

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 26 October 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001259

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Psychosocial Support

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Deborah O'Neill

Question:

1. Can the Department confirm if the \$80 million funding announced in the 2017-18 Federal Budget for people with psychosocial disability not eligible for the NDIS has now been named the National Psychosocial Support Scheme?
2. Can the Department provide a progress regarding negotiations with state and territory governments in relation to their share of the contributions for the Federal Government's psychosocial support? Is there a time-limited working group who will develop criteria which the states and territories will need to follow? If yes:
 - a) Can you provide the names of who is on this working group?
 - b) Has the group already met? If not when will it and how often? If yes, when and how often will it meet?
 - c) Has the criteria been developed as yet? If yes, can a copy be provided and will these criteria be made available to the mental health sector? If no, is there a starting point for what the criteria will look like, if they haven't yet been developed?
3. Has the Department decided yet if existing funding will be able to count towards the matched funding that is required by states/territories? If Yes, what would therefore classify as new money - for example funding allocated in the most recent budgets for states and territories or something that had been funded for over a year?
4. Has the Department decided yet how the funding will be distributed to each state/territory? That is, direct to each government or via PHNs or another mechanism? Will the funding be able to be used to continue those programs that are moving to the NDIS such as Partners in Recovery?

Answer:

1. The \$80 million funding announced in the 2017-18 Federal Budget is currently referred to as the National Psychosocial Support measure.
2. Yes, a time-limited working group has been established – the National Psychosocial Support Working Group (NPSWG).
 - a. The membership of the NPSWG comprises:
 - Ms Natasha Cole, Commonwealth Department of Health (CHAIR)
 - Dr Anthony Millgate, Commonwealth Department of Health
 - Dr Denise Riordan, NT Health

- Ms Skye Jacobi, SA Health
- Dr Tarun Bastiampillai, SA Health
- Ms Lorraine Langley, Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria
- Dr John Riley, QLD Health
- Ms Sandra Eyre, QLD Health
- Ms Amy Wyndham, NSW Ministry of Health
- Ms Narelle Butt, Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania
- Ms Amber Shuhyta, ACT Health
- Ms Tammy Ford, WA Mental Health Commission

b) The NPSWG has met three times: 21 September 2017, 9 October 2017 and 15 November 2017.

c) Terms and conditions for funding under the National Psychosocial Support measure are being determined by the NPSWG. A copy of the terms and conditions can be provided once they have been endorsed.

3. Refer to part 2c.

4. Refer to part 2c.