

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000116

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Taxpayer spending on the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

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

**Senator:** Bernardi, Cory

**Question:**

How much has the Australian Government provided the FCTC each financial year since funding first commenced and what was the Government's stated objective for doing so?

**Answer:**

As a Party to the WHO FCTC, Australia pays biennial "Assessed Contributions" toward the workplan and budget agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC. The workplan and budget includes the essential work of the Convention Secretariat in preparing for sessions of the COP and meetings of its subsidiary bodies, support for the development of Protocols, guidelines and other instruments for implementation of the Convention, reporting arrangements under the Convention, as well as the activities agreed by the COP to provide assistance for Parties' implementation of the Convention according to COP priorities.

In addition, Australia has from time to time made voluntary contributions toward components of the COP workplan and budget that are not covered by Assessed Contributions.

Australia's Assessed Contributions since 2006 total \$A1,474,171.90 comprising:

- \$A234,220.57 in 2006-07;
- \$A212,366.46 in 2008-09;
- \$A234,000 in 2009-10;
- \$A219,780.84 in 2012-13;
- \$A260,383.03 in 2014-15; and
- \$A313,421 in 2016-17.

Australia's voluntary contributions total \$A2,912,000 comprising:

- \$A877,000 in 2010-11 for:
  - a co-contribution with Cancer Council Australia for WHO FCTC Needs Assessments in developing countries in the Western Pacific region;
  - supporting the development of guidelines for Article 6 – Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco products;

- supporting the adaptation of health warnings and social marketing materials for use in low-income countries;
  - an international demand reduction database;
  - improving the WHO FCTC implementation reporting; and
  - contribution to WHO FCTC implementation needs assessments in least-developed Commonwealth countries.
- \$A200,000 in 2011-12 to recruit and employ a Junior Professional Officer or equivalent to the WHO FCTC Secretariat, to support work on legal matters for one year.
  - \$A985,000 in 2012-13 was used for:
    - the development of WHO FCTC guidelines and technical instruments related to Articles 6, 9, 10, 17, 18 and 19;
    - priority technical preparations for entry into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; and
    - supporting the implementation of the WHO FCTC in developing countries.
  - \$A850,000 in 2014-15 towards:
    - the FCTC Impact Assessment;
    - the review of FCTC reporting requirements; and
    - the engagement of a Technical Officer.