

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000739

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Mental Health Funding

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

How did the Government calculate it needed \$192 million for its mental health election commitments that were announced by the Prime Minister? Did the Department provide any analysis or advice to the Government on the funding package of \$192 million before the election or after the election? Has the Department provided any analysis or advice in relation to the \$192 million? Can the Department provide a detailed breakdown of the services and programs across the forward estimates that will be delivered as part of the \$192 million announced by the Government? Can you provide these details by state and territory? Does the Department consider the \$192 million new money? Can the Department confirm \$141 million was removed from mental health programs in last year's MYEFO? Can the department detail what programs were funded within this amount? Can the Department also provide a list of those programs that are or will no longer receive funding from the \$141 million?

**Answer:**

In response to the following questions:

- How did the Government calculate it needed \$192 million for its mental health election commitments that were announced by the Prime Minister?
- Did the Department provide any analysis or advice to the Government on the funding package of \$192 million before the election or after the election?
- Can the Department provide a detailed breakdown of the services and programs across the forward estimates that will be delivered as part of the \$192 million announced by the Government?
- Can you provide these details by state and territory?

The *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998* outlines arrangements under which the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Department of Finance (Finance) may be requested to cost election commitments during the caretaker period for a general election. Election commitment costings completed by the Treasury and Finance can be found at the following website: [www.electioncostings.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1186/f/govt042\\_strengthen\\_mental\\_health\\_care\\_in\\_australia.pdf](http://www.electioncostings.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1186/f/govt042_strengthen_mental_health_care_in_australia.pdf)

- Has the Department provided any analysis or advice in relation to the \$192 million?

The Department is going through the budget process to implement the election commitments.

- Does the Department consider the \$192 million new money?
- Can the Department confirm \$141 million was removed from mental health programs in last year's MYEFO?

Refer to SQ16-000441 in response to the two questions above.

- Can the department detail what programs were funded within this amount?
- Can the Department also provide a list of those programs that are or will no longer receive funding from the \$141 million?

The 2015 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook budget update includes a “Mental Health – streamlining” measure which consolidates existing mental health program funding to enable better targeting of service delivery. The savings will not reduce service delivery to mental health consumers.