

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-043

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

The questions are in relation to the current and future research activity in relation to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). (The FASD report was tabled by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee in the last week of Parliament 2012).

- a) What research has been funded in relation to FASD?
- b) What Funding has been committed and spent to date?
- c) Are the results of projects published, if so where?
- d) What outcomes have been identified that the department working on in relation to FASD?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing has funded a number of projects which has/have involved research into the issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). This has included:
 - The Monograph Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Australia: An Update - a comprehensive report which illustrates the complex multi-faceted nature of FASD in Australia;
 - The Marulu: Lililwan Project - a community driven project to determine the prevalence of FASD among children born in 2002 and 2003 in the Fitzroy Crossing Valley in the Kimberley region of Western Australia; and
 - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare scoping study project - aimed at improving data collection and reporting on FASD.
- b) The following table shows the total of committed and expended funds on projects relevant to FASD funded by the Department from 2008-09 to 2014-15.

DoHA Funded FASD Activity	Total
Marulu: Lililwan Project – DoHA contribution* NB - co-funded by DoHA, NHMRC & FAHCSIA.	\$831,847
National Drug Research Institute - National Indigenous FASD Resources	\$698,956
National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders (NOFASARD) Total funding - \$955,124	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed funding • Recent funding 	\$189,900
Promotion of NHMRC Guidelines to reduce Health Risks Associated with Drinking Alcohol (DrinkWise project)	\$765,224
Awareness raising with health professionals (FARE Project)	\$545,454
Telethon Institute -Diagnostic instrument	\$595,000
AIHW scoping study re data collection	\$454,544
Alcohol consumption measurement tool	\$212,082
University of Sydney - Update of the FASD Monograph	\$30,000
Overall Total	\$63,518
	\$4,386,525

- c) The Monograph Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Australia: An Update can be found at www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au
- d) The Department has been tasked with coordinating the whole of government response to the final report of the House of Representatives Inquiry into FASD. Work is underway in partnership with a number of different agencies through a recently established FASD Interdepartmental Committee.

It is anticipated that the response to the final report will be provided to Government in mid-2013.