

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-409

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: SISTERS OF CHARITY OUTREACH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) When does the funding for Sisters of Charity Outreach (based in Devonport, Tasmania) for grief counselling services expire?
- b) What is the total amount that this service will have been funded over that period?
- c) What discussions or correspondence have taken place with Sisters of Charity with respect to a further funding period?
- d) Has funding been finalised for a certain period? If so, for what period and at what level?

Answer:

- a) The Sisters of Charity Outreach – Grief and Trauma Counselling (Devonport) Project has an end date of 31 August 2011, with the final payment scheduled in the 2010-11 financial year.
- b) The total amount of funding provided to the Sisters of Charity Outreach – Grief and Trauma Counselling (Devonport) Project between 21 April 2008 and 31 August 2011 will be \$1,376,100 (GST incl.).
- c) The Department of Health and Ageing has identified the following correspondence with the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport):
 - Letter dated 28 July 2010 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP from Mr Peter Hudson, Chief Executive of the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport). The Department responded to this letter on 17 August 2010.
 - Letter dated 5 August 2010 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP from Ms Christine Adams, Acting Team Leader of the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport). The Department responded to this letter on 1 September 2010.
 - Letter dated 9 September 2010 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP from Mr Peter Hudson, Chief Executive of the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport). The Department responded to this letter on 5 November 2010.

- d) The current Funding Agreement the Sisters of Charity Outreach – Grief and Trauma Counselling (Devonport) has one final payment of \$192,500 (GST incl.) due on 1 February 2011. The Australian Government made a time limited commitment in 2007 to specifically fund the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport) up to August 2011. No provision has been made for further funding beyond this time. The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark butler, has suggested the Chief Executive of the Sisters of Charity Outreach (Devonport) contact the Department to discuss the availability of services under other Commonwealth mental health programs.