

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000355

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

**Topic:** Alcohol and Other Drugs

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

Health groups have repeatedly said that accessing drug treatment services can be difficult; that many are already overwhelmed, and some services are not attuned to the needs of crystal methamphetamine users (which can be quite different from other addicts). How has the Government responded to the demand and the problems in accessing services?

**Answer:**

Provision of drug and alcohol treatment services is the primary responsibility of state and territory governments.

It is important to note that available evidence based drug and alcohol treatments are also effective treatment options for crystal methamphetamine users. However, in some instances a longer support period is required due to a prolonged withdrawal period.

Under the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS), the Australian Government is providing funding of \$241.5 million for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to commission additional drug and alcohol treatment services to meet local need, including funding of \$78.6 million for Indigenous specific services.

The objective of NIAS funding to PHNs is broader than commissioning additional treatment services. PHNs can use this funding for workforce development activities including promoting quality improvement approaches and supporting the drug and alcohol workforce through education and training.