

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 and 19 October 2012

Question: E12-069

OUTCOME 11: Mental health

Topic: COORDINATION BETWEEN HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

- a) What programs are provided and/or funded by the Commonwealth government that are targeted at ensuring coordination between homelessness and mental health services?
- b) What was the total cost of these programs over the past three years (2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012)?

Answer:

- a) There is a significant and complex relationship between homelessness and mental health and a whole of government approach is required to ensure systems support those at risk, reduce fragmentation and avoid marginalisation.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has primary responsibility for homelessness.

The Department of Health and Ageing manages some programs for people with severe and persistent mental illness, including those with severe and persistent mental illness who require stable accommodation.

The National Partnership Agreement Supporting National Mental Health Reform provides \$201.3 million over five years from 2011-12 to states and territories to invest more in stable accommodation and support for those with mental illness and presentation, admission and discharge planning in emergency departments, major hospitals, and related support services.

Partners in Recovery (PIR) will provide coordinated support and flexible funding for people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs which is a client group that can experience significant risk of homelessness. PIR will get the multiple sectors, services and supports people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs may come into contact with (and could benefit from) to work in a more collaborative, coordinated, and integrated way so that clients can access the services they need, which includes secure housing.

- b) The National Partnership Agreement Supporting National Mental Health Reform provides \$201.3 million over 5 years. This program commenced in 2011-12 with funding of \$9.0 million in the first year.

The \$549.8 million PIR program has not yet commenced. An invitation to apply for funding for PIR organisations was released in October 2012 and closed on 18 December 2012. Organisations will be engaged from early 2013.