

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-509

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Does the department have any contact with the Rotary bowel cancer screening program? It is confusing people quite a lot.

Answer:

No.

Bowelscan is a Rotary program and is conducted and funded by Rotary Clubs across Australia. Bowelscan is essentially a public awareness program seeking to increase community knowledge of bowel cancer and its symptoms. The project involves the distribution to the public of a guaiac faecal occult blood test kit. The guaiac test requires certain dietary and drug restrictions and people over the age of 40 can purchase a kit for around \$10 from participating pharmacies over a limited period of time each year.

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is a National Screening Program which is funded and operated by the Commonwealth. The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program sends invitations to people turning 50, 55 or 65 years of age, inviting them to complete an immunochemical faecal occult blood test kit which is not affected by diet or medications.