

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000440

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program

Type of Question: Hansard Page 108, 19 October 2016

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Ms Cole: Victoria had one of the highest proportions of MHNIP funding compared to its population and much of that funding was concentrated in innercity locations where there are already a great deal of Medicare services for mental health, so there was some redistribution. There was no reduction in funding, but there was a redistribution.

Senator SIEWERT: Do I interpret that to mean that there was a redistribution to other areas, so some areas lost and some gained? Is that what you are saying?

Ms Cole: That is exactly correct, but that redistribution does not happen until next financial year.

Senator SIEWERT: I think there is a great deal of concern in Victoria, for example.

Certainly that is the feedback I am getting. Would you direct me to where I can find the detail of the answer you just gave in terms of which PHNs and states got money and what they got?

Ms Cole: I can give you a breakdown by PHNs for that specific program. We do not have it publicly available at the moment.

Senator SIEWERT: I just did not want to put you to extra work if I did not need to. If you could provide that and what the areas got, so I can get an idea of where the funding came from and went to, please.

Ms Cole: Yes.

Answer:

The 2012 Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) evaluation and subsequent National Mental Health Commission review highlighted the inequitable distribution of mental health nursing services across the country. In an effort to address this inequity, funding for mental health nursing services has been redistributed and weighted for rurality, Indigenous status and socioeconomic disadvantage.

These equity adjustments were applied from 2017-18 in regions above their weighted average share, resulting in funding reductions in those regions.

Growth funding was applied from 2016-17 in regions below their weighted average share, resulting in funding increases in those regions.

Funding allocations for mental health nursing services are available in the following table.

PHN Name	2015-16 a (\$)	2016-17 b (\$)	2017-18 b (\$)	2018-19 c (\$)
Central and Eastern Sydney	954,240	1,368,750	2,262,871	2,569,844
Northern Sydney	139,440	696,156	1,150,913	1,307,041
Western Sydney	374,880	941,862	1,557,123	1,768,357
Nepean Blue Mountains	338,880	375,252	620,381	704,539
South Western Sydney	293,280	1,102,004	1,821,876	2,069,025
South Eastern NSW	1,462,928	1,375,153	1,236,526	1,404,269
Western NSW	291,360	625,199	1,033,604	1,173,819
Hunter New England and Central Coast	1,413,951	1,609,456	2,660,817	3,021,773
North Coast	1,280,400	1,203,576	1,297,958	1,474,034
Murrumbidgee	305,280	381,914	631,395	717,047
North Western Melbourne	2,938,800	2,762,472	2,593,561	2,945,394
Eastern Melbourne	5,286,428	4,969,243	2,017,648	2,291,355
South Eastern Melbourne	4,359,600	4,098,024	2,196,302	2,494,244
Gippsland	550,320	517,301	617,939	701,766
Murray	2,782,407	2,615,463	1,369,725	1,555,537
Western Victoria	2,466,420	2,318,435	1,219,891	1,385,376
Brisbane North	639,600	883,599	1,460,800	1,658,967
Brisbane South	864,960	1,068,270	1,766,106	2,005,689
Gold Coast	1,010,160	949,550	868,520	986,340
Darling Downs and West Moreton	863,718	811,895	1,246,831	1,415,972
Western Queensland	41,400	242,375	400,705	455,063
Central Queensland and Sunshine Coast	394,320	1,099,486	1,817,714	2,064,298
Northern Queensland	2,594,440	2,438,774	2,338,859	2,656,140
Adelaide	310,320	1,254,951	2,074,734	2,356,185
Country SA	817,620	829,142	1,370,770	1,556,723
Perth North	1,075,440	1,010,914	1,550,250	1,760,551
Perth South	43,680	940,877	1,555,495	1,766,507
Country WA	162,480	1,135,955	1,878,006	2,132,769
Tasmania	596,237	827,226	1,367,602	1,553,126
Northern Territory	0	884,846	1,462,863	1,661,309
Australian Capital Territory	0	315,162	521,039	591,721
TOTAL	34,652,990	41,653,280	45,968,820	52,204,780

a - Funding previously available within the region under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP).

b - Total amount provided to PHNs under the current funding schedule for mental health nursing services.

c - Indicative funding allocation for mental health nursing services (not currently under contract).