

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000682

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

**Topic:** ATISISPEP Report

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

**Senator:** Sterle, Glenn

**Question:**

- a) Which of the 17 recommendations from the ATISISPEP report have been implemented or are to be implemented and when?
- b) Will the Evaluation Tools and Assessment Tools from within the ATISISPEP be rolled out nationally into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention space in order to authenticate and measure what works in suicide prevention programs and efforts?
- c) What outreach services are available to critically at-risk individuals?

**Answer:**

- a) Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ17-000671.
- b) The Australian Government has committed to an evaluation of the national suicide prevention trial. The evaluation will examine activities at all sites up until the end of the trial period.

The evaluation aims to gather information on different strategies used in the planning, integration and delivery of suicide prevention services, and to determine the implications of these for future activity.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATISISPEP) report is being used as a resource by both Primary Health Networks (PHNs) and also to guide the evaluation of the trial sites in determining what strategies are successful in preventing suicidal behaviour among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- c) The Department of Health provides funding to United Synergies through the National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program to deliver the StandBy Response Service. The StandBy Response Service is a community based postvention programme that provides a 24 hour coordinated crisis response to assist families, friends and associates who have been bereaved by suicide.

The National Indigenous Critical Response Service (NICRS) responds to the needs of Indigenous people affected by suicide-related trauma or other critical traumatic incidents by providing families with immediate and culturally appropriate response and support. The NICRS is funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and works in conjunction with the StandBy Response Service.

Regional approaches to suicide prevention are being implemented by PHNs. As part of this role, PHNs are required to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that are at heightened risk of suicide in their region and support the implementation of culturally appropriate community based suicide prevention activity.

Further details on each PHN's planned mental health and suicide prevention activity are available in the PHN's Primary Mental Health Care Activity Work Plan. Activity work plans are published on individual PHN websites which can be accessed from <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Contacts>