

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000848

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can you provide any detail around Australia's support for the adoption of the Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025 at the Seventieth World Health Assembly? How will the government implement the recommendations and meet the targets listed in the Plan?

Answer:

Australia strongly supported the adoption of the Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025 (the Global Action Plan) by the 70th World Health Assembly. Australia also delivered a joint statement of support for the Global Action Plan on behalf of the Associate Members of the World Dementia Council (Japan, UK, Mexico, USA, Canada and Australia).

Support of the Global Action Plan is non-binding on Member States. Australia generally views international norms and standards as the minimum acceptable standard for health policy in Australia, and Australia takes seriously its obligations to implement the non-binding norms and standards set out in WHO resolutions and guidelines.

The seven action areas outlined in the Global Action Plan broadly align to the seven priorities for action under the National Framework for Action on Dementia (the Framework). Australian Government policy and programs for people living with dementia are guided by the Framework. Australia is already implementing initiatives consistent with many of the actions in the Global Action Plan. The Department of Health will be reviewing the Global Action Plan together with the Framework in future policy and program development.

In addition, Australia is working with the WHO on the establishment of the Global Dementia Observatory, including being one of the 22 countries participating in pilot testing of the Observatory instrument. The Global Dementia Observatory is an international knowledge and data exchange platform to support evidence-based service planning and strengthening of dementia policies. It is also the monitoring mechanism to track progress under the Global Action Plan.