

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-116

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health – Deadly Thinking Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Is the Department aware of the very significant difficulties this delayed announcement means to the Not for Profit/NGO sector whose business it is to roll out creative and effective suicide prevention programs in rural and remote Australia, particularly in Indigenous communities?

Answer:

Please see response provided to Question on Notice E13-115.

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HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

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Question: E13-115

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Indigenous Suicide Prevention

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Can the Department explain why the announcement regarding the funding of National Suicide Prevention Programmes such as the \$6 million Taking Action to Tackle Suicide (TATS) package promised to providers in February 2013 has not yet been made?

Answer:

Under the Community Prevention activities for high risk groups initiative (\$38.1 million) element of the Taking Action To Tackle Suicide package, \$6 million over four years (2011-12 to 2014-15) was quarantined for suicide prevention activity targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In 2011-12, \$1.5 million of the \$6 million quarantined for community based suicide prevention projects targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was allocated, providing funding for five projects.

An open Invitation to Apply for the remaining \$4.5 million was released on 12 November 2012 and closed on 21 December 2012.

Due to the large number of applications received, it took longer than originally planned to assess all applications.

All applicants were informed of the outcome of the process by 2 July 2013.