

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-001049

**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:**

In ratifying the Paris Agreement in November of 2016, the Australian Government formally agreed to consider the 'right to health' of citizens in the context of the nation's climate change response, and to recognise the co-benefits for health in developing mitigation strategies. What action is the Department of Health undertaking to address these obligations?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is working with a range of other portfolios under the remit of the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy. The Strategy was released on 2 December 2015.

The Strategy has been developed to highlight resilience-building by governments, businesses and communities in Australia and our region; guide effective climate change adaptation with a set of principles; and establish priority areas for future consultation and action. It sets the foundations for future engagement, learning and collaboration in resilience building and adaptation. The Strategy identifies four priority areas for future consultation and action.

These priorities include:

- Priority 1: Understand & communicate: Improve our understanding and communication of the risks from a changing climate.
- Priority 2: Plan & act: Develop and implement responses to climate risk, as appropriate.
- Priority 3: Check & reassess: Evaluate progress towards building resilience and adaptation to climate change and review our plans and actions.
- Priority 4: Collaborate & learn: Work together to identify emerging risks and interdependencies; identify and remove barriers to action; and share learning

The Department of Health is involved in an interagency working group established by the Australian Government to consider cross-cutting impacts of climate change and to lead on future consultation with state and territory governments and the private and community sectors.