

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000284

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Mental Health Services in Residential Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

The Government has referred the issue of access to psychological treatment under the better access program in residential aged care to the MBS review. What advice has the Department provided to this review?

Answer:

As part of the Australian Government's *Healthier Medicare* initiative, the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce is undertaking a review of the entire MBS to ensure it reflects current best clinical practice and promotes the provision of health services that improve health outcomes.

The Mental Health Services Clinical Committee is anticipated to form part of tranche 5 of clinical committees (the Review is currently up to tranche 3).

The Department of Health is currently exploring the issues associated with accessibility to psychological therapy services for residents of residential aged care facilities, for future consideration by Government. To date, no advice on this issue has been provided to the MBS Review Taskforce.