

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 – Domestic Policy
Topic: The National Mental Health Commission

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 29

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1. What is the governance relationship between the Commission and the Department?**
- 2. How independent will the Commission be?**
- 3. How much funding is available for the Commission?**
- 4. How will members be appointed?**

Answer:

1. The National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) will be governed by a Chief Executive Officer and will report to an agency minister within the Prime Minister's portfolio.
2. The NMHC will be proposed to the Governor-General for establishment as an Executive Agency under section 65 of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The operation of the NMHC will be independent from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The NMHC will have financial and staffing autonomy.
3. In total, \$32 million over five years has been allocated for the establishment and activities of the NMHC.
4. The Mental Health Commissioners will be appointed by the agency minister.