

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 3 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000137

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: National Alcohol Strategy 2016-2021

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

- a) What funding allocation is in place for the National Alcohol Strategy 2016-2021?
- b) Can you provide an update on the current state of progress on the National Alcohol Strategy 2016-2021?
- c) As it is now 2017, when will the Strategy be finalised and released publicly?

Answer:

- a) The development of the National Alcohol Strategy (NAS) was funded by the former Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs. The Commonwealth does not currently provide specific funding to the NAS.

As a national framework, the NAS is expected to identify agreed national priorities to reduce alcohol related harms and operate as a guide for jurisdictions in implementing local responses to these priorities.

b) and c)

The Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF) agreed in December 2016 that the NAS would be considered once the next iteration of Australia's National Drug Strategy (NDS) had been finalised. The MDAF is expected to consider the NDS at the end of May.

It is also expected the NAS will align with the timeframe of the next NDS: 2017-2026.

Decisions on finalising and publicly releasing the NAS matter for the MDAF.

The NAS, as a sub-strategy of the NDS, is expected to be considered by the MDAF in the second half of 2017.