

tSenate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-176

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH - BETTER ACCESS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

It has been argued that given the parliamentary inquiry into mental health reform is due to report within days of the November 1 introduction of changes to the Better Access program, that it would be wise, prudent and common sense to delay the changes till that inquiry report is fully digested by Government. Has that been a consideration and if not, why not?

Answer:

The changes to Better Access are 2011-12 Budget measures and the Department has proceeded with implementation in accordance with those decisions of Government.

Any consideration to delay the changes, in the context of the Senate Inquiry's report delivered on 1 November 2011, are a matter for Government.