

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000058

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

**Topic:** National Mental Health Commissioner

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 83, 1 March 2017

**Senator:** Roberts, Malcolm

**Question:**

Senator ROBERTS: Okay, thank you. What changes have been made by the government in relation to the review of programs by the National Mental Health Commission?

Mr Cormack: Just to step you through that, in November 2015 the government issued a comprehensive response to the National Mental Health Commission's report. It effectively addressed nine key areas of reform. We have touched on some of those today. The first of those—and we have talked a lot about this—is locally planned and commissioned services and flexible primary healthcare funding pools. That has been established and, indeed, the PHNs are now commissioning that. The government essentially collapsed down nearly 20 programs—I will give you that precise number on notice—to a smaller number of programs to give much greater local accountability and local responsiveness to the commissioning of mental health services.

**Answer:**

In 2015-16 MYEFO the Commonwealth mental health programs were consolidated from 20 to five programs.