

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000634

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Drug and alcohol services

Type of Question: Hansard Page 46, 30 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: I have some questions about the department's approach to drug and alcohol services. Can you please provide the average waiting time for someone to access residential rehab services in each state and territory?

Dr Studdert: I do not have my key advisers here, but I am fairly certain we would have to take that on notice. It is a matter for the states and territories—

Mr Bowles: It would be a state and territory issue, Senator.

Senator WATT: If you could take on notice a state-by-state breakdown—

Answer:

The Department of Health does not have figures on the average waiting time for residential rehabilitation beds in each state and territory.

The majority of residential rehabilitation services are funded by states and territories. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set does not currently capture this information. However, the Department is working with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to investigate if such data may be able to be incorporated in the future.