

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001215

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Eating Disorders

Type of Question: Hansard Page 43, 22 October 2014

Senator: Wright, Penny

Question:

What is the current level of government funding allocated to address eating disorders in Australia? Could you separate that into direct and indirect funding?

Answer:

Direct Funding

Under the Telephone Counselling, Self Help and Web-based Support (Teleweb) programme, the Department of Health funds the Butterfly Foundation \$1.8 million over three years to provide a free telephone service and web-based service to those seeking help for eating disorders, their carers and families.

The Department also provides funding of \$5 million over five years to the Butterfly Foundation for coordination of the National Eating Disorder Collaboration (NEDC). The NEDC brings together stakeholders from a range of relevant sectors to develop a nationally consistent approach to the prevention and management of eating disorders in Australia.

Indirect Funding

The Commonwealth also provides funding and early intervention programmes to support access to care, including the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) initiative, Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS), the Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas (MHSRRA) programmes, and the headspace National Youth Mental Health initiative. These programmes are able to be accessed, at no or low cost, by those seeking treatment or support for the management of eating disorders.

Universal and targeted mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention programmes, such as the school-based initiatives, KidsMatter (primary schools) and MindMatters (secondary schools), promote early help seeking and offer information and referral for young people with or at risk of eating disorders.