is committed to working across the lifespan from the early years to old age. Its focus is to target obesity (including physical inactivity), harmful alcohol consumption and tobacco, three issues which have a significant impact on older Australians.

The agency supports the development and implementation of evidence-based approaches to preventive health initiatives, across the lifespan, including older Australians.

The Department of Health and Ageing takes an evidence-based approach to preventive health initiatives across the lifespan of the Australian population. Specific resources that have been developed for the older population include physical activity guidelines for older Australians and Best Practice Guidelines for Australian hospitals, residential aged care facilities and community care for preventing falls and harms from falls in older people. The Healthy Communities Initiative, which is an activity under the National Partnership Agreement of Preventive Health, provides targeted, community-based healthy lifestyle programs that facilitate access to physical activity, healthy eating and healthy weight programs. This initiative is aimed at disadvantaged adults who are predominantly not in the paid workforce and will capture older Australians.