

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-324

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: DIABETES PREVENTION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Government has dropped its \$436 million plan for better co-ordination of care for diabetes – from July funding for lifestyle management programs for those at serious risk of diabetes have also been cut. Please advise:

- a) What amount of funding has been withdrawn from this program?
- b) Who was consulted about this funding cut?
- c) What is the view of Diabetes Australia about this funding cut?
- d) Is it the view of Diabetes Australia that the program, if established properly, could be a highly effective measure in helping significant numbers of Australians from developing diabetes?
- e) How does this funding cut fit with government commitments to preventative health?
- f) What remains as the major preventative program for diabetes and what funding is budgeted for this program?

Answer:

The question refers to two programs, these being the Coordinated Care for Diabetes, now referred to as the Diabetes Care Project, and lifestyle modification programs for people at risk of diabetes. Responses to parts a) to d) below relate to the Diabetes Care Project. Responses to parts e) and f) relate to lifestyle modification programs.

Question on Notice E12-311 also provides information on diabetes prevention and the lifestyle modification program.

- a) On 12 November 2010, Minister Roxon announced the commencement of the Coordinated Care for Diabetes pilot, now known as the Diabetes Care Project. The revised expenditure is \$31 million over four years.

- b) Views of key stakeholders were considered in the development of the Diabetes Care Project.
- c) The Department of Health and Ageing is not in a position to comment on the views of third parties. However, on 12 November 2010, Diabetes Australia issued a media release in response to Minister Roxon's announcement of the pilot. Diabetes Australia Acting Chief Executive Officer, Professor Greg Johnson, said that:
"Diabetes Australia looks forward to working with the Government as a key advisor in the Diabetes Advisory Group to design and plan the pilot program and providing strong, consumer focused input. We are pleased that the evaluation will consider patient wellbeing and quality of life indicators."
- d) See above.
- e) Cessation of the lifestyle modification programs for those at high risk of type 2 diabetes followed significant under utilisation of the program. The Government's broader preventive health initiatives, with particular focus on obesity, support the adoption of healthy lifestyles to address the prevalence of lifestyle chronic diseases such as diabetes.
- f) The Government continues to focus on promoting the adoption of healthy lifestyles and addressing the prevalence of lifestyle chronic diseases such as diabetes through the \$872.1 million National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The Partnership Agreement includes funding for lifestyle interventions targeting workplaces, communities and schools, and will be comprehensively evaluated to build a strong evidence base for the most effective interventions (see Attachment A). The Government has also funded a range of initiatives to promote healthy eating and physical activity. These include national guidelines on obesity, nutrition and physical activity, school-based initiatives such as healthy school canteens, and working with industry to make healthier food choices more affordable (see Attachment B).

National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health

The Australian Government has committed \$872.1 million over six years from 2009-10 for the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The Partnership includes the following components:

National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (NPAPH)

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed in November 2008 to a National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (the Partnership), which has a major focus on obesity. The Australian Government is providing \$872.1 million in funding over six years to the Partnership, the biggest investment in health promotion that an Australian Government has ever made. Activities include:

- An extension to the *Measure Up* social marketing campaign (\$59 million from 2009-10 to 2012-13) has been funded to 2013 to provide consumers with information about how to reduce their risk of chronic disease through a healthier lifestyle (www.measureup.gov.au).
- The *Healthy Communities Initiative* (\$71.8 million over four years from 2009-10) which will support up to 90 LGAs in delivering effective community-based physical activity and healthy eating programs, as well as developing a range of local policies that support healthy lifestyle behaviours.
- A *Healthy Children Initiative* (up to \$325.5 million over four years from 2011-12) which will provide funding to states and territories to deliver programs for children aged from birth to 16 years that focus on improving the intake of fruit and vegetables, as well as increasing levels of physical activity and reducing rates of overweight and obesity in early childhood education and care environments and school settings.
- A *Healthy Workers Initiative* (\$294.6 million over four years from 2011-12) which will provide funding to states and territories to deliver healthy living programs in the workplace, focusing on decreasing rates of overweight and obesity, increasing levels of physical activity and intake of fruit and vegetables, as well as reducing harmful levels of alcohol consumption and increasing smoking cessation.
- An *Industry Partnership* (\$1 million over four years from 2009–10) which will establish partnerships with relevant industry and non-government sectors to work collaboratively in reshaping consumer demand and industry supply towards healthy living choices.
- *Enabling Infrastructure* which funds additional activities, including:
 - establishment of a national preventive health agency (\$17.6m over four years);
 - extension of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey to a broader National Health Risk Survey including biomedical data (\$15m over four years);
 - national audit of the preventive health workforce leading to a long-term strategy (\$0.5m over four years);
 - preventive health research fund (\$13m over four years); and
 - expansion of the Eating Disorders Collaboration (\$3m over four years).

More information about these and other initiatives is available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-prevention-np>.

Relevant Australian Government initiatives

The Australian Government also funds a number of other activities that promote physical activity and healthy eating, including:

- *Food and Health Dialogue*: The Australian Government has committed \$900,000 over three years from 2010-11 to support the Food and Health Dialogue (the Dialogue). This voluntary dialogue is working with industry to reduce the burden of chronic disease by making healthier choices easy, affordable and sustainable.
- *Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program*: The Australian Government has committed \$12.8 million over four years from 2008-09 to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in up to 190 government primary schools. The Program is for primary school students in Years 3 – 6 to learn how to grow, cook and share fresh food in the belief that this approach will provide a better chance of positively influencing children's food choices.
- *Get Up & Grow*: Healthy eating and physical activity guidelines for early childhood settings (\$4.5 million over five years from 2007-08), including development of new physical activity guidelines for children aged 0 – 5 years.
- Review of the 2003 *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Overweight and Obesity*, and development of new Healthy Weight Guidelines for consumers (\$1.5 million over three years from 2009-10).
- Review of the *Australian Dietary Guidelines* suite of documents including the *Guide to Healthy Eating* for consumers (\$1.7 million over five years from 2007-08).
- A range of *physical activity guidelines* have been developed for children, youth, adults and older Australians.
- The *National Healthy School Canteen* project has developed nationally consistent tools and training for canteen managers to assess the nutritional value of foods and beverages and make healthier menu selections for school canteens (\$2 million from 2006-2007 over four years until 2009-10).

More information about these and other initiatives is available at: www.healthyactive.gov.au.