

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000089

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Strategy

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

What will be the impact on the existing National Service Improvement Frameworks that sit under the National Chronic Disease Strategy?

**Answer:**

The National Service Improvement Frameworks (NSIFs) associated with the 2005 National Chronic Disease Strategy (the Strategy) specifically addressed the first five chronic conditions identified as National Health Priority Areas: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, and asthma. This disease-specific approach is inconsistent with best practice evidence, and recent policy directions (both nationally and internationally), which indicate that chronic conditions can be more effectively addressed through an integrated approach that considers shared risk factors and disease co-morbidities.

Work is underway to develop a new National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions (the Framework). While the Framework will supersede the Strategy, the NSIFs will not be revisited as part of this process. However, the focus (as emphasised in the NSIFs) on a patient-centred approach, particularly in areas such as self-management and health literacy, is anticipated to be retained under the Framework.