

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000897

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: NDIS Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Why was the Department of Health unable to confirm the number of people accessing support under its two funded programs - Day to Day Living and Partners in Recovery during Budget Estimates? Can the Department provide a detailed explanation to why this is the case? During Budget Estimates the National Mental Health Commission's CEO Dr Peggy Brown commented on the \$80 million funding included in the 2017-18 Budget. Dr Brown stated the funding "is a starting point" adding that the "\$80 million is not a lot – it's not going to buy all of the psychosocial disability that is required". Can the Department explain why the figure of \$80 million was allocated? Can the department provide any evidence or analysis to support this funding for the Budget. Can the Department confirm the number of people this amount of funding will support who have a mental illness and won't be eligible for the NDIS? Can the Department outline what consultation, if any, was undertaken by the Department of Health, the Minister's office or with State and Territory Governments prior to the 2017-18 Budget in relation to the \$80 million NDIS funding being contingent on matched funding? When did this consultation occur? Can the Department outline if any correspondence was sent by the Department of Health, or the Minister prior to the 2017-18 Budget in relation to the \$80 million NDIS funding? When was this correspondence sent? Can the Department outline if any consultation or correspondence was undertaken or sent by the Department of Health, or the Minister after the 2017-18 Budget in relation to the \$80 million NDIS funding? When was the correspondence sent or when did the consultation occur?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to Question on notice SQ17-000900 for the funded capacity for the Partners in Recovery and Day to Day Living programs. The number of clients receiving supports at any one time varies, reflecting client support needs and the number of clients entering and exiting the programs.

Evidence to support the funding and the process for determining the funding figure for the National Psychosocial Supports measure forms part of the budget process.

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice SQ17-000583 for correspondence sent prior to the 2017-18 budget.