

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, Wednesday 20 October 2010

Question: E10-396

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: HEADSPACE

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What are the criteria for the choice of those 10 sites?
- b) Do we have somewhere I can find the criteria?

Answer:

- a) The location of these sites is based on criteria agreed by the headspace Board, in consultation with the Department. These criteria 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.

- b) Refer to a)