

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-138

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: COST IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

What cost impact does the Department of Health and Ageing anticipate the new endorsement scheme will have on mental health services from 1 July?

Answer:

If the question refers to the area of practice endorsements for psychology, the Department advises that the new endorsement scheme will not impact on arrangements for providing mental health services under Medicare.

A psychologist who was assessed before 1 July 2010 as eligible to provide clinical psychology Medicare services automatically transitioned with an endorsement in the area of clinical psychology and is therefore eligible to register with Medicare to provide Psychological Therapy services.

A psychologist who was assessed before 1 July 2010 as eligible to provide Medicare Focussed Psychological Strategies services automatically retains that eligibility.