

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-194

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH REFORM ANNOUNCEMENT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How much of the \$277 million was rolled over into the National Mental Health reform announcement? (Refer Page 41 Hansard 30 May).

Answer:

A total of \$150.2 million over the next five years has been reallocated from the Taking Action to Tackle Suicide Package to support new measures announced in the 2011-12 Budget Delivering National Mental Health Reform package.

The table below details the three measures from the Taking Action to Tackle Suicide package which have not yet commenced and where funding has been redirected to support the new measures announced as part of the 2011-12 Budget package:

Measure	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2011-12 Budget measure: Coordinated Care and Flexible funding for people with severe and persistent mental illness						
<i>Offset: Boosting non-clinical services</i>	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-100.0
<i>Offset – More community based psychiatrists</i>	-7.2	-7.4	-7.6	-7.7	-7.8	-37.7
2011-12 Budget measure: Establishment of a National Mental Health Commission						
<i>Offset – National Mental Health Report Card</i>	-0.5	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	-12.5

Note – the Budget announcements reflected these offsets in the bottom line to ensure that program funding was only reported once. That is, total spending on these measures comprise the redirections shown above plus the new funding announced in the Budget.

The intent of the first two original measures (Boosting non-clinical services and More community based psychiatrists) was to provide more services targeted at people with severe forms of mental illness. The Government's new Budget measure Coordinated care and flexible funding for people with severe mental illness takes a system wide approach to transform the assessment, planning and follow up of clinical and non-clinical care for Australians with severe and persistent mental illness. Rather than duplicate or cut across this new Budget measure these movements will support more integrated implementation as well as increasing the pool of services for people with severe and persistent mental illness and complex care needs.

As detailed above, the majority of funding for the National Mental Health Report Card measure is being directed to the National Mental Health Commission for the Commission to administer and implement the Report Card once it is established, consistent with its national leadership role and stated responsibilities.