

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000580

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

**Topic:** Indigenous Suicide

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

**Senator:** Dodson, Patrick

**Question:**

- a) The Department would be well aware of a significant number of Indigenous suicides in remote areas, in particular in the Kimberley. What interaction does the Department have with Primary Health Networks (PHN) to try to address this?
- b) When did the Department first receive instructions that a roundtable or summit on Indigenous suicide would be held in the Kimberley?
- c) Did the Department suggest suitable dates to the Minister or was a directive received?
- d) When was a date agreed?
- e) Did the Department provide a suggested list of attendees?
- f) How many groups and individuals attended? Please provide a list of attendees.
- g) How many officials attended?
- h) What time did the roundtable commence and when did it close?
- i) What are the outcomes of the roundtable?
- j) What subsequent work is either being developed or implemented following the roundtable?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department has and will continue to work directly with PHNs and provide guidance to all PHNs on how the issue of suicide, including the high rate of indigenous suicide, can be addressed. The Department has provided circulars and guidance material as well as specific resources developed by the Black Dog Institute available on the PHN website.
- b) 4 October 2016.
- c) The Department was advised of the date for the Roundtable.

d) 4 October 2016.

e) Yes.

f) A total of 48 people attended the Kimberley Roundtable. Thirty-five individuals attended the Roundtable, representing 28 different organisations. In addition to these individuals, four federal members of Parliament attended, including three Government Ministers, and nine Commonwealth, state and local government officials attended (Attachment A).

g) Five Australian Government officials and four state/local government officials attended the Roundtable.

h) The Roundtable was held from 9.30am till 12noon.

i) The outcomes of the Roundtable were reported in a communique on 14 October 2016 (Attachment B).

j) A working group is to be formed to develop the next action items for the trial. Membership of the working group is yet to be finalised, however is expected to include local or regionally based organisations already providing suicide prevention services, and/or stakeholders that are able to contribute to discussions about the objectives and co-design of the suicide prevention trial. The Country Western Australian Primary Health Network will have a central role and work closely and collaboratively in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal groups and organisations in the conduct of the trial.

**ATTACHMENT A****ATTENDEES TO KIMBERLY SUICIDE PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE  
OCTOBER 14 2016**

Name	Organisation
Minister Sussan Ley	Minister for Health
Minister Wyatt	Assistant Minister for Health
Minister Scullion	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Dianne Appleby	Welcome to Country, Nyamba Buru Yawuru
Tyronne Garstone	Kimberley Land Council
Dr Neale Fong	Ministerial Council on Suicide Prevention
Ms Patricia (Pat) Turner	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health
Organisation (NACCHO)	
Ms Carina Cooke	Anglicare WA
Mr Jacob Tyndall	Anglicare WA, StandBy Response Service
Ms Fiona Fischer	Department of Child Protection, WA
Superintendent Allan Adams	WA Police
Mr David D'Antoine	Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation (WNAC)
Ms Vicki O'Donnell	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service
Mr Bob Goodie	Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service
Dr Duy Tran	Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service
Ms Jo Grey	Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service
Ms Merle Carter	KALACC Women's Group
Mr Wayne Barker	Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre
Ms Janelle White	Yiriman Women's Project
Ms Sylvia Shovellor	Yiriman Women's Project
Ms Annie Milgin	Yiriman Women's Project
Mr Martin (Marty) Sibasado	Aarnja
Ms Mary O'Reeri	Aarnja
Mr Kevin Mckensie	Alive and Kicking Goals! Program
Ms Vennessa Poelina	Alive and Kicking Goals! Program
Ms Dwesmond Wiggan Dann	Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Leadership programme
Professor Pat Dudgeon	ATSISPEP; ATSIMHSPAG; Uni WA
Ms Michelle Nelson-Cox	Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Ms Adele Cox	ATSISPEP
Mr Gerry Georgatos	Journalist
Mr David Naughton	WA Country Health Service
Councillor Elsia Archer	Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
Mr Des Martin	Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Ms Maxine Chi	West Kimberley Aboriginal Family Law Services
Ms Denise Wilson	headspace
Ms Belinda Duarte	Culture for Life
Ms Margie Ware	Boab Health Services
Ms Glenys Benning	Derby Suicide Prevention Network
Mr Cliff Weeks	Department of Aboriginal Affairs (WA)
Mr Peter Mitchell	Mens Outreach Service
Melissa Price MP	Member for Durack, Western Australia
Learne Durrington	Western Australia Primary Health Alliance, WAPHA
Linda Richardson	Country WA PHN
Natasha Cole	Department of Health
Bobbi Campbell	Department of Health
John Tunney	Department of Health , WA Office
Brendan Gibson	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Alistair Sherwin	Prime Minister and Cabinet

**COMMUNIQUE**

14 October 2016

**Kimberley Roundtable – Suicide Prevention**

A high-level Roundtable discussion today on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide in the Western Australian Kimberley region, chaired by Federal Minister for Health, Sussan Ley, emphasised the need for local, Indigenous controlled responses to the escalating rates of suicide in the community.

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull had committed the Government to this Roundtable discussion with key stakeholders in the Kimberley to understand what is working in the region and what is not and to find some agreement on ways to help shape a new landmark suicide prevention trial in the Kimberley.

The Kimberley region has been selected as an initial site for a suicide prevention trial in recognition of the high rate of suicide in the region, particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In the Kimberley, the age-adjusted rate of suicide is more than six times the national average.

Minister Ley was joined by Indigenous Affairs Minister, Nigel Scullion, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, who is an Aboriginal man from Western Australia.

Delegates to the Roundtable were given an advanced copy of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) report, which was discussed by the project director, Professor Pat Dudgeon. The report evaluated the effectiveness of existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention services and programs and makes a number of recommendations that emphasise the need for community and culturally sensitive involvement in any suicide prevention activities. It was agreed that the recommendations of the Report form a blueprint for the suicide prevention trial and that the ATSISPEP Evaluation tool be used and implemented to guide the PHN and Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial site.

Key outcomes from the Roundtable today included:

- Agreement for a shared commitment between the Australian Government, the community and service providers to reduce the high rates of suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Kimberley region.
- A recognition that suicide is not just a health issue but must link to the social and cultural determinants of health.
- a need to focus on family support
- that community based interventions are developed and implemented using a foundation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and in partnership with Indigenous communities, including the need to train the local Aboriginal mental health workforce and taking a family focussed approach as part of empowering the community.
- that the Kimberley trial will develop a suicide prevention model that can support the unique and culturally sensitive requirements of remote communities.
- that government funding and investment needs to be better targeted with more local involvement and streamlining between State and Federal funding arrangements.
- and that the Country Western Australian Primary Health Network (PHN) will work closely and collaboratively in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal groups and organisations in the conduct of the trial. Minister Ley undertook to investigate how to extend Aboriginal community controlled health organisations representation on PHNs.

Outcomes from the Roundtable will help plan and inform the design of the trial, local suicide prevention activity, and inform the design of strategies in the national trial.

It was agreed that the next step is to establish a Working Group consisting of representatives from local organisations as well as Commonwealth and State Departments with the assistance of the Federal Department of Health to develop the next action items for the trial.

Minister Scullion also committed to returning to the Kimberley region in December.

Minister Scullion also committed to funding a youth forum coordinated by Nyamba Buru Yawuru.

Ministers undertook to hold further consultations on these matters with the local Aboriginal community and other stakeholders in the Kimberley region.

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