

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: E12-242

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Tobacco Control Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) When will the next national tobacco control strategy be released?
- b) What efforts is the Department making to ensure tax payers money is not invested in tobacco companies via the Future Fund?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing funded the development of a draft for consultation of the National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs, Standing Committee on Tobacco. Public consultation was conducted on the draft Strategy during June 2012, and this will inform the finalisation of the Strategy for clearance by the jurisdictions and Health Ministers, by the end of 2012.
- b) The former Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, wrote to the Chair of the Future Fund Board of Guardians, in April 2011, expressing her concern that the Future Fund holds significant investment interests in tobacco companies.

Under the Future Fund legislation, the Board takes its investment decisions independently of Government. However, Minister Roxon asked that the Board reconsider its investments in the tobacco industry.