

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000903

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health in Multicultural Australia

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Collins, Jacinta

Question:

In relation to the use of Primary Health Network's (PHNs) for planning regionally appropriate, locally-based and suicide prevention services, can you list which programs are targeted at CALD communities? How much resources have been provided to these specific programs?

Answer:

Each Primary Health Network (PHN) is required to commission services according to regional need across six priority areas, including psychological therapies for people in underserved and/or hard to reach populations, which may include (but is not limited to) people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

As commissioners, PHNs have autonomy and flexibility to decide which services or health care interventions should be provided, which service providers should deliver them and how they should be paid for.

It is integral to the success of the PHN Program that PHNs make these decisions independently of Government. PHNs do not report on specific details of contracts.

Based on information from the 2016-17 PHN Activity Work Plans approved by the Department of Health, 22 PHNs had either:

- a) Identified people from CALD backgrounds as an underserved or hard to reach group for psychological therapy services; or
- b) Identified CALD communities as a specific target for their activities.