

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-032**

**OUTCOME:** 11 - Mental Health

**Topic:** Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Wright

**Question:**

- a) How many new organisations have commenced with the programme in 2012-13?
- b) Where are these organisations located?
- c) How many organisations are on the waiting list for the programme?
- d) What criteria are the Department using to determine which organisations on the waiting list are able to commence the programme?
- e) What criteria are the Department using to decide how many sessions to allocate to new organisations?

**Answer:**

- a) Four new organisations commenced with the programme in 2012-13.
- b) Three of these new organisations are located in Queensland and the fourth is located in New South Wales.
- c) As 30 September 2013, there are 64 organisations on the waiting list to join the programme.
- d) In addition to the criteria outlined in the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme (MHNIP) guidelines for eligible organisations, the following criteria have been used to determine which organisations on the waiting list were able to join the programme:
  - ensuring continuity of care to existing patients;
  - availability of MHNIP services in the local region; and
  - availability of programme funding.

The MHNIP guidelines also indicate that, where there is opportunity to reallocate sessions, priority will be given to organisations in areas with limited or no MHNIP services to improve the distribution of services across geographic locations. This is consistent with the findings of the 2012 MHNIP evaluation.

- e) For the new organisations that joined the programme in 2012-13, the Department of Health and Ageing contacted each new organisation on the waiting list to determine how many sessions the organisation intended to provide per week (up to the 10 session per week maximum per nurse). An allocation was then provided based on the sessions the mental health nurse could reasonably conduct prior to the end of 2012-13.