

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30&31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-192

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health and Complex Trauma

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

Rates of suicide of survivors of child sexual abuse are up to 18 times higher than suicide rates for those who haven't been abused. What is being done in terms of suicide prevention for this group of Australians?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) is aware that suicide presents as an issue in a broad range of population groups and at different times in specific communities.

The Australian Government contributes extensively to suicide prevention through a range of suicide specific programs and broader mental health programs and services such as LifeForce, headspace and Access to Allied Psychological Services.

The Department has funded Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ACSA) to develop a best practice guidance manual to address complex trauma in adult survivors of child abuse.

The manual aims to assist service providers to improve the care and management of adult survivors of child abuse, and may be a useful resource for the mental health and social care sector. The manual is currently being finalised and is expected to be available later in 2012.