

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-157

OUTCOME: 11 – Mental Health

Topic: Partners in Recovery

Type of Question: Hansard Page 58, 5 June 2013

Senator: Wright

Question:

Was it clear in the funding documentation that indicative funding ranges were for when organisations were operating at their maximum capacity? How many organisations received the level of funding they requested?

Answer:

The Partners in Recovery (PIR) initiative Program Guidelines, released in August 2012, provided indicative funding ranges PIR Organisations might expect to receive based on the estimated number of PIR clients eligible to access PIR within the region.

The PIR Program Guidelines stated that the indicative recurrent funding ranges reflected ‘full year of operation’ costs when the organisation would be seeing its maximum number of PIR clients. This is expected to be in 2015-16. The Program Guidelines also stated the indicative recurrent funding ranges had not yet been weighted for rurality and socioeconomic disadvantage noting that when weightings were applied, funding amounts may vary by 20 – 30 per cent and that estimated budget figures were to be refined and finalised during contract negotiations.

At each of the nine information sessions held in August and September 2012 it was reiterated that funding ranges provided in the Program Guidelines were indicative only, and were included to give applicants a sense of the funding range they could expect to budget around.

Applications received for PIR Organisation funding generally anticipated full operational capacity and client numbers early in their development rather than progressive growth in client numbers over a few years. Of the 48 PIR Organisations currently in contract five will receive the full level of funding they requested for 2015-16, and 25 per cent will receive funding within 10 per cent of that which they requested.