

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-126

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITY AND CHRONIC ILLNESS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Wright asked:

Several reports and position papers have highlighted the needs of siblings in relation to mental health including AIFS (Edwards et al, 2008) The Nature and Impact of Caring for Family Members with a Disability in Australia, in which siblings were identified as having higher rates of depression, regardless of whether they played a caring role or not. Previous governments have supported siblings of children and adults with disability and chronic illness.

The DoHA program Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People was established for the period 2006-11. Siblings were previously included in a similar program under a previous government. Is there any proposal being considered to include siblings under this program?

Answer:

In 2007, the Department provided one-off funding of \$145,719 (GST Inc) to Siblings Australia for the specific purpose of raising awareness in existing child and youth mental health programs of the needs of siblings of children with special needs.

The project was completed in 2007 and the Department was satisfied that the project had ensured that existing child and youth mental health programs, including programs funded under the Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People measure, are now better able to meet the needs of siblings of children with special needs.

Please also refer to answers to questions E11-123, E11-124 and E11-125.