

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000383

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Alcohol and other Drugs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Can you tell us what measures the Department is taking to build capacity and ensure the quality of drug and alcohol treatment services?

Answer:

Funding to Primary Health Networks (PHNs) under the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS) will increase the service delivery capacity of the drug and alcohol treatment sector through the commissioning of additional methamphetamine, alcohol and other drug treatment services.

PHNs are required to promote quality improvement approaches and support primary health professionals and specialists through drug and alcohol education and training. Peaks will also work with PHNs in this area, to help ensure consistency, quality and improve service integration.

The Department of Health will also continue funding drug and alcohol peak bodies, for a further two years from July 2017, to continue to play an important part in supporting drug and alcohol treatment services through workforce support and capacity building activities.

In addition, the Commonwealth is exploring piloting of a national quality framework for drug and alcohol treatment services, which is being progressed through a National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC) Working Group. The Commonwealth, through the Department of Health, is working with Queensland and Victorian state health departments to progress the issue as a priority, and will report regularly to the NDSC regarding progress.