

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-294

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ALCOHOL POLICY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the answer which was provided in response to Question E11-328 re alcohol policy:

- a) Two industry people that have been appointed to the stated body – claim that they did not know they had been appointed, they were only invited to a consultation session in Canberra, and have received no further contact. Is this correct?
- b) Could you also confirm that there has been a dispute about the minutes of this meeting?
- c) Have there been earlier and/or subsequent meetings or consultations with non-industry members of the expert group?
- d) Please also provide us with a full inventory of all communications (i.e. emails, letters, file notes of conversations, minutes of meetings etc) by the Department with all members of this body?

Answer

- a-d) As explained in E11-328, the Department invited the following organisations to participate in the alcohol knowledge base expert group:
- Australian Liquor Stores Association
 - Winemakers Federation of Australia
 - Brewers Association of Australian and New Zealand
 - Australian Wine Research Institute
 - Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia and
 - Drinkwise Australia.

The Department is not aware of any dispute concerning minutes of meetings. However, we are aware there have been concerns over references cited in the National Alcohol Data Knowledgebase. The Department met with a representative from the Brewers Association of Australian and New Zealand separately to address these concerns.

As the group is an informal consultative structure rather than a formal committee, an inventory of meetings and minutes is not readily available.