

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Senate Additional Estimates, 2015-16, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000053

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Tobacco Control

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: GALLAGHER, Katy

Question:

Can the Department provide data, including graphs, on smoking rates other than those included in the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey?

Answer:

Information relating to smoking prevalence data, including graphs, can be found at the following websites:

Post-Implementation Review of Tobacco Plain Packaging 2016

On 26 February 2016, the Office of Best Practice Regulation released the Post-Implementation Review of Tobacco Plain Packaging 2016 (PIR). The graph at page 35 of the PIR, outlines the “Overall Monthly Smoking prevalence (January 2001 to September 2015) from the Roy Morgan single source survey. The PIR and its appendices can be found on the Australian Government Office of Best Practice Regulation website at <http://ris.dpmc.gov.au/2016/02/26/tobacco-plain-packaging/>.

ABS National Health Survey: First Results 2014-15

On 8 December 2015, the ABS released the *National Health Survey: First Results 2014-15*. The survey was conducted in all states and territories and across urban, rural and remote areas of Australia (other than very remote areas) from July 2014 to June 2015, and included around 19,000 people in nearly 15,000 private dwellings.

The report shows that in 2014-15:

- 14.7% (age-standardised) of adults aged 18 years and over smoked daily (approximately 2.6 million smokers), decreasing from 16.1% in 2011-2012; and
- 16.9% of males and 12.1% of women smoked daily.

A summary of the report’s findings is available on the ABS website at: www.abs.gov.au. Table 9 details smoking related data.

Australian Secondary School Students' use of tobacco in 2014

On 24 November 2015, the Cancer Council Victoria released the *2014 Australian secondary school student's use of tobacco report*. Over 23,000 secondary aged students aged between 12 and 17 years of age participated in the survey during months of June to December of the 2014 academic school year.

Key findings from the survey are:

- smoking among 12 to 15 year olds is at its lowest level since 1984, when the survey began;
- significant decrease in youth smoking rate of 12-17 year old, in 2014, 5% were current smokers which were significantly lower than the 7% found in both 2011 and 2008; and
- more youth have no experience with smoking in their lifetime: 94% of 12 years old and 61% of 17 years old.

The full report is available at: www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In June 2014, the ABS released the *Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Updated Results, 2012-13*. The final results of the survey were based on the full Indigenous sample of around 12,900.

Key findings from the 2012-2013 survey were:

- 41% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over smoked on a daily basis, a significant decrease from 49% in 2002.
- There has been a progressive decrease in daily smoking rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, declining from 49% in 2002 to 45% in 2008, and then to 41% in 2012–13.

A written summary of the tobacco related findings is available at the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au. More detailed tobacco related findings are in Tables 10, 11 and 12.