

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-058

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Could the Department provide details of all current programs and projects that deal with non-Indigenous Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder that include costings, timelines, locations and goals?

Answer:

The Government is taking action on several fronts to improve prevention, screening, diagnosis and clinical management of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) investing \$2.35 million (GST exclusive) over three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11, including the following whole-of-population projects:

Whole-of-Population FASD Activity	2008- 09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Diagnostic instrument		\$227,272	\$227,272	\$454,544
AIHW scoping study re data collection		\$90,909	\$121,173	\$212,082
Alcohol consumption measurement tool	\$10,000	\$18,000	\$2,000	\$30,000
Overall Total	\$10,000	\$336,181	\$350,445	\$696,626

* All figures are GST exclusive.

Prevention

- The Government has developed and disseminated brochures and posters for pregnant women advising them of the 2009 NHMRC Australian Alcohol Guidelines message that for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, not drinking is the safest option.
 - These materials are available from www.alcohol.gov.au
- The Department provided \$30,000 to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to examine and help the development of screening tools for alcohol use during pregnancy. The final report is available through www.alcohol.gov.au

- National Antenatal Care Guidelines are currently being developed in collaboration with state and territory governments and the NHMRC with funding from the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.
 - These guidelines will refer to the recommendations in the 2009 NHMRC Australian Alcohol Guidelines regarding alcohol consumption during pregnancy.
 - The first trimester guidelines are expected to be available for public consultation in May 2011.

Improving Diagnosis

- The Department has engaged the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, who will work on behalf of the University of Sydney and the Australian FASD Collaboration, to develop a diagnostic instrument to assist clinicians in diagnosing babies and children affected by FASD. This project is due to be completed by 30 June 2011.
- The Department has engaged the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare under a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake a scoping study to improve data collection and reporting on FASD prevalence. This project is due to be completed by 30 June 2011.