

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-159

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Antimicrobial Resistance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

The ostensible purpose of the "National Surveillance and Reporting of Antimicrobial Resistance and Antibiotic Usage in Australia: Ways Forward" report is to "inform the development of a business case for a coordinated and efficient national approach to reporting and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage across Australia". What does a "business case" mean in a public health context? Does this imply that if it is not cost-effective to perform national surveillance and monitoring on antimicrobial resistance then such surveillance and monitoring will not be funded? What considerations, criteria and methodology will be applied to inform this "business case"?

Answer:

The use of the term 'business case' used in the Chair's report following the first Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee is to describe a work plan of activity to support the prevention of Antimicrobial Resistance that would require funding. Such a work plan might need to detail what costs would be required to undertake a coordinated and efficient national approach to reporting and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage across Australia.