

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-045

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: HEALTH OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Ryan asked:

- a) What programs does the Department of Health have in place that address the health of small business owners?
- b) What statistics does the Department of Health collect about the health of small business owners?
- c) Is the Department aware of any general problems relating to the health of small business people, if so what are they?
- d) Does the Department of Health conduct any visits to ascertain the health of small business people?

Answer:

- a) The Healthy Workers component of the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health will provide up to \$294.6 million to support workplace health programs, including activities for small business.

Of this amount, up to \$289.4 million will be available to state and territory governments from 1 July 2011 to fund healthy living programs in workplaces. Programs will focus on overweight and obesity, physical activity, nutrition, smoking cessation and alcohol consumption.

The remaining \$5.2 million is being used by the Commonwealth to develop soft infrastructure to support the implementation of state and territory programs from July 2011. The Australian Government has worked with state and territory health departments to ensure that the needs of small business owners are addressed.

- b) The Department does not collect specific information about the health of small business owners.
- c) No.
- d) No.