

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 17 February 2012

Question: E12-222

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: PETROL SNIFFING

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Senator Siewert asked:

I have noticed in some of the information I have received that there have been some—I must say, fairly small—reductions in funding for communications. Can you tell me the reason for that, when one of the issues that I am hearing fairly consistently, yet again, is that non-sniffable fuel causes problems in engines? I understand that there has been another fairly recent episode about that, which was proved to be baseless. What is the reason for the cutting in funding, if we are still having problems with this issue around whether non-sniffable fuel causes problems?

Answer:

- A total of \$5.2 million was allocated over four years from 2010–14 for communication activity to support the rollout of low aromatic Opal fuel across regional and remote Australia.
- The allocation was reduced by \$0.65 million in 2010–11 and \$0.15 million for each financial year from 2011–12 to 2013–14 because the rate of site uptake was slower than anticipated, and did not require the level of paid advertising as originally estimated.
- The reduction in budget has not resulted in a meaningful reduction in communication activity. Key activities have included: Opal technical briefings and community information sessions, targeted editorial in local media, regionally-based print and radio advertising, direct mail to residents, and sponsorship of local community events.
- Communication activities and materials address myths about Opal's reliability.
- Independent testing has confirmed Opal fuel to be as good as, or better than, regular unleaded petrol for cars, boats and small engines where the manufacturer recommends regular unleaded 91 octane as a minimum.

	2010–11 (\$m)	2011–12 (\$m)	2012–13 (\$m)	2013–14 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Communications funding allocated	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.0	5.2
<i>Reduction</i>	-0.65	-0.15	-0.15	-0.15	1.1
<i>Current allocation</i>					\$4.1