

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 119

Topic: Mental Health Carers

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Senator Siewert asked:

Has there been further consideration given to funding for a peak body for mental health carers?

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed to supporting the mental health consumer and carer sector to contribute to mental health reform and improve mental health service delivery.

FaHCSIA consults with peak bodies, service providers and carers regularly as part of its ongoing business, through the Targeted Community Care Program Evaluation, regular stakeholder forums (3 of which were held in 2010 and 2011) and the development of the National Carer Strategy.

FaHCSIA has funded the Mental Health Council of Australia for two years to undertake consultation with Mental Health carers, which resulted in the Mental Health Carers Report launched in November 2010. The Council are funded by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to auspice the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum. This forum is the endorsed mechanism through which the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council Mental Health Standing Committee seeks consumer and carer representation on national policy and programs.

The Department is working closely with DoHA to develop a National Carer Strategy, which will shape the long term agenda for reform, guide policy development and the delivery of services for carers.