

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-279

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DRUGS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the answer which was provided in response to Question E11-313 in relation to the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs, please advise:

- a) Please explain why there is refusal to provide any information about the activities of the Standing Committee on Alcohol?
- b) Please provide full details including what it does?
- c) Who are its members?
- d) How much money does it spend?
- e) Who does it talk to?

Answer:

- a) The Standing Committee on Alcohol is an Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) sub-committee, and not a Commonwealth committee. However its objectives are outlined in its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference and membership are on the National Drug Strategy website at www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au
- b) The Terms of Reference require the committee to:
 - coordinate implementation of relevant action items in the National Drug Strategy with the initial priority being the development of the National Alcohol Strategy;
 - monitor issues relevant to the misuse of alcohol and provide updates to the IGCD on emerging trends and issues;
 - make recommendations to the IGCD on the Standing Committee's areas of responsibility;
 - critically review, monitor and prioritise Cost Shared Funding Model proposals where appropriate for consideration by the IGCD;
 - facilitate stakeholder engagement and partnership, including inviting additional experts, representatives from other sectors, the alcohol industry where appropriate, and other stakeholders to engage on issues of mutual interest;
 - annually submit a work plan, including timelines and milestones, to the IGCD for approval;

- provide regular progress reports to meetings of the IGCD; and
 - provide an annual report on the activities of the Standing Committee for inclusion in the IGCD's Annual Report
- c) Membership of the Standing Committee on Alcohol includes:
- health representatives from jurisdictions (Northern Territory, Tasmania, and New Zealand currently not members) (Current Chair WA Health);
 - law enforcement representatives from jurisdictions (Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and New Zealand currently not members) (Current Deputy Chair WA Police);
 - one expert nominated by the IGCD as a whole;
 - one expert nominated by IGCD Health officials;
 - one expert nominated by IGCD Law Enforcement officials;
 - two Commonwealth health representatives;
 - one Australian National Preventive Health Agency representative;
 - one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander representative;
 - one representative from the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia; and
 - one representative from the Australian Liquor Licensing Authorities Conference.
- d) The Standing Committee needs to bid for funding through cost shared funding proposals which require Ministerial approval. To date no funds have been approved by the Minister for this sub-committee.
- e) The Standing Committee on Alcohol is currently preparing a stakeholder strategy.