

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000882

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: 2017 - 18 Budget Initiatives

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Suicide prevention support programs

The funding allocated in the 2017-18 Budget is \$11.1 million for infrastructure projects aimed at preventing suicide and this includes \$2.1 million for Lifeline. Can the Department explain how the funding will be allocated? For example, by population, on suicide data, or geographic area? Can the Department provide details for what the Lifeline funding will be used for? Will these be new initiatives or for existing projects?

Answer:

This measure comprises two elements that seek to prevent suicide in specific locations, or hotspots, where suicide incidents repeatedly occur. The Australian Government has committed \$9 million over three years for small infrastructure projects, such as fencing or surveillance to deter people from attempting suicide. These infrastructure projects will be negotiated and delivered through a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with states and territories.

Lifeline Australia is currently responsible for the operation of a 24-hour dedicated telephone crisis support line (13 11 15) for people who may be contemplating suicide at suicide hotspots in Australia. Lifeline engages with local councils that have established or are seeking to establish a hotspots program and other relevant stakeholders to promote help seeking messages through signage and to deliver and promote the 13 11 15 Suicide 'Hotspot' Crisis Line Service. The additional \$2.1 million will increase the capacity of Lifeline to deliver these activities.