

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 156

Topic: PHaMS

Hansard Page: 16/02/2012 - CA72

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

There was an article in the Australian newspaper on 31 January entitled 'mental health policy fails to show results'. There is a comment in there that makes reference to the PHaMS program and flexible packages of care. What is the Department's general response to criticism of that nature, that it is largely untested semi or non-professional coordination of services?

Answer:

An independent evaluation of the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) program is overwhelmingly positive showing improved health and well-being resulting from better connection with services and the community. The evaluation can be accessed through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' website. In 2009-10 ninety eight per cent of clients, families and carers maintained progress against individual goals and ninety nine per cent reported satisfaction with the service provided.