

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0146_12

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

2006-2011 COAG Mental Health Spending

In relation to each of the programs related to mental health issues which were part of the 2006-2011 COAG Mental Health spending, in relation to each please advise: When it was commenced? When did it cease? Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied. What were the objectives of the program? Were the program objectives met? What were the key targets? Were those targets met? Please provide specific details.

Answer

Information for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio programs and measures related to the 2006-2011 COAG Mental Health package is provided at [Attachment A](#).

Program Name:	When was it commenced	When did the program cease	Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied	What were the objectives of the program?	Were the program objectives met	What were the key targets?	Were those targets met? Please provide specific details.
Measure: Helping young people stay in education Program: Youth Pathways	Announced on 5 April 2006. The program commenced on 1 January 2007	31 December 2009	From 1 January 2010, as part of the Australian Government's contribution to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, existing youth, transitions, mentoring and career programs (including Youth Pathways) were consolidated into a new program, Youth Connections. Youth Connections provides an improved safety net for young people who have disengaged from education, or are at risk of disengaging, through the provision of individually tailored case management and support to help young people to re-connect with education or training and build resilience, skills and attributes that promote positive life choices and wellbeing.	The Government provided \$59.5 million over five years (including \$13.6 million in 2010-11) to help approximately 6000 young people a year experiencing mental health problems who are at risk of dropping out of school.	Since 1 January 2007, 8,619 young people who identified as having mental health problems were assisted through Youth Pathways. Youth Pathways programme, and provides one-on-one assistance to identify services and professional support to help individual young people with their specific needs. Through this initiative young people will be linked into appropriate services, which may include counselling and support to find housing or remain at home.	The initiative sought to link young people into appropriate services, which included counselling and support to find housing, or remain at home.	In 2010, more than 21,000 young people received individual support services from the Youth Connections program. Of these, approximately 23% (nearly 5,000 clients) identified 'Suspected or diagnosed mental health issue' as a barrier to their engagement with education.
Measure: Helping people with a mental illness enter and remain in employment Prior Sub-Program: Additional Personal Support Program Places	The Personal Support Programme (PSP) was allocated 2500 additional places for participants with mental illness. The first cohort of 801 places was released in July 2006 and the second cohort of 1699 places was released in March 2007.	The Personal Support Programme ceased on 30 June 2009 and was replaced by Job Services Australia.	The additional PSP places were funded until 30 June 2011. Former PSP participants now receive services through the relevant stream in Job Services Australia.	The objective of the measure was to fund additional PSP places for participants with mental illness.	Yes, additional PSP places were made available for participants with mental illness.	The key target was an additional 2500 PSP places for participants with mental illness.	Yes, all 2500 additional places were filled.
Measure: Helping people with a mental illness enter and remain in employment - Additional post placement support through the former Disability Employment Network (DEN) and former Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)	January 2007: additional funding was made available for the Employment/Job in Jeopardy services and the DEN new Intermittent Service Fee (Mental Health). July 2007: the VRS Intermittent Post-placement Support Fee was made available.	Disability Employment Services (DES) commenced on 1 March 2010, replacing DEN and VRS. DEN and VRS participants transitioned into DES.	These services continue in DES. DES provides increased support to people with mental illness in the workplace, with Ongoing Support in the workplace available for all participants as long as they are assessed as requiring it; a new Flexible Ongoing Support provides support for participants when required with episodic conditions including mental illness. Job in Jeopardy support was retained in DES.	The objective of the measure was to provide additional support to find or maintain a job for job seekers or workers with mental illness, including: 1. A new mental health specific Intermittent Support fee and Intermittent Post-Placement Support Fee for workers who require additional assistance to maintain their job 2. Extra capacity for services to help workers at risk of losing their job as a result of their mental illness through Employment/Job in Jeopardy.	Yes, additional support was provided to job seekers and workers with mental illness	No key targets identified	N/A

Additional education places, scholarships	Additional Commonwealth	Ongoing	Funding for additional education places has been rolled into Commonwealth Grant	To improve the number of skilled practitioners trained in mental health	The initiative has not been evaluated.	The allocation of additional education places in mental health	Yes. There were 431 (235 undergraduate and 196 postgraduate)
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<p>and clinical training in mental health.</p> <p>Note: Additional education places only element related to DEEWR. The scholarships and clinical training in mental health is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing</p>	<p>supported places were allocated to higher education providers for mental health courses to commence in 2007.</p>		<p>Scheme funding, with places provided on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>fields.</p>		<p>fields.</p>	<p>mental health nursing places and 210 new postgraduate clinical psychology places allocated to universities to commence in 2007. These places have grown to around 1,070 mental health nursing places by 2010 and 420 clinical psychology places by 2008 as students continue in their courses.</p>
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