

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000583

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Indigenous Suicide

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

In terms of Indigenous mental health programs that had traditionally been administered by the Department, has any of this responsibility been transferred to PHNs? If so what programs and what quantum of funding.

a) How does the Department monitor and measure the PHNs in relation to these programs?

Answer:

Prior to the establishment of Primary Health Networks (PHN), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were able to access mental health services through the mainstream Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) and Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas (MHSRRA) programs.

Indigenous specific suicide prevention funding has transitioned to PHNs to support the ongoing delivery of community based activity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes funding previously allocated to the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy* with approximately \$5.6 million per annum allocated to the PHN flexible funding pool.

The Department of Health is finalising a Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Data Set and the associated data collection frameworks, for the reporting of mental health services, including Indigenous mental health, which are delivered through PHNs. Once operational, the Department will measure and monitor PHN delivery through this dataset.