

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-156

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic:** Hepatitis C

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

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

"In regards to the answers given to QON from October 2012 ref (E12-194) the Department has engaged David Fowler Consulting to conduct a Review into the National Hepatitis C Strategy.

- a) When will the review be completed?
- b) With whom is Mr Fowler meeting with to assist in his review?
- c) Will the review be made public if so when, if not why not?
- d) With whom has he met with to date?
- e) The answer makes reference to "an agreed set of terms of reference". What are they? Please table these.
- f) In regards to KPIs within the strategy, who is advising Mr Fowler on whether those KPIs have actually been met? And what has actually been done to meet those KPIs?
- g) Has Hepatitis Australia been involved or will they be consulted into whether the Hep C strategy has met its objectives in terms of treatment rates?
- h) When was the last meeting the Department had with Hepatitis Australia to discuss the issues in this area?
- i) With regard to treatment targets and the Auckland statements request for 5% treatment target, has the department discussed this with the Minister for Health or her advisers?"

**Answer:**

- a) The Mid-Term Review of the Implementation Plan for the National Strategies 2010-2013 for Blood Borne viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (Implementation Plan) was undertaken on the:
  - National Hepatitis B Strategy 2010-2013;
  - Third National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010-2013;
  - Sixth National HIV Strategy 2010-2013;

- Second National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2010-2013; and
- Third National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2010-2013.

Analysis of the draft Mid-Term Review of the Implementation Plan is currently being conducted.

- b) Mr David Fowler met with a range of key blood borne virus and sexually transmissible infections stakeholders including members of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVS) and a jurisdictional subcommittee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, the Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Standing Committee (BBVSS).
- c) The final report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation Plan will be referred to the Minister for consideration.
- d) Please see answer at b).
- e) The Terms of Reference are attached (Attachment A).
- f) The objectives and indicators for the Implementation Plan are taken from the National Strategies for Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections. David Fowler sourced information from the National Blood-borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance and Monitoring Report to provide analysis of progress against the Implementation Plan. The National Blood-borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance and Monitoring Report reports annual progress against the goals and objectives of the National Strategies. This report is published by the Kirby Institute for infection and immunity in society and is overseen by the MACBBVS. The internet link to this report is at:  
<http://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/surveillance/2011-nbbv-sti-monitoring-report>
- g) Hepatitis Australia was involved in consultations through their membership on the BBVSS. Hepatitis Australia was also consulted in August 2012 as part of the Implementation Plan consultations.
- h) The Department of Health and Ageing met with Hepatitis Australia on 14 February 2013 and the Department regularly engages with Hepatitis Australia through the BBVSS. The last BBVSS meeting was 22 February 2013.
- i) The Minister has been advised of the Auckland Statement and the targets it contains through the MACBBVS Chair's Report to the Minister in December 2012.

**Terms of Reference**  
**Mid-term Review of the Implementation Plan: National Strategies 2010 - 2013**

The *Implementation Plan: National Strategies 2010 – 2013* (IP) was developed in consultation with jurisdictions and funded stakeholder organisations. The IP sets out the mechanisms by which each priority action will be addressed and how progress will be measured.

***Role and function of the Mid-term Review***

The Mid-term Review of the IP shall examine what has been achieved to date under each Strategy, determine the priorities still requiring action until the end of June 2013, and identify barriers that may prevent priorities being addressed in the next 12 to 18 months.

The Mid-term review will:

- Seek written and verbal stakeholder input on the progress of the IP;
- Seek qualitative input from stakeholders on the successes and progress so far in their areas of responsibility;
- Seek input from jurisdictions, on state and territory funded programs contributing to achieving the priority actions in the National Strategies;
- Consolidate this input and review other sources as required to provide an analysis of progress against the IP;
- Incorporate overarching commentary from the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee (BBVSS) and Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVS), Chairs into a final draft report analysing the progress in implementing the National BBV and STI Strategies; and
- Be guided by a joint time limited BBVSS and MACBBVS Mid-term Review Steering Committee.

The Mid-term Review is expected to conclude in September 2012.

The Final Report will be provided to MACBBVS for noting; to BBVSS for endorsement (out-of-session); and then AHPPC for endorsement in late 2012.

Once endorsed, the Final Report will be made available for public viewing on the Department of Health and Ageing's website.