

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000063

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: E-Cigarettes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

What work is DoH doing with State and Territory governments to protect existing smoke-free area legislation?

Answer:

The Department of Health works with state and territory government officials through a number of forums to implement the *National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018* (NTS). The NTS provides the broad policy framework for tobacco control policy in Australia and was endorsed by all Health Ministers at the 9 November 2012 meeting of the Standing Council on Health.

As part of this work, the Department co-chairs the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) National Expert Reference Group on Tobacco (Reference Group). The Reference Group was established to provide advice to the IGCD on tobacco issues in the context of the NTS and includes representation from all Commonwealth state and territory health departments.

Priority Area 6.8 of the NTS is to *Reduce exceptions to smoke-free workplaces, public places and other settings*. This Priority Area outlines a number of areas for action, noting that smoke-free legislation is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments.