

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001220

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Suicide Research

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 44, 22 October 2014

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

I am specifically asking about research in Scandinavia and other places that have linked austerity measures to an increase in suicide rates among the population. You are not aware of anything like that, specifically, as I understand it. What about that particular issue?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is aware of research that is undertaken nationally and internationally on issues related to suicide and self-harm, including within groups where heightened risk of suicide has been identified.

Through the National Suicide Prevention Programme and the Taking Action to Tackle Suicide Package, services are being targeted to support a number of high risk groups including men, youth and those living in rural and remote Australia.