

Senate Finance & Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into COAG Reforms relating to Health and Hospitals

Professor Patrick McGorry

Answers to Questions on Notice

What is the structure of your organisation?

Orygen Youth Health is made up of two entities which work together to provide mental health services to young people, create new knowledge in the treatment of mental ill-health and disseminate this knowledge in national and international forums.

1. Orygen Youth Health Clinical Program works with over 1000 young people with severe episodes of mental disorders each year. Its catchment is the western and northern areas of Melbourne with a population of approximately 1 million.
2. Orygen Youth Health Research Centre conducts a comprehensive program of research into the mental disorders that impact on young people. It disseminates its work through publications in peer-reviewed journals and at relevant conferences.

Orygen Youth Health Research Centre and Clinical Program work together to manage a training and education program that provides services at state, national and international levels.

How is your organisation funded and what is the major source of funding?

Orygen Youth Health Clinical Program is funded by funds Victorian State Government provided to the Melbourne Health Network. Its operating budget is approximately \$14.5 million per annum.

Orygen Youth Health Research Centre utilises approximately \$14 million of funding per annum. Major sources of funding include philanthropic trusts, national competitive grants from the NHMRC & ARC, Commonwealth Government, beyondblue and headspace.

Do you receive any Commonwealth funding? If so, how much?

The Research Centre utilises approximately \$5 million dollars per annum of funding provided by the Commonwealth Government for various contracts and research projects.

What level of consultation on the National Health and Hospital Network have you had with the Department of Health and Ageing? Over what timeframe has the consultation taken place?

Orygen was represented at the Minister for Health's Roundtable on Mental Health issues conducted in November 2009 as one of the series of consultations conducted by the Minister and the Prime Minister. I have also had the opportunity to make the case for youth

mental health investments (EPPIC and headspace) in a meeting with the Minister on 9 Feb and have had follow up contacts (including the submission of documentation and a meeting) with her adviser. Unfortunately the scale of the investment in headspace and EPPIC is significantly below the level that I recommended during these contacts.

In addition to the questions above, I would also like to correct one section of my written submission, in light of recent clarifying evidence by DoHA officials about headspace funding. Section 2.2 of my submission should now read:

2.2. Of the \$173m mental health funding announcements, the entirety of the \$57m for flexible care packages is pre-existing funding. Therefore the actual increase in mental health funding in the COAG agreement is \$116m or approximately 2% of the total new funding announced as part of the COAG agreement. This represents in effect a widening of the gap between mental and physical health care funding.