

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000634

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:

- a) What progress has been made towards establishing the FASD Clinical Network, announced in the May Budget, to diagnose and work with children and their families who are affected by FASD?
- b) Can the Department advise what consultation has been undertaken in the development of this clinical network and in particular whether families and carers have been consulted?

Answer:

- a) A stakeholder round table event to inform the implementation of the 2016 Budget Measure was held on December 2, 2016.

Participants included researchers, clinicians, carer, consumer and family advocates, Indigenous community leaders and non-government organisations from across Australia, as well as representatives from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Health and the Department of Human Services.

The round table focused on reviewing the existing National FASD Action Plan as well as discussing implementation options and priorities for the FASD Clinical Network, FASD Diagnostic Clinics and evidence based models of care in communities at high risk as announced in the 2016-17 Budget.

Grant funding opportunities will be progressed following consideration of the outcomes of the round table.

- b) The needs of consumers, families and carers were considered in the development of the Budget measure, and their views were discussed at the round table, with participants from the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (NOFASD) as well as individuals with personal experience caring for children with FASD.