

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 2

INQUIRY INTO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

—
Wednesday 10 April 2013, Sydney
—

Responses to questions taken on notice

Fiona Davies, CEO, AMA (NSW)

1. Levy on alcohol products

We have been unable to confirm if other jurisdictions impose levies or fees on alcohol suppliers or venues to fund public education campaigns.

2. Classroom-based programs

Life Education's 'Face the Facts' program is an excellent example of a classroom-based program as recommended in AMA (NSW)'s submission. 'Face the Facts' is a secondary school drug education program which uses a harm minimisation approach to assist schools in implementing their drug education policy and initiatives which promote student well-being and connectedness. The program offers Alcohol, Tobacco and Illicit Drugs modules, each with their own set of specific educational outcomes.

In addition, AMA (WA) runs a program called 'DR YES' where medical students go out to metropolitan and rural high schools to have open and frank discussions about the big issues facing youth health – particularly Alcohol and Drugs and Sexual Health. One of the goals of 'DR YES' is to help break down the barriers preventing young people from accessing health care and overcome some of the common misconceptions about doctors.

3. Waiting times in rural and regional areas

To date we have been unable to collect comprehensive information from our members regarding waiting times in rural and regional areas for people voluntarily seeking help for alcohol and drug abuse. AMA (NSW) has for some time been concerned that there is an ongoing issue with the general lack of information surrounding waiting times for access to treatment and services across the state. This is an issue we continue to discuss with our members and the NSW Government.