

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 26 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000509

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Mental health and suicide prevention programs

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 55, 26 May 2017

**Senator:** Dodson, Patrick

**Question:**

Senator DODSON: I understand—and maybe the minister or you can correct me—that in the 2017-18 budget about \$115 million was allocated. How much of that was specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and suicide prevention programs or services?

Ms Cole: There were no Indigenous-specific items in that budget. However, there was a specific item for suicide prevention, which is around the suicide hotspots.

Senator DODSON: So where do I get this figure of \$115 million from?

Ms Cole: So \$115 million is the total additional mental health money that was provided in the last budget in this portfolio. There are four initiatives within that.

Senator DODSON: Can you refer me to it in the budget papers?

Ms Cole: Can I provide those to you out of session?

Senator DODSON: Sure; I will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Australian Government provided \$115.2 million through the Improving Mental Health measure announced at Budget 2017-18.

This funding is comprised of four mental health and suicide prevention initiatives:

- \$80 million for Community Mental Health - psychosocial supports;
- \$15 million for mental health research;
- \$11.1 million for Assisting to Prevent Suicides at Hotspot Locations; and
- \$9.1 million for Telehealth Access for Psychological Services in Rural and Regional Australia.

These measures are outlined on pages 63-64 and page 93 of the Health Portfolio Budget Statements 2017/18.

## 2017-18 Budget Measure - Improving Mental Health

	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Community Mental Health – Psychosocial Supports	7.8	23.7	24.1	24.4	<b>80.0</b>
Mental Health Research	7.5	7.5	-	-	<b>15.0</b>
Assisting to Prevent Suicides at Hotspot Locations*	3.7	3.7	3.7	-	<b>11.1</b>
Telehealth Access for Psychological Services in Rural and Regional Australia**	1.5	2.4	2.5	2.7	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>115.2</b>

Source: 2017-18 Portfolio Budget Statements.

\*Figures include National Partnership funding to Treasury

\*\*Figures include funding to Department of Human Services.

The following allocations have been provided through previous budgets and through the 2016 election commitments and MYEFO processes in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide services:

- \$5.6 million per year ongoing to PHNs for the delivery of culturally appropriate suicide prevention services specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- \$34 million over three years commencing 2016-17 for the implementation and evaluation of 12 national suicide prevention trials, with each site receiving \$3 million over 3 years. The two sites of the Kimberley and Darwin have been selected to focus specifically on Indigenous suicide prevention. It is anticipated that selected other sites may also target activity that will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their region.