

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000042

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Suicide Prevention Trial Sites

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 68, 1 March 2017

**Senator:** O'Neill, Deborah

**Question:**

Ms Cole: There were always going to be 10 sites. There was a question about the mix, content and focus of those lead sites.

Senator O'NEILL: Who chose the number 10?

Ms Cole: It was in the government's response to the Mental Health Commission's report.

Senator O'NEILL: And was that based on anything? Or was it just a number pulled out of the air?

Mr Bowles: I think that the Mental Health Commission—

Senator O'NEILL: Recommended 10?

Mr Bowles: No—well, I think we would have to take on notice the number, based on the Mental Health Commission's report. It recommended that we run a number of these trials.

**Answer:**

The National Mental Health Commission's *Contributing Lives, Thriving Communities – Report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services* (the Review), recommended a model of 12 suicide prevention regions. The Australian Government's 12 suicide prevention trial sites are similar to the Review's recommendation; both have an emphasis on those areas where there are high rates of suicide and suicide attempts, or where communities are under increasing stress.

There are ten mental health lead sites. The Department of Health recommended the number and mix of the lead sites based on an assessment process. The sites were selected on merit, including demonstrated capacity and innovation in accordance with the process outlined in the call for expressions of interest.