

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-066

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH NURSE EVALUATION

Hansard Page: CA 116

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Provide the criteria/tender documents for the evaluation?
- b) Who is on the advisory panel?

Answer:

- a) The Department is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) which will consider the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of the program in meeting its core objectives of:
 - improving the level of care for people with severe and persistent mental illnesses;
 - reducing likelihood of unnecessary hospital admissions and readmissions for people with severe and persistent mental illnesses; and
 - assisting people with severe and persistent mental illnesses in keeping well and feeling connected within the community.

In addition to evaluating patient outcomes, the evaluation will also include program take up, demand profile, costs benefits and program structure and compliance.

The Department is currently assessing submissions received from individuals/organisations to conduct the evaluation work. Once a successful individual/organisation has been engaged for this task, Request for Quotation documents can be made available on request.

- b) Table 1: Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program Reference Group members:

Dr Barbara Carney	Australian Private Hospitals Association
Dr Tony Cowie	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Dr Michael Nugent	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Ms Jennie Parham	Australian General Practice Network
Sr Pat Delaney	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Ms Meg Bennett	GP NSW
Dr Scott Harden	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
Kim Ryan	Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
Fiona Knight	Department of Human Services
To be appointed	Consumer/ Carer Representative/s