

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question: E13-036**

**OUTCOME:** 11 - Mental Health

**Topic:** Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme

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

**Senator:** Wright

**Question:**

- a) What are the terms of reference for the Expert Reference Group?
- b) Who has been appointed to the Expert Reference Group?
- c) Will the re-design process include a public consultation period to gather input from mental health nurses, general practitioners, psychiatrists, consumers and carers who use the MHNIP?
- d) What is the planned timeframe for the MHNIP re-design process?

**Answer:**

- a) Terms of Reference for the Expert Reference Group (ERG):  
In the context of national mental health reform and other new and emerging programs, the ERG will provide confidential advice to the Department of Health and Ageing on:
  - ways to address the key findings of the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme (MHNIP) evaluation;
  - considerations for the re-design of the MHNIP; and
  - the future evaluation of the MHNIP.

The ERG may be asked to consider and provide advice on a range of matters relating to the MHNIP, including the development of a formal clinical governance framework and appropriate data collection protocols. Projects may also be commissioned to progress key aspects of the redesign work.

- b) Please see the ERG membership list at Attachment A.
- c) A consultation process involving case studies, an online survey and a series of interviews with key stakeholders was conducted to inform the 2012 MHNIP Evaluation Report, which will inform the program redesign. Further consultation with key stakeholders will occur through the ERG. The need for any additional consultation with other stakeholders will be considered by the Department and the ERG as part of the redesign process.
- d) The MHNIP redesign process will be undertaken in the 2013-14 financial year.

## Attachment A: Expert Reference Group Membership

Name	Organisation
Ms Sue Campion	Mental Health and Drug Treatment Division, Department of Health and Ageing
Ms Fiona Nicholls	Mental Health and Drug Treatment Division, Department of Health and Ageing
Ms Mary O'Hanlon	Medicare Australia, Department of Human Services
Ms Carol Turnbull	Australian Private Hospitals Association
Dr Caroline Johnson	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Ms Jennie Parham	Australian Medicare Local Alliance
Dr Michael Nugent	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Ms Lisa Briggs	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Dr Malcolm Hopwood	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
Prof Kim Ryan	Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
Ms Lee Thomas	Australian Nursing Federation
Prof Debra Thoms	Australian College of Nursing
Mr Evan Bichara	National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum Consumer Advocate
Mr Patrick Hardwick	National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum Carer Advocate
Mr David Meldrum	Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia
Mr Frank Quinlan	Mental Health Council of Australia
Dr Anne Wilson	Australian Medical Association