

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000885

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Veterans' Mental Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

In relation to the answers provided in SQ17-000445 can the Department provide details in relation to the 12 suicide prevention trial sites and how each will focus on veterans and Defence personnel? What mechanisms has the Department put in place to support the Prime Minister's announcement that each of the 12 suicide prevention trial sites will have a focus on veterans and Defence personnel?

Answer:

The main aim of the National Suicide Prevention Trial is to gather evidence in relation to suicide prevention activities in regional areas of Australia, and to further understand what strategies are most effective in preventing suicide at a local level and in at-risk populations. Each of the 12 trial sites will provide enhanced services for people who have attempted or are identified as at high risk of attempting suicide.

In addition, four population groups have been identified as targets for specific trial activities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, young adult and middle aged men, young people and veterans. These are the National Suicide Prevention Trial 'focus areas'. Townsville, home to a large veteran community was announced as a trial site with a particular focus on veteran mental health and collaborative local approaches to suicide prevention. Learnings from Townsville will also be shared with all 31 Primary Health Networks to assist with supporting former members of the Australian Defence Force who are part of their community.