

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-360

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: E-Mental Health Portal

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details in relation to the e-mental health program, including:

- a) Design details
- b) Cost of design
- c) Who will be responsible for overseeing the program
- d) If such organisation is outside DoHA, did it go to tender.
- e) What is the governance structure of such organisation
- f) How will funding for the program be allocated.

Answer:

- a) A Departmental e-mental health advisory committee has provided advice on the design of the portal. The portal will provide a single gateway to online mental health treatment programs to assist an individual to find the most appropriate support options.
- b) The cost of design and implementation of the portal is estimated at \$2.5 million.
- c) The National Health Call Centre Network Ltd (NHCCN) has been contracted to build and operate the portal. The Department of Health and Ageing will be responsible for ongoing program delivery and content.
- d) The Commonwealth provided \$20 million to the NHCCN (from 2006-07 to 2011-12) for mental health specific activities, of which \$12 million remains available. As these funds were available, and the NHCCN has the required expertise in delivering online health services, the project was not put out to tender.
- e) The NHCCN is a private company limited by shares. It was established by the Commonwealth and state and territory Governments.
- f) Refer to d).