

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000425

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Fifth National Mental Health Plan

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

What has been the level of support for the plan from stakeholders on the first draft plan?
What were the main issues and concerns raised by the stakeholders around the first draft of the plan that contributed to the re-drafting of the plan?

Answer:

There was strong support from stakeholders on the consultation draft Fifth Plan. During the national consultation process, almost 780 people attended face to face workshops during November and December 2016. Additionally, almost 140 submissions were provided via the Department of Health's online feedback portal.

Whilst the priorities within the consultation draft Fifth Plan were broadly supported by the sector, stakeholders agreed that a stronger articulation of a number of themes would improve the plan. These include:

- governance arrangements to support a whole of government approach to the implementation of the Fifth Plan;
- greater detail on the proposed roles and responsibilities to support implementation of the Fifth Plan;
- clarity on how the Fifth Plan will interface with the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the key issue of psychosocial disability as the scheme moves towards full implementation; and
- how critical enablers such as workforce, the role of emerging digital platforms, and how research and better collection and sharing of data can strengthen the evidence base.

This feedback is currently being considered by the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC) Writers Group to finalise the Fifth Plan.