

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000422

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Fifth National Mental Health Plan

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

There have been further delays to the Fifth National Mental Health Plan. Can the Department provide a timeline for the Fifth National Mental Health Plan from its inception until now outlining key milestones during the plan's development and drafting? Is there a date of completion and a date that the plan will become operational?

Answer:

Fifth National Mental Health Plan Timeline:

| Date: | What: |
|------------------------|--|
| April 2015 | Commonwealth Minister wrote to State and Territory Health Ministers to invite them to work with the Australian Government to develop a Fifth National Mental Health Plan |
| April 2015 | Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC) tasked by Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) to establish a Fifth National Mental Health Plan Working Group |
| June 2015 | Establishment of the Working Group |
| August 2015 | Targeted consultation workshop with stakeholders held to determine priority areas |
| October 2015 | Priority areas endorsed by AHMAC |
| November 2015 | Priority areas endorsed by Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council |
| January – October 2016 | Consultation draft developed in consultation with stakeholders |
| October 2016 | Consultation draft endorsed by MHDAPC |
| October 2016 | Consultation draft publicly released to support national stakeholder consultation activities |
| November/December 2016 | National consultation activities held |
| December 2016 | AHMAC approves a 3 month extension of the timeline to ensure comprehensive analysis and synthesis of extensive stakeholder feedback |

Anticipated date of completion: A final draft is expected to be provided to MHDAPC in late April 2017.

Anticipated date of endorsement: The final draft is expected to be provided to COAG Health Council for endorsement in August 2017.