

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-152

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Harmful Use of Alcohol

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Questions:**

- a) Is it the Department's understanding that the Australian Government is content with the global target set for alcohol consumption set within the Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs as being "at least 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol, as appropriate, within the national context."?
- b) What indicator/s will the Department and the Government set to measure reductions in harmful alcohol use in Australia?
- c) How will the Department and the Government define 'harmful use of alcohol' in order set a benchmark by which to achieve reductions over time?

**Answers:**

a) to c)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a draft global monitoring framework to enable global tracking of progress in preventing and controlling major non-communicable diseases - cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic lung diseases and diabetes - and their key risk factors. The draft framework comprises nine global targets and 25 indicators. These draft targets and indicators have not yet been formally agreed by Member States of the WHO. Agreeing to their adoption will be discussed during the World Health Assembly in May 2013.

The question of the indicators to be used as measure reduction in harmful alcohol consumption will be settled following the formal agreement of the framework by the WHO. Australia currently has national data for monitoring trends in harmful alcohol consumption. Harmful alcohol consumption will be measured against the standard set in the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol.