

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001015

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: E-cigarettes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Leyonhjelm, David

Question:

Was the Assistant Minister for Health accurate when, in a letter to me of 24 March 2017, he wrote that, with respect to e-cigarettes, the National Health and Medical Research Council “recommended that health authorities act to minimise harm”?

Answer:

Yes, that was the stated position of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in the March 2015 NHMRC CEO Statement on Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes) available at:
https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ds13_nhmrc_ceo_statement_ecigarettes.pdf.

The CEO’s recommendation that health authorities act to minimise harm was made specifically in the context of e-cigarettes, rather than the broader tobacco control context. The CEO’s position was reconfirmed in the updated CEO Statement released on 3 April 2017 available at:

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/publications/17072_nhmrc_-_electronic_cigarettes-web_final.pdf.