

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000900

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: NDIS Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

During Budget Estimates the Department of Social Services stated that the Commonwealth funds mental health programs "to the tune of \$0.4 billion and the States provide \$1.8 billion". Can the Department confirm these amounts are correct? If these amounts are correct, can the Department provide details in relation to the breakdown of the \$0.4 billion by programs and services and the \$1.8 billion for each State and Territory? In regards to the Commonwealth's contribution, can the Department also provide the number of people that are supported? As stated in Budget Estimates by the Department of Social Services, it is the State and Territory Governments that have primary responsibility for delivering mental health services to their clients living with mental illness who are not eligible for the NDIS, providing \$1.8 billion for services. What work is being undertaken with the State and Territory Governments by the Commonwealth, including the Department of Health at a COAG level or at a Departmental level to ensure adequate services and continuity of care continues for clients up to June 2019 and for new clients post June 2019? If no work is being undertaken, why is this the case?

Answer:

The Department of Health is unable to comment on funding estimates provided by another agency.

The Department provides the following funding to Partners in Recovery (PIR) and the Day to Day Living (D2DL) Program:

Program	2016-17 \$m	2017-18 \$m	2018-19 \$m	Indicative client numbers
PIR	\$143.9	\$145.9	\$148.0	12,400
D2DL	\$15.0	\$15.5	\$15.7	8,700

The remaining Commonwealth portion of funding is provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

All governments have committed to providing continuity of support for existing clients who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). DSS has primary responsibility for the Commonwealth Continuity of Support (CoS) commitment. The Department is working closely with DSS to determine how the Commonwealth community mental health CoS commitment is implemented from 1 July 2019.

Commonwealth program clients who are not deemed eligible for the NDIS will continue to receive supports. During the NDIS transition period this will be achieved through existing program structures and services. Longer term arrangements beyond transition will be made in the light of experience in the trial and transition phases.

In the 2017-18 Budget the Government committed \$80 million over four years for community mental health services to assist people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who are not eligible for assistance through the NDIS. The additional Commonwealth investment will be delivered once agreements have been reached with appropriate commitments from each state and Territory.