

0Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000668

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Life Education

Type of Question: Hansard Page 56, 30 May 2017

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

Question:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Can you tell me why the decision was made to discontinue the funding to Life Education?

Mr Laffan: We would need to take that on notice. But you will appreciate there are lots of competing priorities in the drug and alcohol space.

Answer:

The Department's funding arrangements with Life Education Australia will expire in January 2018.

A recent review of what works in school-based alcohol and drug education by researchers from the National Centre for Excellence in Training on Addiction, and the National Drug Research Institute found mixed evidence for the effectiveness of school based alcohol education programs and little evidence for the specific program delivered by Life Education Victoria.

The Government supports a number of initiatives in preventing the use of licit and illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol among young Australians. The Government's funding for education and prevention activities includes the Positive Choices Web Portal, Cracks in the Ice Online Community Toolkit and Local Drug Action Teams, all of which support prevention activities and have a solid evidence base to support effectiveness, which will be consistently evaluated into the future. The Department is also working with the Department of Education in the development of alcohol and drug resources through the Student and Wellbeing Hub.