

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000876

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health Reform

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

\$12 million Suicide Prevention Research Fund:

Can the Department provide details when this funding program went to tender and if the Minister has signed off on the successful recipients? If so, can the Department provide a list of successful recipients have or will receive funding? Can the Department confirm if this money has been allocated or is still yet to be allocated to successful recipients? Can the Department confirm that the \$12 million is not part of any other Government program, announcement or 2017-18 Budget initiative?

Answer:

The Suicide Prevention Research Fund and best practice hub of resources forms part of the Australian Government's \$192 million election commitment to strengthen mental health care in Australia. Funding of \$12 million over four years commencing in 2016-17 was included in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook as part of the measure *Strengthening Mental Health Care in Australia*.

On 21 April 2017, the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP agreed to direct source Suicide Prevention Australia to be the fund holder and administrator of the Research Fund.

The \$12 million in funding for this initiative is separate from the Australian Government mental health and suicide prevention funding.