

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000637

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Prevention - Obesity

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

- a) What is the estimates impact of obesity on the Australian health budget?
- b) Has the department provided any advice to the Minister regarding the impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on the obesity rate in Australia?

**Answer:**

- a) Estimates of the impact of obesity on the Australian health budget may vary depending on the methodology, metrics and scope of analysis. One report produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers on behalf of Obesity Australia, '*Weighing the cost of obesity*' and released in October 2015, indicates that the direct costs of obesity during 2011-12 for adults was approximately \$3.8 billion.
- b) The Department of Health has not provided advice specific to the impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on the obesity rate, however, the Department has given advice to the Minister regarding the impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on sugar and energy intakes in Australia.