

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000234

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Mental Health Australia Survey

Type of Question: Hansard Page 051, 25 February 2015

Senator: Wright, Penny

Question:

Senator Wright: I would like to come to Senator Nash and ask a few questions about the review and the consequences of not yet having the review published and then responded to by government. It has been almost a year now, and funding uncertainty is wreaking real difficulties across the sector. There was a survey by Mental Health Australia late last year showing that 40 per cent of organisations surveyed who are in receipt of Commonwealth funding had already experienced loss of staff due to lack of clarity around funding arrangements. I am going to ask both the department and the minister assisting: are you aware of the survey to which I am referering? Can we start with Senator Nash please. Senator Nash: I am not aware of that particular survey. Senator Wright: I guess you cannot answer on behalf of the health minister, but could you take it on notice to ascertain whether the health minister is aware of the survey.

Answer:

The Department of Health is aware of the Mental Health Australia survey of non-government organisations in the mental health sector, conducted in late November 2014. A copy of the survey has been made available to the Office of the Minister for Health the Hon Sussan Ley MP.