

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000029

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: AIVL Funding - New Generation Hepatitis C treatments

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The Commonwealth has recently committed \$1 billion over 5 years to providing universal access to the new generation hepatitis C treatments. Given this major investment, why at this crucial time would no inclusion be made for funding for peer-based drug user organisations and peaks to undertake their critical role in ensuring the successful national rollout of those new treatments through the effective engagement and mobilisation of the key affected community, people who inject or have injected drugs?

Answer:

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.