

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000602

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Funding for Aboriginal Health Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

Is the Department aware of concerns from the sector in terms of funding for mental health programs flowing to Aboriginal health services?

Answer:

Issues have been raised with the Department by the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector about funding allocated to Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to commission Indigenous specific mental health services.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples choose to access health services that are not Community Controlled. PHNs are uniquely placed to connect and coordinate health services to ensure culturally appropriate care is provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

PHNs are also improving service delivery and assisting patient care by supporting existing and building new working relationships between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and mainstream service providers.