

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-033

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Wright

Question:

- a) How many organisations have used their full allocation of sessions?
- b) If possible, please provide the dates of when each organisation used its last session.
- c) In the case of each organisation, how many patients were receiving MHNIP services at the time the session allocation was exhausted?
- d) Has the Department provided further support to these organisations?

Answer:

a) and b)

As at 30 September 2013, 111 organisations had used their full 2012-13 session allocation. Of these, 11 used their last session between 10 January to 29 April, with the remainder using their last session between 30 April and 30 June.

- c) Data on the number of patients receiving sessions at the organisation level at a particular point in time is not currently available.
- d) The Department of Human Services has been assisting all organisations in managing their session levels by monitoring monthly the sessions that have been used and providing organisations with a quarterly update. Where an organisation's session levels were higher than would be expected based on their allocation, such that it was possible that they were at risk of exceeding their total allocation prior to the end of 2012-13, they were advised more frequently. In addition, organisations that sought to increase their allocation for 2012-13 had the option of being added to the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme waiting list.