

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000679

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Indigenous Suicide

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Sterle, Glenn

Question:

Over the last five years, the Kimberley region has on each and every year represented not less than 10%, and sometimes as high as 15%, of all Aboriginal suicides in Australia. In testimony to the Senate Estimates Committee on 30 May the Health Department indicated that mental health and suicide prevention investments were being apportioned across the nation on a per capita basis. Is this an appropriate allocation model and shouldn't the allocations instead be apportioned on a needs basis?

Answer:

The Department of Health provides funding to Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to plan and commission regionally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention services. The major proportion of mental health funding is divided among PHNs according to a funding model that is weighted for Indigenous population, remoteness and disadvantage. Funding provided to PHNs for Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention is weighted according to Indigenous population only.

The Department is providing additional funding to eleven PHNs to lead twelve suicide prevention trial sites in identified priority areas, including the Kimberley. Suicide prevention trial sites were selected based upon a number of factors including suicide death rates over an extended period.

The level of funding provided to each PHN is provided at Table 1. Below.

Table 1: PHN Mental Health Flexible Fund funding allocation to each PHN

PHN	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19** (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Central and Eastern Sydney	14.4	16.6	16.1	47.1
Northern Sydney	6.7	7.8	7.9	22.4
Western Sydney	15.0	14.3	19.2	48.5
Nepean Blue Mountains	4.9	5.1	5.9	15.8
South Western Sydney	10.7	11.5	12.4	34.5
South Eastern NSW	9.2	10.8	10.7	30.7
Western NSW	11.2	12.5	11.4	35.1
Hunter New England and Central Coast	18.9	21.6	19.3	59.8
North Coast	12.1	13.4	12.2	37.8
Murrumbidgee	6.2	6.9	6.2	19.3
North Western Melbourne	18.2	20.2	19.9	58.2
Eastern Melbourne	15.6	16.9	13.5	46.0
South Eastern Melbourne	23.5	21.2	26.8	71.5
Gippsland	4.1	5.5	5.8	15.4
Murray	13.5	12.9	11.5	37.8
Western Victoria	10.0	11.5	10.2	31.7
Brisbane North	12.7	14.3	13.1	40.1
Brisbane South	13.3	13.1	15.0	41.4
Gold Coast	8.6	7.8	11.2	27.6
Darling Downs and West Moreton	9.7	11.1	9.9	30.7
Western Queensland	4.1	4.4	4.1	12.7
Central Queensland and Sunshine Coast	13.1	15.9	14.9	43.8
Northern Queensland	21.4	22.8	20.2	64.4
Adelaide	13.8	21.9	21.6	57.4
Country SA	12.8	14.8	14.6	42.2
Perth North	16.5	15.3	21.2	53.0
Perth South	11.9	14.1	13.6	39.7
Country WA	19.4	22.4	20.3	62.0
Tasmania	11.2	12.3	11.3	34.8
Northern Territory	16.1	18.1	17.6	51.8
Australian Capital Territory	5.4	5.6	4.9	16.0
Total	384.4	422.6	422.4	1,229.4

Source: Internal Departmental information source

*Totals don't necessarily add due to rounding

**\$10 million was withheld from the PHN's 2018-19 allocation as contingency for any future unforeseen requirements.