



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

**Acting Deputy Secretary**

Senator Slade Brockman  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Senator Brockman

**CORRECTION OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESPONSE TO SQ18-616**

I am writing to seek your agreement to amend the Department of Health's response to Senate Question on Notice number SQ18-616, a copy of the amended response is enclosed for your consideration.

The National Drug Strategy (NDS) was finalised and released in July 2017. The Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF) have committed to finalising the National Alcohol Strategy in 2018. To avoid any confusion on the status of the National Drug Strategy and the National Alcohol Strategy I seek your agreement to correct the response.

The last sentence of paragraph 2 in the response to part (b) currently states: "On 14 June 2018 the MDAF committed to finalising the NDS in 2018." It should state "On 14 June 2018 the MDAF committed to finalising the National Alcohol Strategy in 2018". I enclose for your consideration an amended response.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lisa Studdert  
Aged Care, Sport & Population Health

13 July 2018

Encl.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2018 - 2019, 29 & 30 May 2018**

**Ref No:** SQ18-000616

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** National Alcohol Strategy

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

**Senator:** Richard Di Natale

**Question:**

- a) How long has Australia now been without a current National Alcohol Strategy?
- b) What is the reason for the delay?

**Answer:**

- a) The previous National Alcohol Strategy expired in 2011. Under the last National Drug Strategy (2010-2015) a national Statement of Priorities 2014-2016 was developed by the (former) Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs in 2013 while work to develop a new National Alcohol Strategy was undertaken. Work on the next National Alcohol Strategy commenced in 2015.
- b) The development of the next National Alcohol Strategy was suspended during 2016 to prioritise the development and implementation of the National Ice Action Strategy which included reform to the national alcohol and other drug policy governance arrangements (including the establishment of the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF)).

At the first meeting of the MDAF (16 December 2016) it was agreed that work on the National Alcohol Strategy should be deferred until the next National Drug Strategy (NDS) had been finalised. Following the publication of the NDS in July 2017, work recommenced on the National Alcohol Strategy. On 14 June 2018 the MDAF committed to finalising the National Alcohol Strategy in 2018.