

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 422

**Topic:** 2006-11 COAG Mental Health spending

**Hansard Page:** 2 June 2011, CA 44

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells** asked:

In relation to each of the programs related to mental health issues which were part of the 2006-2011 COAG Mental Health spending, in relation to each please advise:

- o When it was commenced?
- o When did it cease?
- o Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied.
- o What were the objectives of the program?
- o Were the program objectives met?
- o What were the key targets?
- o Were those targets met? Please provide specific details.

**Answer:**

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is responsible for three initiatives that were part of the 2006 - 2011 COAG Mental Health spending. These initiatives are all funded through the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program appropriation.

The questions are answered separately for each service type.

**1. Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)**

- *When was it commenced?*  
The first 28 Personal Helpers and Mentors services were funded from May 2007. 174 services were operational by March 2010 and a further service in 2011.
- *When did it cease?*  
It is ongoing.
- *Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied.*  
Yes. All providers have been funded to continue their service after 1 July 2011.

Further services will be put in place as measures in the 2011-12 budget are implemented.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

- *What were the objectives of the program?*  
The aim of the Personal Helpers and Mentors services is to *increase the opportunities for recovery for people whose lives are severely affected by mental illness*. This is underpinned by three secondary outcomes of increased:
  - access to appropriate support services at the right time;
  - personal capacity and self-reliance; and
  - community participation.
- *Were the program objectives met?*  
According to the *Evaluation of the FaHCSIA Targeted Community Care Mental Health Initiatives* (March 2011) released in May 2011 Personal Helpers and Mentors is achieving significant outcomes. Personal Helpers and Mentors is seen as highly effective by clients and all stakeholder groups and it has made visible contributions to the service system for those with severe and persistent illness.
- *What were the key targets?*  
Over the initial five years (2006 - 2011), Personal Helpers and Mentors had an anticipated target of up to 10,000 participants.

There was also a target to employ 900 Personal Helpers and Mentors.

- *Were those targets met?*  
These targets have been exceeded.

## **2. Mental Health Respite: Carer Support**

- *When was it commenced?*  
54 services were funded in March and April 2007 and 134 more services were fully operational by June 2009.
- *When did it cease?*  
It is ongoing.
- *Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied.*  
Yes. All providers have been funded to provide services from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014.

Further services will be put in place as measures in the 2011-12 Budget are implemented.

- *What were the objectives of the program?*  
The aim of Mental Health Respite: Carer Support is to enable families and carers to better cope with their caring role, improve their relationship with the person they support and balance their caring role with other parts of their life.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

- *Were the program objectives met?*  
The Targeted Community Care Evaluation released on 16 May 2011 found that these services are providing essential support to carers who access it. Carers reported improved health and wellbeing, and better access to services. They increased their self confidence and connection with their own families which reduced their social isolation. Significantly carers reported improved participation in their communities and in education.
- *What were the key targets?*  
It was expected that 12,000 people per year would be assisted through Mental Health Respite: Carer Support in the first three years from July 2006 to June 2009.
- *Were those targets met? Please provide specific details.*  
This target has been exceeded.

**3. Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS)**

- *When it was commenced?*  
The first services were funded in June 2007.
- *When did it cease?*  
It is ongoing.
- *Was it refunded and continued after 1 July 2011 in the same form or varied? Please provide details of how it was varied.*  
Yes. All providers have been offered continuing funding until 30 June 2014.

Further services will be put in place as measures in the 2011-12 Budget are implemented.

- *What were the objectives of the program?*  
This initiative funds providers to offer targeted community based support to families, carers, children and young people (aged 16 to 24 years) affected by mental illness. It adopts a model of service delivery to provide each organisation with the flexibility needed to address the complexity of mental health needs in different ways.
- *Were the program objectives met?*  
The Evaluation reported that the objectives were met. In particular these services are making a major contribution having integrated well with other services and providing high quality services for families and young people. These services are delivered from a sound evidence base and contribute to the overall evidence base for mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention. These services have been effective in prevention and early intervention and constitute high value in terms of payback for investment.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

- *What were the key targets?*  
A combined target was set in the 2009-10 Budget for this initiative and Mental Health Respite: Carer Support. The target was 19,500 families/carers and individuals to be supported through both the initiatives. Therefore the target for this initiative was for 7,500 people to be assisted in the 2009-2010 year.
  
- *Were those targets met? Please provide specific details.*  
This target has been exceeded.