

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-284

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: ACCESS TO ALLIED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (ATAPS)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What attempts if any have been made to consider funding through NGOs?

Answer:

It is a decision of the Government that Divisions of General Practice/Medicare Locals be the fund holders for ATAPS. To date, Division of General Practice have been fund holders for ATAPS. These arrangements will transition to Medicare Locals as they are established and demonstrate readiness to deliver ATAPS services.

The flexibility of service modalities available under ATAPS enable collaboration with other organisations, such as Aboriginal Medical Services, and allow arrangements for the effective targeting of hard to reach groups.