

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-431

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: EXPENDITURE ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Would the Department provide a breakdown of funding that mental health services has received over the past 10 years in real terms?
- b) Would the Department please outline how much funding goes towards programs that assist people with both an intellectual disability and a mental illness over a one year time frame.
- c) Would the Department please outline how much funding goes towards programs that assist people with both an intellectual disability and a mental illness over a five-year time frame.
- d) Would the Department please provide a breakdown of the programs it has for people who have both an intellectual disability and a mental illness.

Answer:

- a) A breakdown of funding is provided at Attachment A to this response, together with notes explaining the limitations of this data.

b), c) and d)

The Department of Health and Ageing does not fund any specific intellectual disability and mental illness services. Rather it is working with the sector to improve the knowledge and skills base of the mental health workforce in meeting the needs of this client group. For example, the Mental Health Professional Online Development program provides web-based professional education for use by health professionals from a range of disciplines who provide services to people with a serious mental illness. This includes a module on Managing Co-Occurring conditions including a topic on 'Dual Disability' to ensure mental health workers are aware of the interactions between intellectual/developmental disorders and mental disorders and the consequent implications for practice in collaboration with specialist services.

The Department and the Minister's Office have met with a range of stakeholders, such as Associate Professor Julian Trollor (Chair, Intellectual Disability Mental Health), Mr Jim Simpson (National and New South Wales Councils for Intellectual Disability), and Professor Nick Lennox (Australian Association for Developmental Disability Medicine) to explore options on how better to meet the needs of people with comorbid intellectual disabilities and mental illness, including through research to inform policy and program development.