

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001010

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Preventative Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

We are abolishing an agency specifically tasked with the prevention function and taking money away from the states to deliver prevention activities focussed on tobacco and alcohol and to encourage physical activity. What is your strategy for dealing with prevention?

Answer:

The Australian Government has indicated it remains committed to evidence-based preventive health policies and programmes and to supporting people to take personal responsibility for their lifestyle actions by reducing their health related risk factors. In addition to returning all ongoing programmes managed by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency back to the Department of Health, many long standing prevention initiatives continue and are being expanded, for example cancer screening and immunisation. As well, the Government is working with key stakeholders to ensure that health services are oriented to supporting preventive health activities where appropriate, for example, through the establishment of Primary Health Networks and the development of the National Diabetes Strategy.