

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-206

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What were the terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Group? (Refer to page 44 Hansard 30 May)

Answer:

The Terms of Reference of the Better Access Evaluation Project Steering Committee are attached:

## Better Access Evaluation Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference

### Roles and Functions of the Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will act as an expert advisory panel to support the Better Access Evaluation. The role of the PSC will be to ensure that the Evaluation of the Better Access initiative is objective, robust, reliable and comprehensive.

The PSC will comprise members with specific experience, expertise and knowledge in relation to program evaluations and delivery of mental health services. Unless otherwise agreed, members will not represent particular organisations or individual professions or organisations that participated in the tender process.

### PSC Terms of Reference:

- Provide advice, guidance and direction to the consultants undertaking the four<sup>1</sup> components of the Better Access evaluation;
- Meet at least once face-to-face to review the progress of the consultancies and their findings;
- Attend Teleconferences as required;
- Provide Out-of-Session advice as required;
- Liaise as appropriate with the COAG Stakeholder Reference Group; and
- Provide advice on pulling together the findings of all four components.

### Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

Members will be required to sign a *Deed of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest* form. Conflict of interest is defined as any instance where a PSC member, partner or close family friend has a direct financial or other interest in matters under consideration or proposed matters for consideration by the PSC.

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2009, following an open tender process, the Department appointed the consultants to undertake the original four of the components of the evaluation: Component A – *Study of Consumers and their Outcomes*; Component B – *An analysis of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Administrative Data*; Component C - *Analysis of Allied Mental Health Workforce Supply and Distribution* is; and Component D – *Stakeholder Consultation* is being undertaken by KPMG. However, the PSC reviewed and endorsed all components of the evaluation including Component E – *Evaluation of Better Access education and training activities*, Component F – *An analysis of the 2nd National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing* and the summative evaluation.