

Standing Committee on Health

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Hepatitis C in Australia

20 March 2015

QoN No: 2

Topic: Needle and Syringe Programs

Type of Question: Hansard Page 60 Friday, 20 March 2015

Chair: Mr Irons

Question:

CHAIR: Seeing as you have already broken it down into item numbers, maybe you can break the quantities down! There might have been an extra column on the spreadsheet that showed you that. But that would be interesting to know. If you can come back to us on that one, that would be great—also on question 4 from Mr Jones. **He did specifically ask about the money in regards to the needle and syringe program and how much of that particular money is spent on programs for high-risk populations. Is that answer of approximately \$9.5 million specific to that question or is it overall?**

Prof. Baggoley: That is overall, I believe, and I am not sure we can break that down—not in the room here. But, again, we can take that further on notice.

CHAIR: Okay. That might be a response that you need to get from the states. Is it? Do they handle that?

Prof. Baggoley: They handle the program, but as to the question of whether the \$9.5 million is specifically earmarked—I do not have that answer.

Ms Jonasson: Yes. I would have to have a look at the data and see if it is possible to break it down into those population groups. I have to say I do not know the answer to that, I am sorry.

CHAIR: I am just asking because I am sure Mr Jones would have asked if he was here.

Ms Jonasson: Yes, of course. No problem.

Answer:

Funding of approximately \$9.5 million per annum for Needle and Syringe Programs was included in the new broad branded Healthcare Specific Purpose Payment under the National Healthcare Agreements (now the National Health Reform Agreements) from July 2009.

Consistent with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA), the expenditure of these funds on healthcare programs is a matter for each state and territory. Therefore, the Commonwealth is unable to provide a breakdown of this funding.