

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000327

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Biosecurity

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Abetz, Eric

Question:

If so, has the TGA had any engagement with the US Government on the threat of the possible release of the smallpox virus and other biological threats?

Answer:

Australia engages internationally on issues around communicable disease control and biological threats at World Health Organization fora. The threat posed by smallpox virus and the potential destruction of remaining live viral stocks of smallpox virus is a recurring theme.

The Department also engages in government to government discussions about health threats and response arrangements with like-minded nations in both civilian and defence fora. Discussions include but are not limited to diseases like smallpox, Ebola and pandemic influenza.