

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001048

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: Emergency Response - Climate and Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

It is now well known that climate change poses significant risks to health that require government commitment, action and expenditure to address. Please outline the specific programs of the department of health in response to this?

Answer:

The Department of Health does not have any specific programs that focus only on the health impacts of climate change.

Health impacts of climate change are managed through existing monitoring, surveillance and response programs that can be deployed on a relatively short timeframe and can be scaled up or down to meet any demonstrated long-term changes in prevalence of a disease.

This is consistent with the World Bank Group report the *World Bank Group Approach and Action Plan for Climate Change and Health* which states that the single most significant predictor of future health impacts of climate change may be a population's current health status, and that effective resilience relies on a country's progress towards universal health coverage.¹

¹ Report available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/>