

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001003

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Youth Mental Health

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 113, 2 June 2014

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

Is the government aware of concerns which have also been expressed about the increased risk of mental ill health among young people linked with homelessness as a consequence of young people under 30 being without income for up to six months under the proposed changes to Newstart?

**Answer:**

Young people are a specific target group for services under a range of existing Commonwealth funded mental health and suicide prevention programmes. headspace centres and eheadspace services, for example, provide holistic support for young people in four key areas – mental health, related physical health, alcohol and other drug use, as well as social and vocational support.

For information on supports provided through Centrelink refer to the Department of Social Services.