

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 3 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000141

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 confirm the (IGCD) is responsible for the NDS in overseeing the finalisation of a national strategy which is working towards a stakeholder and jurisdictional consultation process?

Answer:

The IGCD has been replaced by the newly established National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC). The NDSC is a senior officials group with membership from each state and territory and the Australian Government, representing the health and law enforcement/justice departments.

The NDSC is responsible for supporting the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (MDAF). The MDAF is comprised of Ministers from each state and territory, and the Australian Government, who are responsible for alcohol and other drug policy from the health and law enforcement/justice portfolios. The MDAF has responsibility for the National Drug Strategy (NDS), and associated sub-strategies.

The next iteration of Australia's NDS is expected to be considered by MDAF later this year. The draft to be considered by MDAF reflects views provided during a public consultation process that took place in November 2015.

Decisions around whether to undertake further consultation processes is a matter for the MDAF.