

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-387

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP IN SETTING
CANCER RESEARCH PRIORITIES

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Senator Di Natale asked:

How does the National Research Advisory Group set priorities for cancer research?

Answer:

The National Research Advisory Group (NRAG) provided expert advice to Cancer Australia and other relevant parties on current and emerging issues in cancer research and clinical trials.

The NRAG used data from Cancer Australia's National Audit of Cancer Research Projects to inform development of research priorities for the 2009 and 2010 rounds of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme. The research priorities were endorsed by the NRAG.

Cancer Australia's current research priorities include: research focused on populations with poorer cancer outcomes, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; cancers with high burden of disease and mortality, including cancers of the colon and rectum, lung, pancreas, stomach, cancer of unknown primary, and lymphoma.

Cancer Australia is establishing a new advisory structure. A National Research and Data Advisory Group (which incorporates the former NRAG) will provide expert advice about the strategic priority areas of focus in cancer research and data, which support Cancer Australia's Strategic Plan.