

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-394

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

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Senator Siewert asked:

I understand that there has been a proposal put in to sponsor a pilot to look at the viability or suitability of having a peak organisation specifically for carers for people with mental illnesses. I am fairly confident that it has been put in: I am just not sure if I am asking in the right area.

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing received a letter dated 13 July 2010 from mental health carers seeking support for the establishment of a scoping project for a national mental health carer peak organisation. The Department replied on 16 August 2010, noting it was unable to give consideration to the proposal during the caretaker period. Advice is being prepared for the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing to consider this proposal.