

**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:** E12-288

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

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

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Question:**

According to the Department of Health and Ageing's Portfolio Budget Statement for 2012-13, it is intending to 'promote messages about the harms of drinking alcohol while pregnant, with a view to linking these messages to those currently being used by the alcohol industry'. What are the Department's plans for progressing this?

**Answer:**

The Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, has approved funding of up to \$1.2 million over two years, 2011-12 to 2012-13 to support:

1. the role of health professionals including GPs, midwives, nurses, public health professionals, Aboriginal health workers, and obstetricians in assisting consumers (particularly women during the prenatal period) to make lifestyle choices based on the National Health and Medical Research Centre Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol; and
2. additional messaging and information to complement the industry led voluntary labelling initiative to help raise awareness of risks of consuming alcohol during pregnancy (or when planning pregnancy).