

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Hearing 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-153

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: COMMUNITY LED SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Of the \$22.6 million to improve community led suicide prevention services, how and when was the fast-tracked \$6 million portion announced 14/4/2011 delivered to address the Kimberley suicide spike? How will the remainder of the \$22.6 million be rolled out from 1/7/2011? How much will benefit Indigenous and regional communities?

Answer:

Funding provided in response to Kimberley suicides:

On 14 April 2011 the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced an immediate investment of \$150,000 to further enhance services through the Access to Allied Psychological Services program in the Kimberley Region for people who have attempted or are at risk of suicide and to develop culturally appropriate training for professionals including Aboriginal Health Workers.

The \$150,000 announced by Minister Butler on 14 April 2011 came from 2010-11 National Suicide Prevention Program funding.

\$6 million for community-based suicide prevention activity in Indigenous communities:

Additionally the Minister announced that \$6 million from the Taking Action to Tackle Suicide package would specifically target Indigenous Australians. The Department is finalising the establishment of an Expert Advisory Group that will provide advice on the best way to target this investment in community-based suicide prevention activity specific to Indigenous communities.

The Department plans to organise a consultation process to support the roll out of the rest of the \$22.6 million through the "Community Prevention activities for high risk groups" measure announced as a part of the Taking Action to Tackle Suicide package.

At this stage, the breakdown of funding for particular target population groups is not decided, apart from the \$6 million quarantined for Indigenous communities.