

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Questions: E13-205

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund and the NGOTGP – ISIS Primary Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

One of the reasons given in answer to Question on Notice E12-154 from Budget Estimates 2012 for discontinuing funding for ISIS Primary Care under the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund and the Non Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program was Departmental concern that the organisation was not delivering services satisfactorily. I understand that while the program experienced initial difficulties in its first financial year of funding (2010/2011) with program and staffing re-alignments, but over performed significantly in its most recent year (2011/12) which compensated for previous underperformance when averaged over both years.

Specifically when the project was re-aligned, a substantial Performance measure was Episodes of Care (EOCs). In 2010/11, the agreed upon EOC targets for this program was 55 EOCs, and 15 were delivered. In 2011/12, the target was 45 and 158 were delivered. Therefore, although ISIS underperformed in 2010/11, across the 2 financial years their target was 100 EOCs and their Performance was 173, giving a total performance 173% to target. Does the Department agree with these figures? Was the Department aware of this year-by-year breakdown when it made the decision to discontinue funding?

Answer:

When funding decisions were made in April-May 2012 the available data indicated that ISIS Primary Care was not achieving the episodes of care (EOC) targets that had been agreed. EOC targets of 55 per year were in place for each year and completed EOCs were substantially under the agreed target in each of the first three years of funding (2008-09 to 2010-11). While the EOC figures cited are correct for 2011-12, the Department of Health and Ageing did not receive performance data for the 2011-12 financial year until October 2012, after the funding decisions had been finalised.