

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: E12-188

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: National Mental Health Consumer Peak Body

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

- a) In last year's Budget the Government indicated its intention to establish a National Mental Health Consumer Peak Body. Can you please explain the progress of this?
- b) What is the timetable for establishment?
- c) Has the Consumer Reference Group been finalised yet?
- d) Has an auspice organisation for this Peak Body been finalised yet?

Answer:

- a) The Government is providing \$4 million over five years to establish a new National Mental Health Consumer Organisation. Significant progress made to date includes establishment of a mental health Consumer Reference Group to provide advice on establishment of the new organisation; announcing the auspice organisation for this group; and launching a website for the new consumer organisation (<http://mhconsumer.org.au/>) where mental health consumers can start registering their interest.
- b) The establishment of the new mental health consumer organisation will be ongoing over the next four years.
- c) The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced the membership of the Consumer Reference Group on 22 June 2012 (press release available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr12-mb-mb058.htm>).
- d) The auspice organisation for this Peak Body is the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA).