

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000702

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: National Tobacco Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

Question:

- a) What priority has been given to reducing the availability of illicit tobacco, within the National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018?
- b) Who has been tasked with this priority?
- c) Will there be a National Illicit Tobacco Strategy?
- d) Who would lead this strategy?
- e) If yes, how much and for what period?

Answer:

- a) Australia's National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018 (NTS 2012-2018) sets out a national policy framework for the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work together and in collaboration with non-government organisations to improve the health of all Australians by reducing the prevalence of smoking and its associated health, social and economic costs, and the inequalities it causes.

An important priority area of the NTS 2012-2018 is to continue to reduce the affordability of tobacco products, including through the continuation of 'enforcement efforts to prevent the illegal importation and illegal supply of and cultivation of tobacco'. The NTS is available at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/tobacco-strategy>

- b) The Department of Health has broad and lead policy responsibility for health related issues in relation to tobacco control and as Australia's focal point for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control including on illicit tobacco.

A number of other Australian Government and state and territory government agencies are responsible for various elements of tobacco control, including illicit tobacco. The Department does not have a central role in relation to the regulatory compliance responsibility for illicit tobacco. The Department does, however, work with other agencies in a cooperative and collaborative manner in relation to the issue of illicit tobacco.

- c) At this stage, the Australian Government is not developing a stand-alone 'National Illicit Tobacco Strategy'. A new NTS will be developed and it is likely that this framework will again be used to address the issue of illicit tobacco from a national perspective. The new NTS will be developed in conjunction with other agencies and the states and territories.
- d) Not Applicable.
- e) Not Applicable.