

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000722

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

What approaches are taken to ensure that all government agencies are aware of and comply with Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Guidelines?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health (the Department) has engaged the Office of International Law, Attorney-General's Department, to develop a Guidance Note to ensure that public officials understand their role in fulfilling Australia's obligations under Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The Department has consulted with relevant Australian Government agencies with responsibility for tobacco control policy, regulation and compliance on the draft Guidance Note. Input provided by those agencies is being used where appropriate to refine the document and ensure that it confers the necessary level of practicality for public officials who engage in strictly necessary dealings with the tobacco industry while also ensuring that Australia's obligations under Article 5.3 are met.

The Guidance Note will provide practical tips on how public officials can avoid tobacco industry interference in making, implementing and enforcing public health policy with respect to tobacco control. Following its expected completion in the second half of 2017, the Department will undertake dissemination and awareness-raising of the Guidance Note and Australia's obligations under Article 5.3 throughout affected Australian Government agencies.