

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000725

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Suicide Prevention Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can the Department confirm there was a national suicide prevention grants round this year? If yes, can the Department provide the name of the national suicide prevention program, the purpose of the grants and a list the organisations the Department targeted for the expression of interest process? Did the Department target organisations outside of Australia? If yes, what was the reason for going outside Australia? Did the Health Minister sign off on this process? How much funding has been allocated to this grants round and where has the funding been sourced from?

Answer:

The department is currently progressing an approach to market for the National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program (the Program). The *National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program Invitation To Apply For Funding* closed on 13 September 2016 and the department is currently assessing applications.

The Program will provide funding for a range of national activities which contribute to reducing deaths by suicide across the Australian population and among at risk groups and to reduce suicidal behaviours (i.e. ideation, planning, self-harm and suicide attempts). There are five types of activities that are eligible for funding under the Program:

1. National leadership role in suicide prevention
2. National leadership role in suicide prevention research
3. Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention
4. National media and communication strategies
5. National support services for individuals at risk of suicide.

The Invitation to Apply was an open approach to market. No individual organisations were targeted and organisations outside of Australia were not eligible for funding.

The Hon Sussan Ley, Minister for Health and Aged Care, approved the Program Guidelines and Invitation to Apply on 9 April 2016.

The Australian Government has made available up to \$44.5 million (GST Exclusive) over three financial years for the national activities to be funded under the Program. The funding is part of broader Outcome 2 Health Access and Support Services, Program 2.1 Mental Health funding.