

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000887

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Veterans' Mental Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

As this has been a direct request by the Prime Minister, can the Department explain how it will measure the focus on veterans and Defence personnel? Given the Prime Minister has stated clearly that each of the 12 suicide prevention trial sites would have a veterans and Defence personnel focus can the Department outline if there are any members of the Kimberley or Darwin suicide prevention trial sites community advisory group that represent veterans or Defence personnel? If not, why not.

Answer:

The Australian Government has announced \$3 million over three years (2016-17 to 2018-19) to support an evaluation of the suicide prevention trial sites including Townsville which has a particular focus on the prevention of suicide among veterans. The evaluation will primarily focus on the local planning and implementation stages of the trial, collecting input from Primary Health Networks (PHNs), trial sites, and other local service providers and organisations on planning and service arrangements, as well as information on the effectiveness of strategies from service users, people with lived experience of suicide and community leaders. Learnings from Townsville will be shared with all 31 PHNs to assist with supporting former members of the Australian Defence Force who are part of their community.

Western Australia's Kimberley region and Darwin were both announced as suicide prevention trial sites with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Membership of the Kimberley and Darwin Working Groups reflects this focus and does not include representation from veterans or Australian Defence Force personnel.