

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-338

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Headspace

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Budget provided for funding of \$78 million over four years for an additional 30 headspace sites across Australia - 10 of those to be provided by mid 2011 –

- a) What progress has been made on providing these services at the locations identified in July?
- b) When and where is the first of these additional facilities expected to be open and operational?
- c) Is there a timetable for the delivery of these additional headspace sites over the next 8 months?
- d) How much funding annually is made available to existing headspace sites?
- e) How much funding annually will be made available to the new sites?
- f) How much core funding is available to the headspace organisation?

Answer:

a, b and c)

The Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, announced the locations of the first ten new headspace sites on 24 July 2010. A Deed of Variation to the headspace company's funding agreement has been signed. This provides funding to the headspace company to manage the establishment of these new sites.

New headspace sites will be established at the following ten locations during 2010-11:

- Parramatta (NSW)
- Shoalhaven (NSW)
- Bendigo (Vic)
- Collingwood (Vic)
- Brisbane South – Inala (Qld)
- Brisbane North – Nundah (Qld)
- Cairns (Qld)
- Hobart (Tas)
- Perth (WA)
- Noarlunga (SA)

The funding agreement requires that headspace will have contracts in place with the ten new sites during 2010-11 and that each new site will be operational within six months of its contract with headspace being executed.

Headspace advertised a national Expression of Interest process to select the lead agencies that will run services at the ten announced locations in the national press. Expressions of Interest closed on 13 December 2010 and are being assessed by headspace.

- d) The Australian Government is providing a total of \$133.3 million to the headspace company for the four years, 2010-11 to 2013-14. Consistent with the funding agreement with headspace and the independent company status of the organisation, headspace receives a total funding amount for services and, within that allocation, determines the funding level for the existing service sites.
- e) Additional funding of \$78.8 million over four years for youth mental health services was announced as part of the 2010 Budget for the delivery of up to 30 new headspace sites, extra funding for the existing 30 headspace sites, and improvements to telephone and web-based services for young people. Under this measure the headspace company will receive additional funding of approximately \$64.2 million over four years to 2013-14 to:
- provide top-up funding to the existing 30 sites;
  - establish and provide ongoing operational funding to up to 30 new sites;
  - provide funding for up to ten new and existing sites in either high demand areas or in rural and remote areas where costs may be higher; and
  - provide national communication and coordination activities.

Consistent with the funding agreement with headspace and the independent company status of the organisation, headspace has discretion around the distribution of funds to the new sites to enable tailoring of funding levels to individual sites, taking into account such considerations as service demand and rurality. The allocation of top-up funding to existing sites will also be at the discretion of headspace.

- f) The Australian Government is providing a total of \$133.3 million over the four years to 2013-14 to the headspace company. Of this approximately \$20.7 million is allocated for national activities, including clinical governance and leadership, marketing and communications, and coordination and reporting.