

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-153

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: National Alcohol Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Questions:

- a) The National Alcohol Strategy expired in 2009 and was extended to 2011. It is now 2013 and Australia still does not have a National Alcohol Strategy. Can the Department provide an explanation as to why a new National Alcohol Strategy has not been developed?
- b) Can the Department indicate when a revised National Alcohol Strategy will be developed?

Answer:

- a) The National Alcohol Strategy is one of the sub-strategies sitting under the umbrella of the National Drug Strategy, which is the product of a partnership between the Health and Law Enforcement Portfolios of all Australian Governments. The current National Drug Strategy 2010-2015, continues to provide a framework for action on alcohol.
- b) The Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs manages ongoing work under the National Drug Strategy, and has allocated the responsibility of updating the National Alcohol Strategy to its Alcohol Working Group, headed by WA Health. Development of a revised National Alcohol Strategy is underway, and is expected to be finalised by mid 2014.