

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000673

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: headspace Centres

Type of Question: Hansard Page 64, 1 June 2015

Senator: Wright, Penny

Question:

Senator WRIGHT: Yes, I am aware of the consideration of headspace in the commission's report. Has headspace returned any funding back to the Department of Health at any time?

Mr Booth : There have been occasions when headspace have not been able to spend all of its allocation. That has been primarily due to the rollout of sites. That essentially means that they could not use all the funding that they had. I do not think they physically return it, but it is reflected in the next year's allocation. It is only in those cases where, as I said, they have not been able to utilise the funding that they have had available.

Senator WRIGHT: Can you take on notice details of when that has occurred and which headspace centres that issue has been applicable to?

Mr Booth: Yes.

Answer:

headspace returned funding of \$3,327,494.50 (GST inclusive) to the Department of Health for the headspace School Support Programme in 2014-15. These unspent funds were the result of slow uptake of the Programme in its early establishment phase while relationships with schools and education departments were being formed.