

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000299

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Postnatal Depression

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 85, 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question:**

Senator MOORE: We had some discussion earlier looking at whether other services were around—that is, in general discussion about that and not on this one in particular—to see whether there was any discussion or anything that could be made public about where it could go. One reason I asked that question was that I was looking at the information around the PANDA hotline, which is one that we do not fund anymore but I have a feeling in the past we may have, which offers a service that has private sector funding. They released a fairly interesting statement at the end of last year about quite scary statistics around the increase in calls they were getting about severe postnatal depression and the impact that it was having. I am just wondering where that information would be fed into in our system to pick up on those issues, because certainly under one of the mental health plans postnatal depression was one of the core issues that we identified; in fact, I think under the Butler plan it was one of the core areas of funding. So where would that information around these concerning stats go in terms of support?

Mr Cormack: I do not have visibility of the specific report that you are referring to.

Senator MOORE: I can send it to you. You can take that on notice, Mr Cormack.

Mr Cormack: Thank you.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health continues to provide funding to Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA).

The Department monitors closely the progress reports provided by PANDA on the level of service provision and will continue to work with them to ensure they can meet community need.

Recent discussions with PANDA have indicated that calls to its hotline are increasing but they are able to manage within the current funding levels. The funding agreement with PANDA is being extended through to 30 June 2017.