

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000126

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Q Fever Vaccine

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Williams, John

Question:

Did the department evaluate the effectiveness of the National Immunisation Program – Q fever vaccine? If so, what were the findings?

Answer:

The Australian Government funded the time-limited Q fever vaccination program from 2001 to 2006, for targeted screening and vaccination of at-risk groups. The aim of the Q fever vaccination program at the time was to encourage industry and employers to take responsibility for screening and vaccination of those at risk and for promoting ongoing awareness of the disease.

An evaluation of the Q fever vaccination program in 2005 confirmed that Q fever is most prevalent amongst those working in the meat and livestock industry and concluded that it was appropriate for industry and employers to take responsibility for screening and vaccination as part of their work health and safety requirements. Other vaccinations for employment related infectious diseases are funded by employers or individuals, not by the National Immunisation Program.