

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 6 May 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000365

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Suicide Prevention

Type of Question: Hansard Page 47, 6 May 2016

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Ms Cole: The decision was made in 2014-15?

Senator SIEWERT: There was a decision made under the previous government in, I think, 2012-13, which was basically about providing some funding for the overall bucket of money allocated for suicide prevention. Because of the crisis that was happening then, there was an allocation of money. There is a lot of commentary around that that money has, in fact, never been allocated, and I want to know whether it has or not.

Ms Cole: That money has been rolled into the PHN pool. I do not know if you were here earlier—there was a list of money. It is \$7.6 million ongoing.

Senator SIEWERT: So you are telling me that that money was never actually spent?

Mr Cormack: We will have to clarify that question for you. We will take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: 'Take it on notice' is not going to help me when the election is called.

Mr Cormack: We just need to clarify that for you.

Mr Bowles: We will come back after lunch and try to clarify that for you.

Ms Cole: It is \$6.3 million ongoing; I just need to correct that for you. We will take that on notice.

Senator RICE: When you said it to me, it was \$6.9 million.

Ms Cole: There are two components; one has gone into the PHN and then there is a small component which is retained for research. The \$6.9 million covers those two components—my apologies.

Senator SIEWERT: So \$6.3 million has gone to the PHN—

Ms Cole: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: of the \$17.8 million.

Ms Cole: Ongoing—it is an ongoing amount each year. I believe the money that you may be talking about might be a four-year figure, but we will double-check for you.

Senator SIEWERT: So \$6.3 million for the Kimberley?

Mr Cormack: I think we have said we will take it on notice. We will get back to you soon as we can. I do not think you are going to get a clearer or better answer than we can—once we get the material available for you, we will deal with it then. We are not trying to avoid it; we just do not have the information at our fingers now.

Senator SIEWERT: I would have thought you would have the \$6.3 million information.

Mr Cormack: We will have it for you, but not right now.

Senator RICE: The answer I was given before was \$6.9 million for Indigenous mental health and Indigenous suicide programs, I thought, across the country.

Ms Cole: That is around \$84 million for Indigenous mental health, and there is a separate amount of money for Indigenous suicide prevention. Sorry if I was not quite clear on that for you.

Senator SIEWERT: All right. Can you come back after lunch. Thank you.

Mr Cormack: We will come back after lunch, if we can. [part answered pg 64]

Answer:

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ16-000368.