

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-184

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EPPIC

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the evidence given at page 38, please provide details regarding “negotiations” with the states and territories in relation to shared funding arrangements about EPPIC, please provide full details of the same including dates of all meetings who attended them and the nature of any agreement.

Answer:

In October 2010, the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, wrote to all jurisdictions (except Victoria and Western Australia who at the time were not eligible to participate in the measure) inviting their participation in the 2010-11 Budget Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) model measure. This was followed by informal discussions with jurisdictions at the officer level.

Following the Western Australian Government’s decision to sign the health reform agreement at the COAG meeting on 13 February 2011, Minister Butler wrote to Western Australia to invite their participation in the 2010-11 Budget measure.

In the 2011-12 Budget, the Commonwealth Government allocated \$222.4 million over five years to expand the EPPIC model nationally. It is envisaged that, under a cost share arrangement with state and territory governments, 12 fully fledged centres will be established, building on the \$25.5 million allocated in the 2010-11 Budget to establish four centres, to bring the total number of centres to up to 16.

The Australian Federal Relations - Budget Paper No. 3 did not include an indicative allocation of funding for Victoria under the EPPIC model expansion measure.

In June 2011, Minister Butler wrote to the Hon Mary Wooldridge, Minister for Mental Health in Victoria, to confirm that Victoria would be invited to apply for funding and that state and territory funding levels were published in Budget Paper No. 3 with the caveat that figures were indicative only and subject to change pending negotiations with states and territories.

Following the 2011-12 Budget announcement, the Department provided an overview of the Budget package, including the EPPIC model expansion measure, at the Mental Health Standing Committee meeting, held on 13 May 2011. All state and territory governments are represented on the Standing Committee and membership is listed at www.health.gov.au/mhsc

Discussions with states and territories on implementation of the measure have commenced through the Senior Officials Mental Health Working Group, which has met three times since June 2011.