

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-318

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NATIONAL DRUG RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Has the time limited working group which has responsibility for the national drug research and data strategy been formed yet?
- b) If so, when was it formed? Was a public announcement made when it was formed?
- c) If not, when will it be formed?
- d) Will the working group be served by a secretariat? Is that being provided by DHA?
- e) What is the estimated cost by year?
- f) Which branch will be undertaking this function? Who is the contact officer for external people?
- g) Who are the members of the working group? Or if it has not yet been formed who are intended to be the members of the working group?
- h) For how long is the working group intended to exist?
- i) What are the remuneration arrangements for the members of the group?
- j) How are the members of working group to be chosen?
- k) Are members to be proposed by the Commonwealth to other jurisdictions? Or is some other method to be used? Please detail.
- l) Where will the working group be based, if anywhere?
- m) Will a specific website be established for the working group so that interested parties can track the activities of the group?
- n) Will all of the dates of the meetings of the working group, the agendas and the minutes be made public? If not, why not?
- o) If not, how are interested parties able to follow the activities of the working group?
- p) Are interested parties able to provide input to the working group? For example can interested parties attend meetings of the working group?
- q) Will the working group release draft suggested research priorities to seek input from the community on the proposed topics? If not, why not?

Answer:

The responses have been prepared in reference to the Research and Data Working Group (RDWG), which is a newly established committee under the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD).

- a) Yes.
- b) The *National Drug Strategy 2010-2015* was publicly released in March 2011, and announced the formation of the RDWG as one of its time-limited working groups. The first meeting of the group occurred by teleconference in July 2011.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Queensland Health provided secretariat services until November 2011. At the November 2011 meeting of the IGCD, DoHA agreed to provide secretariat services for the RDWG.
- e) The secretariat work for the RDWG will be absorbed into the work of the Drug Strategy Branch.
- f) The Drug Strategy Branch. Queries regarding the work of the IGCD its subcommittees can be forwarded to the Chair David McGrath via the IGCD Secretariat.
- g) The core nominated membership of the RDWG is:
 - ACT Health and South Australia Health to represent the interests of small jurisdictions.
 - Western Australian Health and New South Wales Health to represent the interests of large jurisdictions.
 - South Australia Police to represent the interests of small jurisdictions.
 - Queensland Police Service to represent the interests of large jurisdictions.
 - Two representatives from the Department of Health and Ageing.
 - One specialist in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data from the National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data.
 - One representative from each of the following:
 - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
 - Australian Bureau of Statistics
 - Australian Institute of Criminology
 - Australian National Preventative Health Agency
 - National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
 - National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund
 - National Drug Research Institute
 - National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction.
- h) The RDWG has been established for an initial period of three years.
- i) Members do not receive remuneration.
- j) The IGCD is responsible for agreeing to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, and to the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee, including membership categories. The Chair is responsible for appointing individuals to the Standing Committee.

- k) The Commonwealth may propose members to the Chairs of the committees. However, membership is the responsibility of the Chair.
- l) The RDWG is not a consolidated group that is located in one place.
- m) No.
- n) Currently the work of the IGCD and its Working Groups such as the RDWG is not publicly available.
- o) Reports and publications prepared by the Working Group and approved for release by Ministers will be made available on the National Drug Strategy website.
- p) Attendance and participation in the Working Group will be a decision of the Chair.
- q) It will be the Working Group's responsibility to propose the most appropriate process for identifying research priorities.