

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-170

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Which mental health programs will cease on 1 July as a result of announcements in the 2011-12 Budget?
- b) Will any mental health programs experience gaps in service delivery between when the existing service stops and the new government services commence?

Answer:

- a) None. The Department's evidence at the 30 May 2011 Estimates hearing (refer pages 40-41 of Hansard) confirmed that funding for three of the 15 original components of the Mental Health: Taking Action to Tackle Suicide package which have not yet commenced have been consolidated into the 2011-12 mental health Budget package.

These three measures are:

- Non-clinical services for the mentally ill and their carers;
- More community-based psychiatry services; and
- National Mental Health Report Card.

The first two of these have been rolled into the new Coordinated care and flexible funding for people with severe mental illness Budget measure. The majority of funding for the National Mental Health Report Card measure is being directed to the National Mental Health Commission for the Commission to administer and implement the Report Card once it is established. (Please refer to the answer to question E11-194 for a detailed breakdown of these offsets.)

- b) No. As funding under these measures was not appropriated to start until 1 July 2011, implementation planning and service delivery has not commenced. Therefore there will be no gaps in service delivery as a result of program funding being redirected. These movements will support more integrated implementation as well as increasing the pool of services for people with severe and persistent mental illness and complex care needs.