

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000587

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Headspace

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 17, 30 May 2017

**Senator:** O'Neill, Deborah

**Question:**

Senator O'NEILL: I understand that the member for Canning was pushing for a headspace to be located in the Peel area of Western Australia. Of course, last week Minister Hunt sent out a media release announcing a new headspace centre for the very area that the member was increasingly hopeful of securing. I was wondering why he would say this, given that the process is essentially supposed to be driven by mental health—

Mr Cormack: I think that is a question you would have to ask of the minister.

Senator O'NEILL: Senator Nash, would you be able to answer the question on behalf of the minister?

Senator Nash: I could take it on notice for you. I am not aware of those circumstances, but I am happy to ask him and come back to you.

Senator O'NEILL: It would be concerning if there were not an evidence base for the announcements of these vital—

Mr Cormack: I think I have outlined a very extensive—

Senator Nash: I do not think anyone has said that. I am certainly happy to take that on notice for you. There has been a process in place here. Clearly, I am not aware of that particular circumstance. We will come back to you on that.

**Answer:**

The selection of sites for the ten new headspace services is based on national modelling that considers factors such as geographic distribution and youth population, with appropriate weightings for remoteness and socio-economic disadvantage. Priority was given to locations within rural and regional areas.

The Department of Health consulted with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) regarding potential candidate locations within their catchment region to ensure that additional services were sustainable and accessible.

Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation (headspace) was consulted by the Department regarding potential candidate locations to ensure new headspace services are able to adhere to the headspace model.