

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-340

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH NURSE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Budget provided \$13 million over two years for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program:

- a) How many additional nurses have been engaged to date under this measure?
- b) Is there a target for the number of additional nurses this measure will provide?
- c) How many additional nurses are expected to have been engaged by end June 2011?
- d) How many additional nurses are expected in total to be engaged over the two year period to end June 2012?

Answers:

- a) From 1 July to 31 August 2010, organisations had engaged 24 mental health nurses under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program. Participating organisations engage mental health nurses under this program on a full time or part time basis, as required to meet the needs of their patients.
- b) No.
- c) 68 mental health nurses by the end of June 2011.
- d) 136 mental health nurses by the end of June 2012.