

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001280

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Eating Disorders - Data

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

1. What does the Department of Health's data indicate as the size of Australia's eating disorders prevalence? 2. Does the Department of Health only consider anorexia nervosa when it seeks information about eating disorders or do they also include bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder and atypical presentations as included in DSM5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition)? What is the cost of this prevalence? 3. What data does the Department rely upon to establish the level and costs of the eating disorder prevalence in Australia? 4. What has the Department done to address the serious gaps in data collection on eating disorders? 5. What does the Medicare data indicate about the prevalence and treatment costs of eating disorders? 6. Does the Department include community-based care when assessing costs of treatment? 7. Does cost of treatment include recovery support services that prevent relapse? 8. In 2012-2013 the Department identified (2012-2013 Annual Report, Outcome 11) challenges to improving mental health services and outcomes, stating that optimal service delivery require information and evidence measurement and reporting. What has the Department done since that time to address this challenge in relation to eating disorders?

Answer:

1. Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ14-001213.
 2. The Department of Health considers that project activity and information relating to eating disorders should include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorders and eating disorders not otherwise specified.
- 3 - 8.
Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ14-001215.