

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000886

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Veterans' Mental Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

In SQ17-000445 the Department stated "All suicide prevention trial sites will provide enhanced services for people who have attempted or are at higher risk of suicide, including veterans and current ADF members". If this is the case, how for example, will the Kimberley and Darwin suicide prevention trial sites that have a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders also have a focus on veterans and Defence personnel?

Answer:

Western Australia's Kimberley region was announced as a suicide prevention trial site with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Kimberley trial site will develop a model of suicide prevention that can be tailored specifically to the unique and often culturally-sensitive requirements of remote Indigenous communities. Darwin was announced as the second trial site with a focus on Indigenous communities.

As part of the trial planning process, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are in the process of consulting with community stakeholders and establishing local working groups to identify regional suicide prevention priorities in terms of target high risk population groups and geographical areas of need.

All PHNs are also responsible for commissioning community-based suicide prevention services based on regional assessment, and in consultation with local area health services and other organisations. It is anticipated that these commissioned services would also support ex-serving personnel who may be located within a PHN region.