

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-161

OUTCOME: 11 - Mental Health

Topic: Partners in Recovery

Type of Question: Hansard Page 62, 5 June 2013

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Page 10 of the Program Guidelines refer to an estimate of 60,000 people living with severe and persistent mental illness. Where did this estimate come from? Is this in a published paper and has it been peer reviewed?

Answer:

The estimate of approximately 60,000 people with severe, persistent mental illness and complex multi-agency needs, was based on earlier modeling undertaken by Commonwealth and state and territory governments, which informed the development of the 2006 Council of Australian Government's mental health initiatives. This modeling was most recently updated in 2010.

The estimates are based on 3.5 per cent of the adult population (approximately 482,000 people) having a severe mental illness, and a subgroup of these (0.4 per cent of the adult population, or approximately 60,000 individuals) having a severe and persistent mental illness with complex and multiple service needs.