

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000651

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Where is the implementation plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy up to?

a) When will it be finalised and released?

Answer:

The *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy* was released on 23 May 2013. The Strategy is a framework for a comprehensive, community-focused, collaborative and integrated approach to suicide prevention and is designed to act as a guide for communities, practitioners, organisations and governments to work together to reduce the prevalence and impacts of suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There is no independent implementation plan for the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy*. As part of their broader role in mental health and suicide prevention, Primary Health Networks have a specific requirement to consider the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their region. This includes identifying high risk communities and supporting the implementation of culturally appropriate activity, in partnership with local organisations, guided by the goals and actions identified within *the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy*.

As part of the Invitation to Apply process for the National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program (which closed on 13 September 2016), the Department has sought applications to establish a National Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention. This activity is also consistent with the objectives and actions of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy*.