

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-127

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 Butterfly Foundation has been supported to develop a National Eating Disorders Collaboration (NEDC). Is DoHA considering a similar initiative for the development of awareness, knowledge, workforce development and best practice for sibling support programs?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing recognises the impact of mental illness on not only individuals, but their families. As such the Department ensures that many of its programs consider the broad needs of people with mental health problems, and their families, as outlined in the answer to question E11-123.

However, there is no specific proposal of the nature outlined in this question being considered by the Department at the current time.