

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000439

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Build and operate digital mental health gateway

Can the Department provide an update of what is happening with the \$6.2 million spend to build and operated the digital mental health gateway?

Answer:

The Department of Health has engaged Healthdirect Australia to undertake a co-design process of the digital mental health gateway, Head to Health. Healthdirect Australia, in collaboration with SPARK Strategies, Professor Jane Burns (Chief Executive Officer Innowell Pty Ltd) and Ms Jackie Crowe (National Mental Health Commissioner) held 11 community workshops nationally with consumers and carers, health professionals, digital mental health services, and Primary Health Networks to inform the purpose, target audience and proposed features and function of the gateway.

Through this process it has been determined that Head to Health will initially include a new website of professional curated evidence based information and advice, a decision support tool, an interactive service finder and an underpinning service catalogue.

The Department has engaged Speedwell Pty Ltd, partnering with Liquid Interactive, to build and operate the online channel/presence (e.g. Website, social media channels) for Head to Health.

The Department has also established the following groups to assist in the ongoing design and development of Head to Health:

- The Digital Mental Health Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Department on design, development and implementation. Members include representatives of consumers and carers, digital mental health services, HealthDirect Australia, Speedwell/Liquid and the Department;
- The Core Committee Group, originally convened as part of the co-design process, has been formalised as a key part of end-user engagement in testing and informing website prototypes;

- The End User Content Specialist Group to provide a review of content. Representatives include Clinical specialists, a lived experience representative and Carer/supportive other representative; and
- The Showcase Review Committee to provide a fortnightly review of the developed features for Head to Health. Representatives include members of the Digital Mental Health Advisory Committee, Consumers and Carers from the Core Community Group and members of the Department.
- A test version of the Head to Health website was released to a targeted audience in May 2017 and will be followed by a release to the broader public later this year.