

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000871

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: Research Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

With regards to providing more funding for research into rare cancers and those with low survival rates, would it be possible to do this through the Targeted Call for Research scheme? Would that be an appropriate means of funding research into rare cancers?

Answer:

Research into rare cancers with low survival rates could be funded through a Targeted Call for Research (TCR).

The TCR program is designed to stimulate health and medical research in a specific area where a significant research knowledge gap or unmet research need has been identified. A TCR can be conducted in any area identified where there is potential to greatly advance understanding of a specific issue for the improvement of human health, including cancers with a low survival rate.

The Nation Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Research Committee advises the NHMRC Council and Chief Executive Officer on the research topics to prioritise through the TCR program. In providing this advice, Research Committee considers how best to allocate the available funding to the proposed TCRs.