

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-229

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: CUTS TO THE BETTER ACCESS PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

When were general practitioners and allied mental health professionals directly affected by cuts to Better Access first informed of the cuts to the program? (Refer Page 50 Hansard 30 May)

Answer:

The Government's decisions in respect of changes to the Better Access program were announced on Budget night, Tuesday 10 May 2011.

The Government's decisions were informed by extensive discussions with consumers, carers and experts across the mental health sector (see answers to QoN E11-106, E11-214, E11-215 and E11-228).