

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000665

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Drug and alcohol treatment

Type of Question: Hansard Page 55, 30 May 2017

Question:

Senator DI NATALE: So the department was consulted. It provided advice primarily on the location of drug treatment services. That was effectively the extent of the advice provided to the Department of Social Services. As far as you are aware, the advisory council on alcohol and other drugs was not consulted—we will test that tomorrow—and the extent of your involvement in this process has been to provide information as to where drug and alcohol treatment services are located. Is that an accurate summary?

Dr Studdert: Senator, because I was not a party to those conversations, can I take on notice to give you a more specific answer around the nature of the advice that was provided? I think it was probably broader than just the location of services. I think the nature of services, the work that we are doing through the ice action strategy and the consultations that were done as part of the ice action strategy were likely part of those conversations. We are very happy to give you a little bit more information so as not to oversimplify in characterising that advice.

Answer:

Advice was provided to DSS to assist them in developing an implementation strategy for this budget measure. This advice was provided in a range of formats and over a period of time. The advice provided addressed:

- Best practice AOD treatment options
- Federally funded treatment types in possible trial locations
- Communication and messaging suggestions
- Funding breakdown under the National Ice Action Strategy
- Suggesting stakeholders to be consulted as part of the implementation planning
- Clarity on language and clinical descriptions
- Facilitation of connection with AOD Research specialists
- Issues to consider in developing a drug testing model
- Fact checking and content support of Question and Answer materials