

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000631

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Following the announcement of the new Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum as part of the Government's response to the Ice Taskforce in December 2015 (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/MC15-009596-national-ice-taskforce>), can the department advise on progress with establishing this Forum, its terms of reference, and who the members of the Forum will be?

Answer:

Establishment and structure of the revised alcohol and other drug governance structure, including the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF), has recently been endorsed by the COAG Health Council (7 October 2016) and the COAG Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (21 October 2016).

The MDAF will consist of two Ministers from each jurisdiction: one each from the health/community services portfolios (with AOD policy responsibilities); and one from the justice/law enforcement portfolios.

The Department of Health, which is providing secretariat support, is still receiving final nominations from jurisdictions for the Forum. The new governance arrangements, including supporting arrangements and terms of reference, are expected to be finalised before the end of 2016.