

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-086

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: OPAL FUEL

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Senator Siewert asked:

You would be aware of the recommendation to this committee that - and this was made some time ago, so it is more than six months down the track since we made that recommendation - the Commonwealth should look at some sort of mandatory process. Has the department or has the government started looking at that?

Answer:

In line with the recommendations from the Senate Inquiry report: *Grasping the Opportunity of Opal: Assessing the Impact of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy*, in 2010 the Department explored the options for developing legislation to mandate the supply of Opal fuel and to control the sale of premium unleaded petrol in specified areas.

The Government has decided to invest in overcoming storage and distribution issues to support the further voluntary rollout of low aromatic fuel and in the collection of more comprehensive data on the impact of low aromatic fuel on the prevalence of petrol sniffing.

The Government will use data on the impact of the expanded voluntary roll out of low aromatic fuel (Opal) to inform future consideration on the value of legislation.