

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-252

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MULTICULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT (MMHA)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Why is DoHA negotiating with a preferred applicant and how can it claim that it has not identified an unsuccessful applicant when MMHA has been advised that its funding will end 30th June 2011?

Answer:

At the time of giving its evidence to the Estimates hearing on 30 May 2011, the Department was negotiating with the preferred applicant following a merit based assessment of applications to an Invitation to Apply for the Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) project. This is in line with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines and standard and best practice Departmental procurement processes. The Department was not in a position to disclose the preferred applicant's details at that time.

The funding agreement between the Commonwealth and the Sydney West Area Health Service, the then provider of the MMHA project, was for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2011. The current provider was advised at the time of the status of the open application process, that is the Department was negotiating with the preferred applicant.