

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001297

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Eating Disorders - Gaps

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

It is widely regarded that prevention and early intervention is highly effective in addressing the onset of eating disorders. What has been the Department's direct investment in prevention of eating disorders? Can you identify the programs and interventions that address this opportunity - other than the NEDC?

Answer:

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 (2012-13 to 2014-15) to provide a free telephone service and web-based service to those seeking help for eating disorders, their carers and families.

Key objectives under this project include facilitation of early help seeking and early intervention; provision of a safe, reliable and accessible point of entry to prevention, treatment and support services; and improvement in awareness of eating disorders and resources to educate those impacted by eating disorders.

Universal and targeted mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention programmes, such as the headspace programme and school-based initiatives, KidsMatter Primary and MindMatters (secondary schools) promote early help seeking and offer information, referral and, as relevant, support for eating disorders.