

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-138

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Workforce Issues

Type of Question: Hansard Page 40, 15 February 2013

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

In relation to workforce issues, some issues were put to me pertaining to baseline training for non-government community mental health sector staff, such as Certificate IV in Mental Health. Is that something the Commonwealth has an interest in? Or is it pertinent more to the Northern Territory government?

Answer:

The responsibility for the education and training of the mental health workforce cuts across various Commonwealth and state and territory portfolios, universities and registered training organisations delivering vocational education and training, Health Workforce Australia, the Health Skills and Training Council, accreditation bodies and the private sector.

The Commonwealth funds 12 bodies to develop nationally agreed and endorsed qualifications for the vocational education and training system including the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council which is responsible for the development and continuous improvement of relevant vocational education and training qualifications for the mental health sector.

The decision as to whether to determine a baseline level of training for non-government community mental health sector staff is the responsibility of the relevant jurisdiction.