

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 28 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000124

OUTCOME: 8 - Indigenous Health

Topic: Suicide Prevention

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

The Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre's Yiriman Project's funding for suicide prevention activity expires on 30 June 2014.

- a. What is the impact of the Review on funding for suicide prevention programs?
- b. Will the Government renew funding for programs, including the Yiriman Project, beyond 30 June 2014?
- c. Have any changes been made, or will any changes be made, to the application process or guidelines for funding under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy?
- d. What steps has the Government taken to ensure future certainty for suicide prevention programs beyond 30 June 2014?
- e. Will funding decisions be made before the completion of the Review?
- f. Will the Review be complete before funding for suicide prevention programs expire on 30 June 2014?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government has tasked the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) to undertake a national review of mental health services and programmes. This includes the existing services and programmes whose main objective is the prevention of suicide.

The review will assess the effectiveness of all existing mental health programmes across the government, non-government and private sectors. This process will ensure services are being properly targeted at patients, are not being duplicated, and are not being unnecessarily burdened by red tape. It will also identify any obvious service gaps, in both mental health research and workforce development.

- b), d) and e)

Projects under the National Suicide Prevention Programme, including the Yiriman Project, have been extended for 12 months to 30 June 2015 whilst the review of the mental health services and programmes is completed.

- c) To date, no changes have been made to the application process or guidelines for funding under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. Consideration of future requirements will be undertaken in light of the outcomes of the NMHC review.

- f) The final report of the NMHC will be provided to the Government by 30 November 2014.