

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001001

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Mental Health Programs

Type of Question: Hansard Page 45, 2 June 2014

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

I have had an interest in trying to track the funding for mental health programs. I have asked two questions on notice about that and yesterday I continued trying to ascertain what is the allocated expenditure for a number of programs in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. You have given me, in answer to questions on notice, some global figures, and then, when I pressed on this matter, you indicated that information on unpublished and uncontracted funding is not normally provided as this information can be misleading.

I am asking you now if this is a public interest immunity claim in not wanting to answer those questions and, if so, what are the grounds for that claim?

Answer:

This is not a public interest immunity claim. Any additional information over and above that which has been previously provided, including unpublished and uncontracted funding, may not be an accurate representation of final expenditure and therefore may be misleading.

Detailed information on funding of mental health programmes is published annually in the Department of Health's Annual Report.