

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-059

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Has there been any consultation with consumers about the Better Access program?
- b) Has it included analysis of workers and occupational therapists?

Answer:

- a) Consumers have been consulted as part of the evaluation of the Better Access initiative. The evaluation of the Better Access initiative comprises a number of components including a consumer outcomes study providing information on the outcomes of individual patient care; and a stakeholder consultation component focusing on stakeholders' (including consumers') experiences, perceptions and opinions with regard to the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Better Access initiative.

In addition, there is consumer and carer representation on the Project Steering Committee overseeing the evaluation of the Better Access initiative.

- b) The evaluation of the Better Access initiative consists of the following components that will feed into a summative evaluation of the initiative:
 - a. Component A: A consumer outcomes study providing information on the outcomes of individual patient care.
 - Component A.2: In order to provide a complete and comprehensive picture of the outcomes for consumers under the initiative, an additional study is being undertaken on consumer outcomes focussing specifically on social workers and occupational therapists and their clients under the Better Access initiative.
 - b. Component B: A detailed analysis of routinely collected MBS and PBS data focusing on access, affordability, the level and mix of service use, and patterns of use of Better Access services.
 - c. Component C: An analysis of the impact of the introduction of the Better Access initiative on the supply and distribution of the allied mental health workforce, including the extent to which there has been any change between the public and private sectors.
 - d. Component D: A stakeholder consultation component focusing on stakeholders' experiences, perceptions and opinions with regard to the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Better Access initiative.

- e. Component E: An evaluation of education and training activities to determine the extent to which these activities have changed the knowledge, skills, confidence and practices of professionals, and how they have supported interdisciplinary care.
- f. Component F: An analysis of the 2nd National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, providing information on prevalence and service use for high prevalence mental disorders.

Social workers and occupational therapists and their clients are included in all components of the evaluation.