

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000061

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

**Topic:** Tobacco Plain Packaging Act

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 88, 1 March 2017

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Senator WATT: The first round of questions I have is about plain packaging laws, which we began to talk about this morning but agreed to deal with now. I would like to ask about the department's administration of the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act. How many acts of noncompliance with the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act have there been?

I am looking for information from the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years.

Dr Southern: I have a cumulative figure, which perhaps I will start with, and we might have to take on notice the breakdown over the years that you mentioned. As at earlier this month, the department had received 1,054 individual complaints since tobacco plain packaging came into full effect on 1 December 2012. They related to 746 cases, because some of the complaints related to the same supplier or retailer. Last year, 2015-16, we received 679 complaints, giving rise to 375 cases. Complaints, obviously, are followed up by us. On most occasions, suppliers are found to be compliant, although some cases require further attention. As at 6 February, so earlier this month, 459 cases had been closed as being found to be compliant.

**Answer:**

Information about the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 years is provided below:

\*as at 6 Feb 2017

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17 YTD</b>
Complaints	193	679	51
Cases	193	375	47
Inspections	46	178	202
Re-inspections	22	46	12
Warning Letters	3	64	41