

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-185

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MINISTER BUTLER'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to Minister Butler's mental health consultations, please advise:

- a) Where have consultation/meetings/events taken place?
- b) Were they open to the public or were they by invitation only?
- c) If it was by invitation only, who issued the invitations?
- d) Provide a list of those who attended at each consultation/meeting/event?
- e) Where each consultation/meeting/event took place?
- f) Was anyone refused attendance at any consultation/meeting/event?
- g) The cost of each consultation/meeting/event?

Answer:

a) and e)

Minister Butler, in November and December 2010, held 14 face to face forums around the country with mental health consumers and carers to hear first hand their experiences and views on options for progressing mental health reform into the future. Minister Butler also heard views from young people during an online forum hosted by the Inspire Foundation on 8 December 2010.

A list of the dates, locations and venues of the forums is below:

Location	State	Date	Venue & Address
Adelaide	SA	30 November 2010	Diamond Clubhouse, 19 Kilkenny Road, Woodville Park
Mandurah	WA	02 December 2010	Mandurah Yacht Club, Mary Street, Halls Head
Perth	WA	02 December 2010	Perth Town Hall - corner Barrack Street and Hay Street, Perth
Sydney	NSW	03 December 2010	Platform 10 Conference Centre, Level 10, 1 Lawson Square, Redfern
Newcastle	NSW	03 December 2010	Hunter Room, Newcastle City hall, 290 King Street, Newcastle
Brisbane	Qld	06 December 2010	Merthyr Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm
Canberra	ACT	08 December 2010	Griffin Centre, Room 8, Genge Street, Civic
On-line Inspire Foundation	National	08 December 2010	ReachOut.com

Location	State	Date	Venue & Address
Tamworth	NSW	09 December 2010	Tamworth Community Centre, Corner Peel Street and Darling Street, Tamworth
Launceston	Tas	13 December 2010	University of Tasmania
Hobart	Tas	13 December 2010	University of Tasmania
Melbourne	Vic	14 December 2010	Mind Australia, 86-92 Mount Street, Heidelberg
Darwin	NT	16 December 2010	Bul Bul conference room, Travelodge Mirambeena, 64 Cavenagh Road, Darwin
Cairns	Qld	17 December 2010	Brothers Cairns Room 3, 99-105 Anderson Street, Manunda
Atherton	Qld	17 December 2010	Atherton International Club, Kennedy Highway, Atherton

b) and c)

Attendance was open to the public, particularly targeting consumers and carers. The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) coordinated the arrangements for the forums including booking venues and notifying consumers and carers.

The MHCA circulated a notice of the forums through its website and networks targeting organisations, groups and individuals. The intention was to reach as wide a cross section of mental health consumers and carers as possible.

The forums were also advertised on the Australian Government mental health and wellbeing website, www.mentalhealth.gov.au. The Department of Health and Ageing circulated the invitations to State and Territory Government Mental Health Directors, and they or their representative attended and presented on the relevant State/Territory mental health services in each jurisdiction.

- d) Permission to disclose the names of individuals who attended each forum has not been provided. Attendees were predominantly consumers and carers, with a small number of representatives from non government service providers.
- f) The number of participants at each forum was determined to ensure all attendees could actively participate and contribute to discussions and dialogue with the Minister.

The MHCA conducted an expression of interest process. Attendance by mental health consumers and carers was prioritised, and any remaining places were filled by service providers and other interested parties.

As some forums were oversubscribed due to high levels of interest, Minister Butler invited members of the public and interested organisations to provide written submissions about future mental health reform options via the Australian Government mental health and wellbeing website. The closing date for submissions was 15 February 2011.

- g) The Department of Health and Ageing funded the MHCA \$79,402 (GST Inclusive) to coordinate and facilitate the face to face forums. This funded:
- Staffing costs and travel for two MHCA officers;
 - Catering, venue and equipment hire; and
 - Interpreter and assistance services, as required.

The MHCA was responsible for pre-event logistical and administrative arrangements including circulation of the invitation, managing expressions of interest, confirming attendees, arranging venue hire and catering. MHCA officers were also responsible for event management on the day. This included managing registration and facilitating the forums.

The cost is estimated to be about \$5,672 (GST inclusive) per forum.