Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11 - 244

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MID NORTH COAST NAMBUCCA SERVICE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the Mid North Coast – Nambucca Service, please advise:

a) What level of oversight was exercised by the government in relation to the allocation by headspace of the $35.6 million in Australian Government funding?

b) What guidelines or stipulations were attached to the funding to ensure that Headspace allocated the funding equitably?

Answer:

a) and b)
The Australian Government, in the current funding agreement with headspace, specifies levels of funding to be directed toward certain streams of activity, including headspace sites, allied health worker funding to be provided to sites and performance of key activities including National Office. Within the total allocation for sites funding, headspace determines the level of funding for each site.

During 2010, headspace developed a new funding model to underpin allocations to sites that is more sensitive to factors such as population, catchment size, occasions of service and number of young people seen, regionality and market rental rates.   Provision was made for all sites to receive an increase in terms of their funding base under the 2010-11 Budget measure, including to headspace Mid North Coast. headspace has allocated top up funds to existing sites using the new funding model.

headspace must manage and fund all headspace sites in accordance with conditions specified in the funding agreement with the Commonwealth. The agreement specifies a range of reporting requirements to ensure appropriate accountability around finances and program performance. headspace are required to provide work plans, budgets and progress reports including audited financial statements. headspace are also required to meet face to face with the Commonwealth quarterly to discuss progress of the project.