

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000436

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Drug and Alcohol

Type of Question: Hansard Page 96, 19 October 2016

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Mr Bowles: I am not sure it is appropriate that we get into some of these political issues. We are public servants.

Senator DI NATALE: It is the purpose of estimates. I think it is entirely appropriate.

Mr Bowles: We are public servants. You can ask the politicians about that.

Senator DI NATALE: It is not a political question. It is a question of independent advice being provided on the issue of alcohol and other drugs. It is about the specific expertise of the individuals involved.

Mr Bowles: He is on a committee.

Senator DI NATALE: Providing independent advice to government and informing government policy.

Mr Bowles: Along with a range of other people I presume.

Senator DI NATALE: I am asking what his particular credentials are.

Mr Bowles: We said we would take it on notice and give you a list of the committee members and their credentials.

Senator DI NATALE: Who appoints members to the committee? How are they appointed?

Mr Bowles: Ultimately this is a matter for government decision.

Senator DI NATALE: I might ask the minister, how are those appointments made?

Senator Nash: I will take it on notice. From memory, I think, I approved the members of the committee. It was some time ago now and I am not in the portfolio anymore. It was chosen to have a really good balance of various expertise across the committee. We did keep, from memory, some of the members from the previous committee. We brought them on to the new committee and then added some extra expertise through the other members. We will get that detail for you.

Senator DI NATALE: What are the terms of service? How long are they appointed for.

Ms McGlynn: I will have to take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: We will add that to the question on notice.

Senator Nash: I do not want to stop your line of questioning, but I want to put on the record what a tremendous job they have been doing in providing advice to the government and to the department. The broad set of skills that they have has been incredibly useful.

Senator DI NATALE: We will have to take your advice on that, Minister, because we do not know.

Senator Nash: I do, and that is why I am putting it on the record for you, Senator. We are happy to take all of this on notice for you. I want to be really clear that the level of expertise

that they have been providing has been excellent.

Senator DI NATALE: Our job is not to just take that on trust. The point of estimates is to ensure we get some confidence that this is happening, so that is the reason for asking.

Senator Nash: Absolutely. I understand completely.

Mr Bowles: We will take that on notice to provide that.

Answer:

ANACAD members are ministerially appointed as individual experts. The Australian Government Minister with alcohol and other drug portfolio responsibilities seeks the approval of appointments in accordance with the Australian Government Cabinet Handbook.

The membership of ANACAD is appointed for a three-year term.

The membership and expertise of ANACAD members is:

Member	Area of Expertise as Basis of Appointment
Mrs Kay Hull AM (Chair)	Former Chair of the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs Inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities.
Professor Steve Allsop (Deputy Chair)	Alcohol and Other Drug research: policy, prevention and treatment
Associate Professor Ted Wilkes AO (Principal Indigenous Advisor)	Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Research
Dr Robert Ali	Addiction Medicine Specialist and Public Health Physician
Mr Michael Phelan	Law Enforcement
Mr Frank Quinlan	Mental Health / Social and Community Services
Mr John Rogerson	Primary prevention in Alcohol and Other Drugs Non-Government Organisation
Associate Professor Diana Egerton-Warburton	Emergency Medicine Physician
Dr James Fitzpatrick	Regional Paediatrician and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder researcher
Dr Jenny May AM	Rural General Practitioner
Ms Josephine Baxter	Primary prevention in alcohol and drugs through education, research and advocacy
Mr Anthony Fleming	Policing and Policy
Mr Pat Daley	Local Government and Community Policing
Ms Donna Ah Chee (Indigenous Advisor)	Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Policy and Service Delivery