

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000081

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Alcohol Policy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs held a special meeting with alcohol and other drugs stakeholders in November 2014 to discuss alcohol related violence and harms. What action has been taken since this meeting?

Answer:

The InterGovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) held a National Stakeholder Meeting on Alcohol Related Violence and Harms in Canberra on 19 November 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to inform IGCD's advice to ministers on the specific issue of alcohol related violence and harms, and to also inform the development of the next iteration of a National Alcohol Strategy for 2016-21.

At its meeting on 5 March 2015, the IGCD asked the Commonwealth Department of Health to engage a consultant to undertake stakeholder consultation and drafting of the National Alcohol Strategy. This process is expected to commence in May 2015. The aim is to finalise the National Alcohol Strategy for implementation from 2016, noting that finalization will be dependent on ministerial approval through the responsible Council of Australian Governments forums.