

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Indigenous Primary Health Care Organisations

Senator: Senator Jacqui Lambie

Question reference number: 46

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What practical and funded implementation measures have been taken to establish these mental health and social and emotional wellbeing teams in Indigenous Primary Health Care Organisations?
- b) What is the composition of these mental health and social and emotional wellbeing teams in Indigenous Primary Health Care Organisations
- c) What consultations have been initiated with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and/or jurisdictional state and territory peak bodies (often referred to as “Affiliates”) about the establishment of mental health and social and emotional wellbeing teams in Indigenous Primary Health Care Organisations?
- d) If consultations have not commenced, when will they commence and what form will the consultations take?

Answer:

- a) The Government released the response to the National Mental Health Commission National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services on 26 November 2015. The response includes \$85 million over 3 years in additional funding to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s mental health.

The Government’s response seeks to improve access to integrated, culturally sensitive mental health care for Indigenous Australians, delivered through the wider primary care sector. Primary Health Networks (PHNs) will be required to work closely with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and mainstream primary health care organisations, including Aboriginal community controlled health services and peak bodies, to deliver on the mental health reforms.

- b) Rather than specify particular service delivery models, the approach provides an opportunity for responses to be tailored to the needs of individuals and communities.
- c) The Government will engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health leaders in the implementation of the mental health reforms.