

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000638

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Expert Reference Group

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 67, 1 June 2015

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

Why did the government decide to appoint an expert reference group instead of tasking the National Mental Health Commission itself with implementing the recommendations of the review?

**Answer:**

The National Mental Health Commission's Final Report of the *Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services* presents an ambitious plan for broad, long term reform of the mental health system. This is a report to Government, not of Government, and while many of the Review recommendations offer positive ideas, they may require further investigation by experts, and targeted consultation with states and territories and the sector.

The Expert Reference Group has being established to provide advice on implementation issues to inform the Government's considered response to the Review, as part of a broader consultative and collaborative approach.