

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-311

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: PREVENTION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Prevention, early detection and service improvement - diabetes

On 19 December 2011, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that a program costing \$200 million designed to prevent diabetes is to be scrapped from 1 July 2012. Please provide details including:

- a) Who made the decision to stop funding the "lifestyle modification program"?
- b) When does it stop?
- c) What are the reasons for stopping the program?
- d) What is the breakdown of the spending of the \$200 million allocated from the Council of Australian Governments in 2007?
- e) How many people were referred to the six-week course in dietary and physical activity changes?
- f) Is it true that 2 million Australians are at high risk of type 2 diabetes?
- g) What is the annual cost of treating type 2 diabetes in Australia?
- h) How many preventable hospital admissions are related to diabetes?
- i) How much does the "swap it" website cost the Federal Government per year?
- j) Has there been any evaluation of its effectiveness since it was launched in March 2011?

Answer:

- a) This was a decision of Government, announced as part of its 2010 election commitment and confirmed in the 2011-12 Budget. The lifestyle modification program was one component (\$44.1 million over four years) of a broader Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiative (\$200 million over four years).
- b) 30 June 2012.

- c) Refer to a).
- d) The Council of Australian Governments reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes measure was a \$200 million cost shared initiative over four years (2007-08 to 2010-11) comprising of a \$103 million contribution by the Australian Government towards a national package to prevent type 2 diabetes, and a \$101 million investment by states and territories for other activities to address type 2 diabetes. The Australian Government's \$103 million contribution supported the provision of subsidies under Medicare (\$36.7 million) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (\$21.4 million), \$44.1 million towards the delivery of lifestyle modification programs, and other associated costs (approximately \$0.8 million). A further \$15.3 million was allocated by the Australian Government to extend the lifestyle modification program component to 30 June 2012.
- e) As at 30 November 2011, a total of 4,870 participants had been referred to lifestyle modifications programs since it commenced in July 2008.
- f) This estimate is based on findings originally arising from the 1999-2000 AusDiab study, which indicated that around 1 in every 6 Australians (aged 25 and over) was affected by impaired glucose regulation (IGR)¹.

There are two categories of IGR: impaired fasting glucose (IFG) and impaired glucose tolerance (IGT). Although IFG and IGT are not considered to be diseases in their own right, they are seen as risk factors for the future development of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

While individuals affected by IGR will not inevitably develop diabetes, studies have shown that in studied diabetes populations, 60 per cent of people who developed the disease had been affected by IGR five years before being diagnosed with diabetes².

- g) This data is not available.
- h) According to hospital statistics data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 166,126 potentially preventable hospital separations were attributable to diabetes complications in 2009-10. Potentially preventable hospitalisations are those conditions where hospitalisation is thought to be avoidable if timely and adequate non-hospital care had been provided.³
- i) The cost to host the website, including the mobile site and iPhone application is \$15,708 (GST inclusive) for the 12 month period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Updates to the website incur an additional cost. A total of \$1,663 (GST inclusive) has been spent to date this financial year (2011-2012) on website updates.
- j) The website has been developed as an integral part of the Swap It, Don't Stop It campaign, based on campaign materials and content which have been extensively concept tested to ensure their effectiveness with the target audiences. The website was tested for usability and accessibility. The campaign website itself has not been formally evaluated as a separate element of the campaign.

1 The Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle Study (AusDiab) 2000. Diabesity & Associated Disorders in Australia: The Accelerating Epidemic, p.9.

2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2008. Diabetes: Australian facts 2008. Diabetes series no.8. Cat. no. CVD 40. Canberra: AIHW, p.21.

3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011. Australian hospital statistics 2009-10. Health services series no. 40. Cat. No. HSE 107. Canberra: AIHW, pp.153-154.