

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000680

**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 1 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 December 2011 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet provided to the Tripartite Forum Kimberley Investment Reports. That report showed a total four – year West Kimberley investment of \$658 million. Of that figure, just \$10 million over four years was allocated to Culture, Arts and Language. When the Kimberley Regional Suicide Prevention Working Group develops its mapping of culturally based activities, will the Government at the same time present to the Working Group an overall assessment of total government investments across all agencies in to the Kimberley region?

**Answer:**

On 13 June 2017, the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial Steering Committee discussed the progression of the mapping activity, including the issue raised by one of the members, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC), regarding overall assessment of total government investments across all agencies in to the Kimberley region.

The Department of Health undertook enquiries with relevant Commonwealth agencies and confirmed that the only information currently available regarding Commonwealth investments in the Kimberley had already been provided to the Working Group. This included projects funded through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, Safety and Wellbeing Program stream through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.