

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000325

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

- a) What is the cost of a single MHNIP session and when was this cost last reviewed?
- b) Who is responsible for setting and reviewing the cost of a MHNIP session?
- c) What factors are taken into consideration during the process of setting and reviewing the cost of a MHNIP session?

**Answer:**

- a) The duration of a single Mental Health Nurse Incentive Programme (MHNIP) session is 3.5 hours and the incentive payment of \$240.00 was set in 2007. A 25 per cent loading for regional and remote settings is also applied.
- b) The Department of Health, in consultation with peak bodies, set the cost of a MHNIP session in 2007.
- c) Factors considered during the process of setting the cost of a MHNIP session included:
  - the industry standard for a community mental health nurse qualification; and
  - an estimate of the administrative overheads associated with the position.