

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001012

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Drug and Alcohol

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

- a) The National Drug Strategy is over 2 years out of date. What is the reason for the delay?
- b) Consultation for the strategy concluded on 27 October 2015 is it right that nothing has occurred since then?

Answer:

- a) The next iteration of the National Drug Strategy was endorsed by the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum on 29 May 2017
[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/55E4796388E9EDE5CA25808F00035035/\\$File/29%20May%202017%20-%20Ministerial%20Drug%20and%20Alcohol%20Forum%20Communique.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/55E4796388E9EDE5CA25808F00035035/$File/29%20May%202017%20-%20Ministerial%20Drug%20and%20Alcohol%20Forum%20Communique.pdf). It will be released once data is updated to reflect the findings of the 2016 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.
- b) The formal public consultation process for the National Drug Strategy (NDS) closed on 27 October 2015. Since this time the draft NDS was revised and considered by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) based on the consultation findings. Following the release of the National Ice Action Strategy, the IGCD was replaced by the National Drug Strategy Committee and the new Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum was established. The draft NDS was provided to the NDSC by the IGCD and further work was requested, including cross-portfolio jurisdictional consultation. Following this work and incorporation of feedback, the draft NDS was submitted to the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum.