

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-281

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 E11-315 in relation to the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs, please advise:

- a) What advice has so far been released on the National Drug Strategy Website?
- b) Please explain why all advice provided is not automatically released?
- c) If the Government will not release the advices, please provide details of the appropriate Freedom of Information process to obtain it?

Answer:

- a) The National Drug Strategy website includes the Terms of Reference and membership for the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) and the IGCD sub-committee - Standing Committees and Working Groups, and IGCD Communiqués.
- b) All IGCD advice is not automatically released because the purpose of the sub-committees is to advise the IGCD and in turn, inform advice provided to Governments. As IGCD may or may not accept the advice it receives from the sub-committees, public release of this information would be potentially misleading.
- c) The appropriate process to access information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* can be made by sending a 'Request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*' application form (available on the Department of Health and Ageing website at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/foi-about>) to the and sending it to the:

Freedom of Information Coordinator
FOI Unit
Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or

By email: foi@health.gov.au