

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question: E12-218**

**OUTCOME 10:** Health Systems, Capacity and Quality

**Topic:** ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE STANDING COMMITTEE

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

Is the key role of the Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee to advise the Federal Government on the cross-sector public service response to the increasing prevalence of antimicrobial resistance? Or is the key role of the Committee to actually coordinate a comprehensive national AMR and usage surveillance system?

**Answer:**

The Committee's purpose as set out in its terms of reference is the development of a national strategy to minimise antimicrobial resistance. This includes supporting an integrative approach to the national strategy through coordination of national activities such as:

- a comprehensive national antimicrobial resistance and usage surveillance system
- education and stewardship programs
- infection prevention and control guidelines
- research into antimicrobial resistance and its prevention
- a review of the current regulatory system applying to antimicrobials, and
- community and consumer campaigns.

The Committee formed in mid 2012. The Committee's first priority is the establishment of the Surveillance and Reporting of Antimicrobial Resistance and Antibiotic Usage in Australia: A National Study (AMRAU) report which will provide an evidence base for the Committee's work plan which will be established in 2013.