

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000673

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Indigenous Suicide

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Sterle, Glenn

Question:

The major ATSIPEP Report states as follows: “There are several promising examples of Elder-driven, on-country healing programs for youth to help them become stronger and think differently about themselves..... The Yiriman Project (WA) aims to ‘build stories in young people’ and keep young people alive and healthy by reacquainting them with country.... The Yiriman model is a means of providing young people with opportunities to participate more fully in life through community events and a range of other events.” In 2010 the Department of Health funded the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre to develop a Yiriman Business Plan. This Business Plan was provided to the Department of Health in November 2010. In the six and a half years since, what has been the Department of Health’s response to the Yiriman Business Plan which the Department itself funded?

Answer:

The Yiriman Business Plan 2011-14 was an extensive youth diversion program proposal developed by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC). The proposal aimed to provide young people at risk with pathways to improved health, education and training outcomes.

The Department of Health funded KALACC for specific suicide prevention activity from 2008/09 to 2015/16, primarily through the National Suicide Prevention Program (NSPP).

In 2009, the then Minister for Indigenous Health advised KALACC that their proposal for a Kimberley Youth at Risk Diversionary Program was noted, in the context of whole-of-government arrangements for policy development and service delivery occurring at that time.

In 2012, the Department of Health advised KALACC in relation to resourcing for the Yiriman Business Plan, that funding through the NSPP was fully allocated. KALACC was advised of future funding rounds and encouraged to seek out other funding opportunities.