

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-176

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Partners in Recovery initiative

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

I am also very interested in the rollout and progress of the Partners in Recovery program. Can you please provide details? In particular, I am interested in hearing about:

- a) when this program was first established;
- b) the total amount of funding that was allocated to the Partners in Recovery program in last year's Budget and this year's Budget;
- c) the total amount of money that has been expended to date on the rollout of the Partners in Recovery program;
- d) how many people have received assistance under the Partners in Recovery program; and
- e) if no one has received assistance under this program, when will it start?

Answer:

- a) The Partners in Recovery initiative was announced as part of the 2011-12 *Delivering National Mental Health Reform* Budget package.
- b) The 2011-12 Budget provided \$549.8 million over five years (2011-12 to 2015-16) for the Partners in Recovery initiative. There was no additional funding allocated to the initiative in the 2012-13 Budget.
- c) In 2011-12, \$18,406 was expended on the Partners in Recovery initiative.
- d) The first year of the initiative (2011-12) was designed to focus on implementation planning and design. As such, assistance has not been provided to individuals as yet. By its fifth year of operation, it is expected 24,000 people with a severe and persistent mental illness and complex needs will be assisted.
- e) Suitably placed and experienced non-government organisations to deliver the initiative are expected to be engaged this calendar year through an Invitation to Apply (ITA) process. In the first instance, PIR organisations will focus on building their organisational and workforce capacity and expertise, ready to roll out the PIR service in 2013. Medicare Local regions will be used as the geographic regions in which PIR organisations will be established.