

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-444

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH AGENCY (ANPHA)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

There is a growing body of evidence that lifestyle and health factors may substantially reduce the risk of developing dementia. These risk factors overlap with those for other chronic illness, particularly cardiovascular disease, but many Australians are not aware of this.

What action has been taken by the Government to include dementia risk reduction in the work of its new high profile National Preventative Health Agency?

Answer:

A number of chronic disease conditions, including cardiovascular disease and dementia, associated with lifestyle and health factors will be addressed by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency's efforts to bring a concentrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to promoting health lifestyles and good nutrition, reducing tobacco use, minimising the harmful consumption of alcohol, discouraging substance abuse and reducing the incidence of obesity amongst Australians.

In developing its first strategic plan (2011-15), the Agency has met with a range of stakeholders, including Alzheimer's Australia and the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance. These consultations were taken into account in developing the strategic plan.

These issues will continue to be considered, and discussed with stakeholders, as the work of the Agency develops.