

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000302

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: NHMRC Grants

Type of Question: Hansard Page 132, 10 February 2016

Senator: Ludlam, Scott

Question:

Senator LUDLAM: Perhaps I could put these on notice, given how late it is and how close we are to close of play. You also identified that there is no federal funding outside of the NHMRC grants you identified. Actually, I think this came through the secretary rather than from you. I am just wondering: with the other things we have identified, there is no accredited training listed on RACGP that we have been able to find; there is no other dedicated training funded for nurses or allied health staff that we have been aware of. Have you been able to identify anything since last October where anything up to 460,000 people appear to be going without any material support at all? Have you been able to find anything in the system?

Answer:

Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a complex medical condition the cause of which is not understood and for which there is currently no definitive diagnosis.

The Government is committed to supporting clinical research into ME/CFS. Since 2005, the National Health and Medical Research Council has provided \$1.392 million for such research.

Like all Australians, people affected by ME/CFS have access to high quality health care and medicines – particularly through Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the Private Health Insurance Rebate – to assist with management of their conditions.