

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-114

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Tobacco and Mental Illness Initiative

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Wright

Question:

What will the Department do, in order to assist people with severe mental illness to quit smoking, given that they are up to five times more likely than the general population to smoke?

Answer:

The Department of Health has implemented the National Tobacco Campaign – More Targeted Approach, which commenced in January 2011. The campaign aims to reduce smoking prevalence among high risk and hard to reach groups, including: pregnant women and their partners, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, people with mental illness, and prisoners.

The Department collaborated with the national mental health organisation SANE Australia to develop a suite of information resources, a brochure and factsheets, including:

- a brochure developed for people with mental illness – *Guide to a smoke-free life*;
- a factsheet for carers, case workers, family or friends – *Supporting someone with a mental illness to quit smoking*; and
- a factsheet – *Smoking and mental illness: A guide for health professionals*.

These resources can be downloaded free of charge from www.quitnow.gov.au