

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-122

OUTCOME: 11- Mental Health

Topic: Western Australia Crisis Help

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewart

Question:

Lifeline have experienced a significant increase in the number of calls and online contacts over the past twelve months, according to Lifeline WA's annual report. Has the Department received any information that indicates higher pressure on the mental health services in Western Australians?

- a) Can you provide data on the suicides in WA in 2012/13 and 2011/12
- b) How much funding has been provided to mental health crisis support in WA in this financial year, compared to 2012/13 and 2011/12?

Answer:

The Department of Health has not received information that indicates higher pressure on mental health services in Western Australia.

- a) Data on suicide deaths is available through the Causes of Death Australia publication, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data for 2011 was released on 15 March 2013. Suicide data for 2012 and 2013 has not yet been released.

In 2011, there were 306 suicide deaths among persons whose usual residence was in Western Australia. The age-standardised suicide rate for Western Australia for 2007-2011 was 13.1 per 100,000 population. Please note that 2011 suicide data is preliminary and is subject to revision.

- b) The Department does not fund state based crisis support telephone lines but does provide funding to national support lines.