

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001020

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Ice Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

How much of the Ice Strategy Funding has actually been allocated to helping people with severe and complex ice dependency issues, particularly the residential treatment sector, given this is the sector that is in the frontline of treating people with severe dependencies?

Answer:

While the National Ice Taskforce recognised the acute challenges that use of the drug 'ice' represents, the scope of drug and alcohol treatment funding to Primary Health Networks (PHN) under the *National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS)* is broader than 'ice'. This is in recognition of the importance of ensuring that the service prioritisation of clients is based on need regardless of their principal drug of concern.

PHNs have been encouraged to consider the full range of evidence based treatments across the spectrum of care (from early intervention to relapse prevention) and to prioritise activities which address the health and service gaps they have identified in their regional Needs Assessments. This funding contributes to building an 'integrated system of care' to ensure a sustainable drug and alcohol treatment sector into the future.

The NIAS funding through PHNs is in addition to the existing Commonwealth investment in drug and alcohol treatment including significant funding for residential rehabilitation. It is also in addition to state and territory funding given their role as the primary funders of drug and alcohol treatment in Australia.