

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-228

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: CUTS TO BETTER ACCESS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the cuts to Better Access, please outline the alleged consultation process with general practitioners and allied mental health professionals? Refer Page 50 Hansard 30 May

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing reiterates its evidence given at the hearing on 30 May 2011, namely that:

- Australian Governments do not consult about the precise detail of a particular budget measure prior to its announcement; and
- the 2011-12 Budget mental health reform package was developed following a period of extensive engagement with a broad range of stakeholders across several relevant sectors, including individual experts, consumers and their carers, peak bodies, service providers (both private and public), professional associations and non-government organisations.