

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: SQ17-000500**

**Topic: Medical support and treatment options**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

What analysis has been done of the availability of such specialist treatment programs in Australia?

**Answer:**

Research and analysis of specialist alcohol and other drug treatment programs in Australia, including a range of datasets and tables, is undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare through its Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services in Australia report.

The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS NMDS) contains information on publicly-funded alcohol and other drug treatment agencies. It does not compile information on private treatment services, services provided in hospitals or services delivered in primary care.

Further information about the 2014-15 report is available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's website at:

<http://aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129554768>.

Under the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS), the Government is providing funding of \$241.5 million for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to commission additional drug and alcohol treatment services to meet local need, including funding of \$78.6 million for Indigenous specific services.

PHNs are required to conduct Needs Assessments for their regions to identify and analyse health and service needs within their regions and prioritise activity to address those needs. A baseline Needs Assessment was conducted by PHNs for their Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities which must be updated annually to reflect the changing drug and alcohol treatment needs in their regions.

Further information about PHNs and the Needs Assessment Guide is available on the Department of Health's website at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Home>.

In addition to the \$241 million under NIAS, the Government provides approximately \$75 million annually, under the Drug and Alcohol Program to support existing drug and alcohol treatment services.