

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: E12-285

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Antimicrobial Resistance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

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Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

The Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) JETACAR Taskforce, which was appointed by (AHMC) in 2000 to assist formal consultation with the States and Territories and to monitor implementation was disbanded in 2002 because according to the Department of Health and Ageing website, it had completed its work. Please describe in detail the work that it had completed, including outcomes and actions

Answer:

In August 2000, AHMC appointed the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (JETACAR) Taskforce to monitor and report to the Minister for Health and Ageing on the implementation of the Government Response to the JETACAR report. Members from the AHMC JETACAR Taskforce, along with members of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) JETACAR Taskforce, were actively involved in the Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Workshop (4 May 2001) and the National Summit on Antibiotic Resistance (30 to 31 May 2001) organised by the department and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. With its state/territory government connections and expertise, the AHMC JETACAR Taskforce contributed to the activities of the Commonwealth Interdepartmental JETACAR Implementation Group (CIJIG).

Key activities of the AHMC JETACAR Taskforce included:

- Submission of a progress report to AHMC in February 2002.
- Submission of a final report to AHMC in November 2002. This report detailed progress achieved to date by CIJIG and Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance to implement the Commonwealth Government's response to the JETACAR recommendations, and recommended five Action Points.
- Convened by teleconferences four times and face-to-face twice.
- Participation in most CIJIG meetings.
- Wrote, with the Chairs of CIJIG and the Standing Committee of Agriculture and Resource Management JETACAR Taskforce, to stakeholders in January 2001 to request their input into further development and implementation of the Commonwealth Government's response to the JETACAR recommendations.

- Facilitation of consultation between CIJIG and State and Territory governments in planning and implementing an effective national response to antimicrobial resistance.
- Participation in the National Summit on Antimicrobial Resistance (30 and 31 May 2001) and the workshop on Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance (4 May 2001).
- Participation in the nationwide consultation on antimicrobial resistance surveillance, which culminated in the Surveillance Strategy and Action Plan.

The AHMC JETACAR Taskforce submitted its Final Report to AHMAC in November 2002. This concluded the role of the Taskforce. A copy of this report is provided for your information.