

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-029

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Minimum (floor) Price for Alcohol

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Crossin

Question:

In 2012-13 the Australian National Preventative Health Agency (ANPHA) produced two issues papers on alcohol policy reform these are: " Exploring the public interest case for a minimum (floor) price for alcohol; and " Considering the effectiveness of current regulatory codes around alcohol advertising, marketing and regulation ". A two stage process is being followed for each review.

For the review of minimum (floor) pricing the first paper was released in June 2012 and the second stage draft report 'Exploring the public interest case for a minimum (floor) price for alcohol' was released in November 2012. This second stage report received 37 submissions. When asked about the release of the final report of this review, during Senate Estimates, 13 February, Ms Louise Sylvan, Chief Executive Officer answered that ANPHA was aiming to release the final report on Minimum Price by the end of March 2013. This report is not yet publicly available.

The second reform agenda being reviewed by ANPHA is on alcohol advertising and after consultation with ANPHA's 'Expert Committee on Alcohol,' the approach to this review was broadened from the original set task of monitoring the compliance by the alcohol industry to the existing voluntary codes to investigating the current state of alcohol advertising, marketing and regulation in Australia. Submissions were invited on the draft issues paper the 'Alcohol Advertising: the effectiveness of current regulatory codes in addressing community concerns' by end March 2013. No further drafts or information about the second stage of this process have been made available.

It is important that these two areas are progressed, particularly alcohol pricing reform which is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce alcohol-related harms. Has the final report by ANPHA on Minimum price been submitted to the Minister and will the final report on 'Exploring the public interest case for a minimum (floor) price for alcohol' be made publicly available prior to the Federal Election on September 2013?

Answer:

Following an extensive and transparent public consultation process, the Australian National Preventive Health Agency provided its final report and advice - 'Exploring the public interest case for a minimum (floor) price for alcohol' - to Government on 2 May 2013. The Government is currently considering this report. As per Section 11A of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency Act 2010 public disclosure on the Agency's website of preventive health advice to the Minister must occur within 12 months of providing that advice.