

## Senate Community Affairs Committee

### ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### HEALTH PORTFOLIO

#### Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000674

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

**Topic:** Indigenous Suicide

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Sterle, Glenn

**Question:**

The Minutes of the 01 May meeting of the Kimberley Regional Suicide Prevention Working Group contain these words: "Steering Committee to action the following items from working group discussion before the next working group meeting: .... "Progress mapping/project development of Minister Wyatt priority - Culturally based activities." In evidence to the Senate Estimates Committee on 30 May, the Health Department officers identified the regional priorities and themes for the Kimberley as being: 'Parenting; Linking with AOD programs; After hours crisis support; Schooling and Education.' Not once was there any mention of Aboriginal Culture. KALACC is represented on the Working Group by Merle Carter and by Wayne Barker and represented on the Executive Steering Committee by Wes Morris. Is the mapping and project development of culturally based projects Minister Wyatt's priority and, if so, why was no mention of Aboriginal culture made during the Senate Estimates hearings on 30 May?

**Answer:**

The Kimberley Suicide Prevention Working Group has met three times, most recently on 1 May 2017. At those meetings priorities are identified by members and activities are identified for further consideration and action. KALACC is represented on the Working Group by Merle Carter and Wayne Barker.

Culturally based activity was a priority highlighted by Minister Wyatt at the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial Roundtable meeting held in Broome on 1 May 2017.

On 13 June, the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial Steering Committee, established to oversee trial activity, met to discuss trial priorities and key areas of focus. Included in this discussion were priorities that have been identified by Minister Wyatt. KALACC is represented on the Executive Steering Committee by Wes Morris.

The Committee agreed that mapping of risk areas and services provided on country would be progressed, and that information regarding cultural safety would be further developed by the six community network groups to be established across the Kimberley region. When completed, these community networks will report their findings back to the Working Group for consideration.