

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000441

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health Programs

Type of Question: Hansard Page 111, 19 October 2016

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Mr Cormack: I do not believe that is the case. For accuracy's sake, I will attempt to clarify that issue for you tonight. I cannot do it on the spot now. I do not believe that is the case.

Senator O'NEILL: So that you can give me a full response, if you have already cut \$141 million out of the budget and then you announce \$192 million in funding for election commitments, the calculations suggest that only \$51 million is being allocated, rather than \$192 million.

Mr Cormack: That is simply a different way of asking the same question.

Senator O'NEILL: The reason I am asking is that the election documents do not state if the \$192 million is new, additional or existing funding.

Answer:

The 2015 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) budget update included a 'Mental Health – streamlining' measure which included saving to mental health programs of \$141 million over four years (2015-16 to 2018-19). The measure consolidated existing mental health program funding, to enable better targeting of service delivery. Savings for this measure have already been provided for by the Government.

On 26 June 2016, the Coalition announced additional funding of \$192 million to strengthen mental health care in Australia.