

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-349

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: National Advisory Council on Mental Health (NACMH)

Written Question on Notice:

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

On 18th June 2010, John Mendoza resigned as chair of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health, stating that the “Council is seriously compromised in its stated mandate to provide timely, independent advice to the government”. What is the Government’s response to Prof Mendoza’s criticism?

Answer:

The Government has acknowledged the contribution of Associate Professor Mendoza during his time as Chair of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health (NACMH).

The new Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP, met with NACMH members on 29 October 2010. These discussions are informing consideration of the structure of advisory arrangements for mental health.