

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-023

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: FUNDING FOR THE GOOD SPORTS PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Di Natale asked:

Regarding the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports program, I understand that funding for this program is no longer available from the Department, but must be sought from the ANPHA in blocks of half a million dollars via the Community Level Initiatives of the National Binge Drinking Strategy.

- a) At what stage did the funding available as an allocation from the Department end, to be replaced with funding from ANPHA?
- b) Did the department consider the Good Sports program in particular, or similar programs in general, when coming to the decision to reallocate departmental funding to ANPHA?
- c) If so, on what basis was the determination made to shift to the new funding arrangements?
- d) Does the Department have any plans to restore funding, or seek alternate sources of funding, for larger projects of this nature outside the ANPHA grants?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Drug Foundation's (ADF's) Good Sports program was funded through the 'National Binge Drinking Strategy' announced in 2008. The Government is providing \$5.2 million over four years (2008-09 – 2011-12) to expand the ADF's Good Sports program nationally. Funding from the Department of Health Ageing, under the current contract for the Good Sports program, ceases in June 2012.
- b) In the 2010-11 Budget, the Government announced a further \$50 million for the 'Expansion of the National Binge Drinking Strategy' for the following measures:
 - \$25 million for a community sponsorship fund to provide an alternative to alcohol industry sponsorship for local community sporting and cultural organisations;
 - \$20 million for community grants programs that aim to prevent and reduce binge drinking by young people; and

- \$5 million for the enhancement of helplines.

These measures and the decision to roll them out through Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA), was agreed by the Minister for Health and Ageing with the Australian Greens and Senator Xenophon.

- c) The implementation of the 'Expansion of the National Binge Drinking Strategy' was transferred to ANPHA in line with responsibility of ANPHA for the prevention of harm from alcohol as a key priority.

Senator McLucas' second reading of the Bill to establish ANPHA on 16 November 2010 stated that in March 2010, the Minister agreed with the Australian Greens and Senator Xenophon that the \$50 million expansion of the National Binge Drinking Strategy would be rolled out through ANPHA rather than through the Department.

- d) Following a review of administrative arrangements in the Health and Ageing Portfolio, the Australian Government has established the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund (the Fund). The Fund consolidates activities from a number of existing programs, and will provide a flexible funding pool for organisations supporting prevention of substance misuse and other national activities under the National Drug Strategy.