

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-027

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: National Surveillance Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In answer to QoN 12 from Supplementary Estimates 2012, the Department confirmed that it has performed no evaluation of the failed 2003 National Surveillance Strategy. In QoN 14, the Department claimed that this is because the Strategy "was never deactivated, but has evolved" into a number of separate initiatives. What are each of these separate initiatives? Has any review or evaluation been performed on any of these "separate initiatives"?

Answer:

The two key surveillance initiatives that have been developed are:

Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR)

AGAR collects, analyses and reports on trends in the level of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria causing important and life threatening infections in humans with onset in both the community and hospital settings.

National Antimicrobial Usage Surveillance Program (NAUSP)

NAUSP collects, analyses and reports on trends in antimicrobial utilisation in Australian hospitals over time at individual hospital and national levels.

No independent evaluation of these programs has been conducted.