

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000367

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: National Drug Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Why has the government decided to cut health flexible funds from substance abuse programs at the same time it is funding TV commercials?

Answer:

Funding levels have been maintained for drug and alcohol treatment service delivery in 2015-16.

The 2015-16 Federal Budget measure ‘Rationalising and Streamlining Health Programmes’ includes additional savings through streamlining funding across a range of Health programmes, including Flexible Funds. A decision on how these savings will be applied has not yet been made. The Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP will consider how to apply these savings, while directing funding to the Government’s priorities and supporting service provision.