

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-275

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ANPHA RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND RESEARCH FUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) You have not provided an answer to part C of the question regarding the extent of the influence of the anti-alcohol lobby within this government. Could you please answer this question?
- b) Who recommended that Mr Daube and the others on the research advisory committee be appointed? Please provide all documents and emails around this process. Who decided the final appointments and against which criterion?
- c) This research committee oversees more than \$17 million dollars of public money. Have the initial allocations been decided yet?
- d) When were they due according to your operation plan? Please advise whom you are going to give money to and for purposes? What is translational research?

Answer:

- a) The Government consults widely with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the development of policy.
- b) The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), acting in accordance with section 42 of the *Australian National Preventive Health Agency Act 2010*, chose and appointed members to the Research Committee. The CEO used the following criteria:
  - Members should be eminent experts in their field, with the overall composition providing expertise on the public health aspects of alcohol, tobacco, and obesity and indigenous expertise,
  - The Committee should include a mix of experience in research, policy development and preventive health practice and understanding of translational research.

Letters of appointment to the Committee and members' acceptances are at Attachments A and D. Professor Daube resigned from the Research Committee on 29 February 2012, citing the need to reduce his workload. The Committee membership is due for review in June 2012. The terms of reference for the Research Committee are also included at Attachment B.

- c) ANPHA is responsible for the expenditure from the research fund, seeking advice from the Research Committee as necessary. Of the \$5.77 million offered for an investigator-driven research program in 2011, \$3,750,139 has been awarded to 13 projects, on advice from the Research Committee. Minister Plibersek and Minister Butler jointly announced the grants on 6 March 2012.

Additional use of the research fund will be decided on completion of a national research strategy informed by wide stakeholder consultation as well as with advice from the Research Committee.

- d)
  - i) The 2011-2012 Operational Plan indicated that the research fund project grant round would be completed by 31 January 2012. Recommended applications were approved by Minister Plibersek in January 2012 and the announcement followed on 6 March 2012. Funding Agreements have been negotiated with successful applicants and execution of the grants is expected to be complete before the end of May 2012.
  - ii) The successful applicants and respective summaries of their projects are listed at Attachment C.
  - iii) Translational research incorporates strategies to ensure benefit from the research for the development of policy and practice. Effective strategies include interactive engagement rather than reliance on disseminating material for passive consumption.