

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No: SQ16-000017**

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Seventh Conference of the Parties meeting in New Delhi in November (or COP 7)

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

**Senator:** Canavan, Matthew

**Question:**

- a) How many Health Department staff are working on preparations for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control's 'Seventh Conference of the Parties' (or COP 7) conference in India in November of this year?
- b) Has the membership of the Health delegation to the COP 7 conference been determined?
- c) If so, how many Health Department staff will be travelling to New Delhi?
- d) From what employee classification will members of the Health delegation be drawn from?
- e) Did the Health Department liaise with any other Department or agency on the composition of its delegation to COP 7?
- f) Illicit trade will be a major policy agenda item at this year's COP 7 meeting. As this is an issue outside the Health portfolio's remit, who will be representing the Australian Government on this policy issue at COP 7?
- g) Will the Department be adding anyone to its delegation who has expertise on the illicit trade in tobacco?
- h) In preparing a delegation brief for COP 7 has the Health department sought any advice, or will it seek any advice, from officials in the Department of Immigration and Border protection or from officials within the Australian Border Force on the issue of the illicit trade in tobacco?
- i) Complex legal policy issues to do with civil liability and class actions will be a major policy agenda item at this year's COP 7 meeting. As this is a policy issue outside the Health portfolio's remit, who will be representing the Australian Government on this agenda item at COP 7?
- j) In preparing a delegation brief for COP 7 has the Health Department sought any advice, or will it seek any advice, from officials in the Attorney-General's Department on the upcoming COP 7 agenda items dealing strictly with legal issues?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of Health has not commenced preparations for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) as the agenda has yet to be finalised.
- b) No.

c) N/A

d) N/A

e) N/A

f) The agenda for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) has yet to be finalised. In accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the agenda does not have to be finalised and circulated to Parties, including Australia, until September 2016 (i.e. 60 days before the opening of the first day of the session).

g) The Department will consider the composition of the delegation once the agenda is finalised.

h) The Department will consult with all relevant agencies when developing Australia's delegation brief for COP7.

i) See g) above.

j) See h) above.