

## **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Tuesday, 2 June 2015 from 9 am until 10.14 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Health portfolio, including the Organ and Tissue Authority, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the National Blood Authority, the National e-Health Transition Authority (NeHTA), the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), Cancer Australia, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) and the Australian Sports Commission

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) and the ANAO report,
- with regard to the CPA, changing costs of medicines including diabetes medicine as well as the dollar discount in the CPA,
- the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment and alternate funding cuts, and an update on paracetamol on the PBS,
- the substitution and safe analysis of biosimilars by the TGA,
- industrial chemicals imported in relation to animal testing,
- the implementation of NICNAS reforms including associated costs,
- national assessment of chemicals used in coal seam gas including environmental threats of shale and fracking gas,
- an update on e-health initiatives for online health records,
- NeHTA's operational funding breakdown, the sign-up rate of hospitals and practices and the opting-out process,
- in relation to the Organ and Tissue Authority, donation rates, guidelines for organ and tissue donor suitability, and the government-announced review on the organ donation system,
- in relation to the TGA, staff redundancies and staff specialist skills, funding reductions, the low-value turnover scheme replacement, hip replacement revision rates, e-cigarettes or devices and applications for TGA approval,
- the Dental Relocation and Infrastructure Support Scheme including funding allocations,
- changes to Flexible Fund and the impact on the Rural Health Outreach Fund,
- the proposed Curtin Medical School and its impact on GP shortages in rural areas of WA,
- the Health Workforce Scholarship Program consolidation and administration, including a discussion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships and impacts on rural workforce doctors and medical professionals working and living in rural and remote areas,
- a searchable map on the Rural Health Australia website,
- post-implementation review of the tobacco plain packaging legislation, and the prevalence of smoking since the introduction of the legislation,

- the KPMG Report on Tobacco in Australia,
- National Bowel Cancer screening procedures,
- collaborative cancer projects,
- the vision of the NHMRC and appointments to the Council,
- funds transferred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to support indigenous communities with drug and alcohol counselling,
- advice provided by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Blood Borne Diseases, Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infection,
- the costs of the Government's 'Ice' advertising campaign,
- funding of frontline services for drug and alcohol services,
- the outcome of the review into the importation of frozen berries,
- maximum residue levels of chemicals used on food products,
- funding for palliative care and grants for palliative and acute care,
- commentary on the Department's website regarding organ and tissue donation,
- ASADA's involvement in sport and the ability of sporting codes to opt out of ASADA anti-doping testing,
- ASADA's operating loss for the financial year 2014-15 of \$750,000 as reported in *The Australian*,
- ASADA's legal costs of \$3.9 million arising from the Essendon supplement case, and the payment by ASADA for two senior lawyers to provide a full legal brief to WADA regarding the case,
- increased awareness of drugs in sport,
- sport funding matters, including funding for football compared to other sports in light of the recent FIFA scandal, and funding for high performance sports,
- the bid by Football Federation Association to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup,
- the payment made by Football Federation Association to the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football,
- staffing level reductions in the Australian Sports Commission,
- Women on Boards target of 40per cent across National Sporting Organisations,
- implementation costs and funding for the Play Sport Australian program,
- Sport in Schools program grant applications,
- Australia's Winning Edge program, and
- the Australian Institute of Sport Supported Athlete program.