

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-214

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: USAGE AND EVALUATION CONSULTATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to evidence provided by Ms Halton, please provide details in relation to "significant numbers of people were party to these evaluations" including:

- a) Who were the significant number of people? Please provide a list.
- b) What were "these evaluations"?

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Answer:

- a) The Better Access evaluation was widely known about in the mental health sector. The Department of Health and Ageing reiterates the evidence it provided at the hearing on 30 May 2011, including as recorded on page 70 of the Official Hansard, and in answers to several Questions on Notice from the February 2011 hearing in terms of the significant numbers of stakeholder organisations, consumers, service providers and experts included in the evaluation. (Refer also to the answer provided to question E11-106.)
- b) The Better Access evaluation comprised several component parts, summarised in the following table:

Component	Title
A	A study of consumers and their outcomes
A2	A study of consumers and their outcomes (focusing on the occupational therapy and social work sectors)
B	An analysis of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) administrative data
C	An analysis of allied mental health workforce supply and distribution
D	Consultation with stakeholders
E	Evaluation of projects conducted under the education and training initiative to support Better Access
F	Analysis of the Second National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing
Overall	Summative Evaluation