

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000117

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:

Does the FCTC provide the Australian Government with any detail on how Australian taxpayers' money is being spent? If not, has the Australian Government or the Department of Health ever requested an itemised account of what this money has been used for?

Answer:

Prior to making Assessed Contributions to the work of the WHO FCTC, Australia, as a Party to the WHO FCTC, agrees to the workplan and budget of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC, which are publicly available from the WHO website (www.who.int). Australian Government Assessed Contributions are not specifically itemised and this information has not been sought.

Contributions to the workplan and budget of the COP to the WHO FCTC cover 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.

The WHO FCTC Secretariat provides interim and/or final performance reports on the implementation of COP workplans and budgets in advance of each session of the COP. Performance reports are publicly available on the WHO FCTC website. Intersessional updates on the implementation of the COP workplan and budget are also provided to Parties through the Bureau of the COP.