

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: E12-309

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: ABS SUICIDE STATISTICS

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What is the Government's view of the press release by the ABS (dated 24/07/2012) on the 10 year report on suicide fatalities that suggest that suicide is in a decline?

Answer:

The press release issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 24 July 2012 outlines key elements from the report Suicide, Australia, 2010 (3309.0), released by the ABS on the same day.

The press release and report note a decline in the rate of suicide over the 10 year period to 2010 from 12.7 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2001 to 10.5 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2010.

The ABS acknowledges that the decrease is (at least in part) due to data quality issues.

The ABS has developed this report in response to the 2010 Senate report, The Hidden Toll: Suicide in Australia and the 2011 House of Representatives report, Before it's too late. These reports both made recommendations for improvements in the availability of information on suicide.

Any further questions should be referred to the ABS.