

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-234

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: HEADSPACE - NEW SITES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the evidence given at page 56, what criteria was used to determine where the 30 new headspace sites announced in the 2010-11 Budget?

Answer:

The 2010-11 Budget provided funds for the delivery of up to 30 new headspace youth friendly services. The new sites are to be established in a phased approach, with up to 10 established in 2010-11, up to a further 15 established in 2011-12, and up to 5 established in 2012-13. The further expansion of headspace, announced in the 2011-12 Budget, will now see both measures consolidated into a single implementation approach.

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 criteria agreed by the headspace Board, in consultation with the Department. These criteria are 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 eg. 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.