

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 171

Topic: Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Wright asked:

Is it correct that the new service configuration focuses more on individual support than capacity-building strategies for ATSI and CALD communities and families?

Answer:

Three levels of support are provided by Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS):

- Intensive, long-term, early intervention support for children, young people and their families;
- Short-term immediate assistance for families; and
- Community outreach, mental health education and community development activities.

In remote Indigenous communities, the FMHSS model is tailored to ensure culturally-appropriate and effective service delivery. Strategies include community capacity-building activities to help families and communities identify, understand and respond to the mental health concerns of their children and young people.