

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-238

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: HEADSPACE SITES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

If the criteria to determine the 30 new headspace sites announced in the 2010-11 Budget was different to that used to determine the allocation of the 30 original sites, please advise:

- a) What is the new criteria? Please provide details of the same.
- b) Why was it varied?
- c) In relation to the 10 announced by Minister Butler on 14 April 2011, were they determined in relation to the original criteria or any new criteria?

Answer:

- a) The locations for the first 10 new sites were announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, on 24 July 2010 based on revised criteria agreed by the headspace Board and in consultation with the Department of Health and Ageing. The selection criteria were as follows:

Priority will be given to areas that:

- have a significant, and possibly growing youth population, the needs of whom are not currently being met through existing headspace services;
- experience known socio-economic disadvantage and/or have a high Indigenous youth population;
- have experienced indicators of social distress in relation to youth mental health e.g. incidence of youth suicide, imprisonment, or homelessness;
- have sufficient local capacity and infrastructure to support integration and possibly co-location of headspace's four streams of support – physical health, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and social/vocational support; and
- will be supported by existing local service providers and community organisations.

b) and c)

The selection criteria for the original 30 sites reflected the 'start up' nature of the model at the time. They focused on establishing successful headspace service sites while the model was still a fledgling. Locations were not predetermined; these emerged as part of the successful lead agency applications. A final determination of

lead agencies to run the original 30 sites was made by headspace with regard to achieving a geographical spread with examples of metropolitan, regional, rural, remote and indigenous service platforms across all states and territories.

To appropriately reflect that the headspace model was being expanded, rather than introduced, the criteria and process to select the lead agencies were revised for the subsequent 10 sites established under the 2010 Budget expansion measure. Priority locations were determined according to agreed criteria (see answer to a) above) before an expression of interest process was conducted by headspace to select lead agencies. This change in process was underpinned by a concern to ensure effective targeting of the successful headspace model to areas of greatest need.