

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-283

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Antimicrobial Resistance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) What are the terms of reference of the recently announced antimicrobial resistance advisory Committee?
- b) What is its name and membership?
- c) Will its Terms of Reference be the same as the previous Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (EAGAR) If not why not?
- d) Has the Department established this new Committee to pick up where EAGAR left off? How will the committee be resourced?

Answer:

- a) The Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee's (AMRSC) terms of reference and membership is awaiting endorsement by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC). The next AHMAC meeting is scheduled for August 2012.
- b) The name of this group is the Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee.

The proposed non-government membership of AMRSC includes nominations from the following organisations:

- National Health and Medical Research Council
- National Prescribing Service
- Australasian Society for Infectious Disease
- Australian Society for Antimicrobials
- Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control
- Communicable Diseases Network Australia
- Public Health Laboratory Network
- Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

- c) It is anticipated that the Terms of Reference for the AMRSC will address similar areas as EAGAR's Terms of Reference in terms of a focus on monitoring and surveillance, research and reporting, educating and informing the public, as well as reviewing regulatory systems.
- d) AMRSC brings together agencies that are currently driving national Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) activities. AMRSC will not only provide a basis to promote information exchange, coordination and co-operation at a national level, it will also provide a platform for Australia to benefit from, and contribute to, international discussions on AMR.

The development of a scoping study under the auspices of the AMRSC will be used to provide recommendations on how current AMR activities might be linked and to provide options for national reporting and analysis of antimicrobial resistance and usage surveillance.

Budget for the AMRSC will be provided by the ACSQHC for the initial period to 30 June 2013, at which time this arrangement will be reviewed.