

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000524

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mental Health Nursing Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

- a) Please provide the most recent figures available on the year to date spend on mental health nursing (formerly MHNIP) services commissioned by the PHNs this financial year.
- b) How many mental health nurses were providing services under MHNIP as at 30 June 2016?
- c) How many mental health nurses have ceased providing services in primary mental health since the transition of MHNIP to the PHNs commenced on 1 July 2016?
- d) How does this compare to the previous three months?

Answer:

- a) Funding to Primary Health Networks (PHNs) for primary mental health care is provided in a flexible funding pool. PHNs have the discretion to determine where to invest in services across their region. The Department does not acquit on a funding stream level and cannot therefore identify expenditure on specific services funded through the flexible funding pool.
- b) Data to 30 April 2016 shows that 435 unique mental health nurses provided services under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program in 2015-16.

Final full year data is not available for 2015-16. This is due to transfer of program administration from the Department of Human Services to Health from May 2016, and the incompatibility between the two Department's data systems.

- c) and d) This information is not available.