

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-350

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: National Advisory Council on Mental Health (NACMH)

Written Question on Notice:

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

During the election campaign, the Prime Minister stated that “making progress in preventing suicide and improving mental health will not just take investment, but it will also take reform” and that “reforms will be pursued constructively and cooperatively – in close consultation with experts in the mental health sector” and would involve “parents and school teachers, doctors and nurses, and carers and, most importantly, those who live with mental illness” (‘Moving forward to a better health system, ‘ Brisbane, 27th July 2010)

- a) Is it the government’s intention to reconfirm the establishment of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health for its second term?
- b) If so, what measures will be taken to address the concerns raised in John Mendoza’s resignation?
- c) Will there be any changes in composition, role or operations of the Council?
- d) if not, what if any alternative structure does the Government envision to replace NACMH to fulfil the Prime Minister’s commitment.
- e) How will its composition be determined?
- f) What will be its role and resources?

Answer:

a - f)

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, has met with a number of mental health experts and stakeholders, including the National Advisory Council on Mental Health. These discussions are informing consideration of the structure of advisory arrangements for mental health.