

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: E12-166

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: PORT AUGUSTA DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

The Port Augusta Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre was announced in 2007, received support from the SA Government in July 2008 and it was anticipated it would start operations in this year, however construction is yet to start.

\$2.5M of Commonwealth money was budgeted for expenditure on the project in 2011/2012.

On the 29th of May this year in response to inquiries by the Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, Minister Butler said the preferred service provider had been selected, negotiations were under way and that they would be finalised by June 30.

- a) It is now more than four years since this project had funding approved by both State and Federal Governments, when will this much needed centre be established?
- b) How far behind schedule is the centre?
- c) Four years is a very long time to achieve nothing, where do you think the fault for this under-performance lies?
- d) Has the construction budget been preserved and if so has it been protected against rising costs?
- e) What was the anticipated cost of the centre when it was announced in 2007?
- f) What is the anticipated cost of the centre as at November 2012?
- g) Where is the extra money for construction coming from?

Answer:

a) and b)

The Port Augusta Residential Rehabilitation facility has been delayed due to lack of access to a suitable site and service provider. The Department of Health and Ageing is working with stakeholders to consider options for providing culturally appropriate drug and alcohol treatment services in the region. It is anticipated that if a suitable site is obtained and necessary development conditions are met it would be possible for the facility to be built by 2014.

- c) The project has faced considerable delays due to lack of a suitable site and service provider for the facility. The Department has been working with State Health representatives and the Port Augusta Council to resolve these issues, overcome these obstacles and progress the project.

d) e), f) and g)

An allocation of up to \$7 million (GST incl) was announced for a new drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services in South Australia under the 2007 Council of Australian Governments' Closing the Gap – Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Services Measure.

The exact budget will not be known until: a service provider is selected; a model of care is finalised in consultation with the community; and an appropriate site is purchased allowing necessary surveys to be conducted to provide a realistic cost of building the facility.