

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 3 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000138

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Drug Strategy (NDS)
2014-2019

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

Can the Department provide the committee with an update on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Drug Strategy 2014-2019?

Answer:

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Drug Strategy 2014 – 2019 (NATSIPDS) was developed by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) on behalf of Health Ministers and was endorsed by COAG Health Council in mid-2015.

As a sub-strategy of the National Drug Strategy (NDS), the NATSIPDS is intended to act as a guide for governments, communities, service providers and individuals to identify key issues and respond to local priority areas relating to the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs.

It acknowledges that responsibility for implementing policies and programs to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a matter that cuts across different levels of government and agencies, and a range of sectors within the community.

National oversight and monitoring of the NDS, and its sub-strategies, is the responsibility of the newly established Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF). The strategic priorities identified in the NDS, and its sub-strategies, are reflected in the discussions and work of the MDAF and its supporting committees.