

Senate Economics References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH PORTFOLIO
Personal Choice and Community Impacts
11 March 2016

Question no: 2

Topic: Law Enforcement and Cannabis

Type of Question: Spoken, Hansard page 16

Senator: Senator Leyonhjelm

Question:

CHAIR: In your submission you focus on the health implications and costs of cannabis use. I do not think any of our submissions have suggested there are no health implications and therefore no cost. This also goes for rural health folks: have you considered setting them off against the law enforcement costs? Have you done any analysis along those lines where you on the one hand have health costs and on the other have the law enforcement costs?

Dr Studdert: I would have to say I am not aware of any work that has been done on that. I assume that, if we had it, we would have given it to you, but I am certainly happy to take that on notice and get you some more information.

CHAIR: Just to verify that you do not have it.

Dr Studdert: Yes.

Answer:

The Department of Health does not fund research on the law enforcement costs attributed to cannabis.

However, the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) published a monograph in 2007 entitled 'Working Estimates of the Social Costs Per Gram and Per User for Cannabis, Cocaine, Opiates and Amphetamines'. The DPMP is part of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

The report is available at

https://dpmp.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/dpmp/resources/DPMP%20MONO%2014_0.pdf