

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 from 9.00 am to 11.01 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Health portfolio, including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, the National Health Performance Authority, the National Blood Authority, the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority, the National Health Funding Body and the National Mental Health Commission.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- a potential conflict of interest for the former chief of staff to the Assistant Minister for Health
- binge drinking and pregnancy warning labels
- the National Diabetes Advisory Group
- the plain packaging regime for cigarettes
- the possible impacts on health of wind farms
- the reporting process for Medicare Locals
- women in sport
- the results of Australian athletes at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia
- community awareness grants to promote organ and tissue donation with a focus on events promoting awareness for families
- the reduced need for fresh blood and the changes in the clinical use of blood
- the Grow Up Smiling dental program
- trauma as an underlying mental health issue, including training provided to doctors in dealing with trauma
- the promotion of e-health records through Medicare Locals and state hospitals
- the Commonwealth Medical Internships initiative and proposals for new medical schools
- a review of the Life Saving Drugs Program
- Rural and Regional Health Australia programs
- antimicrobial resistance.