

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Ice Taskforce

Senator: Senator Nick Xenophon
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Question:

What is the view of the Department / Taskforce of the current level of drug rehab services amongst Australia's prison population, which reportedly has a very high level of drug taking / addiction in the year before incarceration (70 per cent according to AIHW report 2012)

Answer:

The National Ice Taskforce ('the Taskforce') consulted with local communities, and heard from experts and individuals who have a particular expertise in relation to drug addiction and support services. This also involved listening to health, treatment and support experts on issues facing various parts of the Australia community.

The outcomes of these consultations, along with the input received from written submissions to the Taskforce will inform the Taskforce's deliberations. The Taskforce delivered an interim report to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 23 July 2015. All governments agreed to work with the Taskforce to develop a National Ice Action Strategy for agreement at the next COAG meeting.