

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000027

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Department of Health Funding to AIVL

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

a) I understand that recent changes to funding arrangements have left the Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug User League (AIVL) in a position where its future is in doubt - is that correct?

b) Did the Department intend that the recent changes to funding would result in there no longer being funding available to support the continued existence of the only peer-based national drug user organisation in Australia?

Answer:

- a) Through the Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Prevention Programme, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League Inc (AIVL) will receive \$1.115 million (GST inclusive) over two years to continue to deliver hepatitis C education and awareness activities and to encourage the use of Needle and Syringe Programs to prevent hepatitis C transmission.

This funding is in addition to the \$370,000 (GST exclusive) (from 25 June 2015 until 31 December 2016) already provided to AIVL through the Communicable Disease Prevention and Service Improvements Grant Fund to undertake the community arm of Hepatitis C Awareness Activities (the Activities). The aim of the Activities is to target information to priority populations to 'prime' them for new hepatitis C treatments by encouraging them to know their hepatitis C status, to establish a link into care so they are ready to access treatment when it becomes available and to encourage usage of Needle and Syringe Program services for prevention, safe injecting practices and as a source of information on hepatitis C testing, treatment and care.

AIVL also receives funding up to \$203,650 (GST exclusive) over 2015-16 under the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Programme (NGOTGP) and Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund (SMSDGF). This funding is being extended until 30 June 2017 in line with extensions to other alcohol and other drug treatment organisations funded under the NGOTGP and SMSDGF.

- b) As per part a) above, under current arrangements AIVL is delivering project activities funded by the Department of Health until 30 June 2018.