

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

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OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Mental Health

Type of Question: Hansard Page 61, 21 October 2015

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Mr Butt: I suppose I get back to what we were focused on—seclusion rates in relation to acute adult mental health facilities, and that at a jurisdictional level the liaison, whether it is with education or with whatever else might be happening in disability services, has been left at a jurisdictional level.

Senator SIEWERT: I understand the riders you have just put on your answer in terms of the particular focus you have, but do you think there is a possibility that you could take a more comprehensive approach to this issue across the sectors?

Mr Butt: There is a possibility to do it but whether we are the right body to do it would be another question.

Senator SIEWERT: I am not meaning to imply that it would be you, but across the board, and we will work out who does it later?

Mr Butt: It is something that could be looked at. I think you are dealing with quite different issues in many ways between, for example, education and disability and the actual mental health facilities.

Senator SIEWERT: I will come to education and disability, because that is exactly where we are seeing restraints used. Hence my question—

Mr Butt: I am not an authority to say whether you could do that or not. I am saying it is something you could have a look at.

Senator SIEWERT: That does take me to my question about education. Have you had any interaction with Education over this issue?

Mr Butt: I would have to take that on notice. We may have had association with Education but I could not tell you for sure.

Answer:

No.