

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-225

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: CUTS TO THE BETTER ACCESS PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Did the discussion about the review of Better Access include any recommendation or decision to cut any aspect of the Better Access program? (Refer page 49 Hansard 30 May.)

Answer:

No. As stated by the Department's Secretary, Ms Jane Halton AM, on 30 May 2011 (Hansard, CA 49), the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing consulted with the Mental Health Expert Working Group (MHEWG) around what would comprise a balanced mental health reform package. The evaluation of the Better Access initiative was discussed at one of the MHEWG meetings.

Decisions regarding the 2011-12 Budget Mental Health Reform package were a matter for the Government.