

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000670

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** PHN Reform

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

In relation to how the PHNs will commission services can the Department clarify why the PHN's cannot commission early psychosis or psychosocial services? What evidence was used to make this assumption? Has the Department ever advised the Health Minister of any concerns or issues in relation to a lack of mental health expertise across any of the PHNs?

**Answer:**

Funding has been directed to PHNs with an Early Psychosis Youth Service in their region to commission these services. In addition, all PHNs have received funding to commission services for young people with severe mental illness. PHNs have not been advised that they cannot commission early psychosis or psychosocial services.

The Department has not raised concerns with the Minister for Health regarding the mental health expertise of PHNs.