

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-359

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Does DoHA have any responsibilities in relation to mental health services provided to asylum seekers including:

- a) Access to services when released into the community
- b) The costs of such services
- c) The provision of such services
- d) The number of staff allocated to the provision of such services
- e) Any specific priority given to asylum seekers released into the community.

Answer:

a), b), c), d), and e)

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is responsible for mental health services provided to asylum seekers resident in immigration detention facilities and other forms of detention (eg community detention) as well as asylum seekers granted bridging visas. The Department of Health and Ageing manages the Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma which provides specialised mental health support to permanently resettled humanitarian program entrants.