

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000084

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Alcohol and Drug Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Has the Department any concerns about the impact of the loss of alcohol and drug services and the Government's commitment to reducing domestic violence?

Answer:

Funding responsibility for supporting alcohol and drug services became shared by the Department of Health and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the Machinery of Government changes in late 2013. The total funding level provided by the Commonwealth has not changed.

The Commonwealth Government is strongly committed to addressing the issue of violence against women. In June 2014, the Prime Minister launched the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The Government is investing more than \$100 million over the next four years to support the Second Action Plan.

The Prime Minister has also elevated the issue to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). COAG met on 17 April 2015 and agreed to take urgent collective action to address the unacceptable level of violence against women.

COAG have agreed to jointly contribute \$30 million for a national campaign to reduce violence against women and their children.

An Advisory Panel is being established to support this work by the Council of Australian Governments. The Advisory Panel is chaired by former Victorian Police Commissioner, Mr Ken Lay APM and has Australian of the Year, Ms Rosie Batty as a founding member.