

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-021

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH AGENCY (ANPHA)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

What work has the Agency done to date on substance abuse in Australia, including alcohol, crystal meth-amphetamines, cannabis, heroin and ecstasy addiction?

Answer:

ANPHA has a strategic focus on reducing the harmful consumption of alcohol and in particular to promote and support evidence-based approaches through strong policies and programs. This will include leadership in relation to the National Binge Drinking Strategy expansion measures and on considering the case for a minimum (or floor) price.

In relation to illicit drugs, ANPHA recognises the evidence that health risks do not occur in isolation from each other and that effective and comprehensive prevention programs have to be broad and innovative in their consideration of risk. With this approach it is expected that ANPHA will need to consider substance abuse broadly and that illicit drugs will not, and should not, be divorced from efforts to develop effective policies and programs.