

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000371

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Health Prevention

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

a) Now that the Government has removed funding for the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), the peak body for the people working in the alcohol and other drugs sector, and closed the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), which provided independent advice to the Government, who will represent the people that work within the alcohol and other drugs sector at the national level?

b) Wasn't the fact that the ANCD existed one of the reasons given for why ADCA was defunded?

Answer:

- a) The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) was reformed as the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs (ANACAD) in December 2014 to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the national advisory body on alcohol and drugs. The ANACAD will continue to build on the legacy of the ANCD in providing expert and evidence based advice to the Australian Government through its members who bring a range of experience to the Council, several of whom also served on the ANCD. While there is no longer Government funding provided to support the ADCA, the ADCA Board still exists and has maintained its role in representing the alcohol and other drug sector. The Government has provided 12 months funding to the State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drug Peak Organisations who continue to provide information to the Government on issues facing the alcohol and other drug sector.
- b) A number of factors were taken into account before the decision was made to discontinue funding to ADCA. These factors included:
- ADCA's immediate financial situation. ADCA's contract was not finalised by the former Government and they had remained unfunded since June 2013;
 - The Government was still being informed by, and continued to fund, a number of organisations and peak bodies at a national and state level; and
 - Concerns regarding the amount of duplication across funded bodies in the alcohol and drug sector.