

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-348

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: HEADSPACE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti- Wells asked:

In the last budget, the Government announced \$78.8m of additional funding for headspace, to both increase funds to existing headspace sites, and establish up to 30 new headspace centres.

- a) Have additional funds been provided to existing headspace sites?
- b) If so, how much? If not, why not?
- c) What are the current waiting lists at headspace sites?
- d) Is it anticipated that this increase in per?site funding will be sufficient to address staffing shortfalls, waiting lists and service constraints that have emerged in many headspace centres?
- e) 10 new headspace centres were announced on 23rd July. How were these sites selected?
- f) When will these new sites open?

Answer:

- a) A Deed of Variation, to support the flow of funds from the Department of Health and Ageing to headspace, is currently being finalised.
- b) As per a).
- c) Data on waiting lists at site level is not provided to the Department.
- d) Headspace is required to tailor its activities within the level of funding provided.
- e) Correct. Headspace worked with Minister Roxon's Office and the Department in identifying the first ten locations. The location of these sites is based on criteria agreed by the headspace Board, in consultation with the Department. These are as follows:

Priority will be given to areas that:

- have a significant, and possibly growing youth population, the needs of whom are not currently being met through existing headspace services;
- experience known socio-economic disadvantage and/or have a high Indigenous youth population;

- have experienced indicators of social distress in relation to youth mental health eg. incidence of youth suicide, imprisonment, or homelessness;
- have sufficient local capacity and infrastructure to support integration and possibly co-location of headspace's four streams of support – physical health, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and social/vocational support; and
- will be supported by existing local service providers and community organisations.

Assumptions underpinning the criteria are:

- roll-out of the sites will be phased over three years with all new sites operational by the beginning of the fourth year;
- it is expected that the spread of sites across states will be based on youth population, but will also offer a mix of urban and rural sites;
- on the whole, the new sites should be seen as new 'service platforms', drawing together existing service capacity, whilst also creating additional capacity through the utilisation of commonwealth funds; and
- in some circumstances sites may be chosen because of proximity to existing services experiencing high demand through a 'satellite' model.

- f) It is expected that contracts for the establishment of these sites are in place during 2010-11, with sites becoming operational within six months.