

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: E12-239

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: National Health Priority Areas

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

Does the Department have a committee or similar expert body that can provide independent advice on the effectiveness of screening and prevention programs, similar to the UK's National Screening Committee? If not, why not?

Answer:

To provide advice on existing and emerging screening programs, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) established the Screening Subcommittee, a jurisdictional committee comprising Australian, state and territory government representatives. The Screening Subcommittee is currently chaired by the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Ageing.

The Screening Subcommittee provides leadership and national direction on policy, implementation and monitoring of existing joint screening programs, BreastScreen Australia and the National Cervical Screening Program, and provides advice in relation to the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

It also monitors and provides advice on emerging population screening issues to the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee of AHMAC. Where necessary, the Screening Subcommittee liaises and consults with relevant experts on screening and refers appropriate issues for advice.