

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-120

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Review of Mental Health Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Wright

Question:

Does the Commission believe it is the appropriate body to conduct this review – particularly given it has been integrated with the Department?

Answer:

Contrary to some reports, the National Mental Health Commission has not been integrated with the Department of Health. It remains a separate Executive Agency. Under Machinery of Government changes the Commission has been moved from the Prime Minister's portfolio to the Health portfolio and now reports directly to the Minister for Health.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to play a key role in providing independent advice to Government to improve the mental health of all Australians. In particular we welcome the task to assist the Government to deliver its election commitment to review existing mental health programmes.