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WOMEN'S Healthworks is GST Registered

10 June 2008

Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Australia

Dear Mr Humphery

Thank you for your invitation to provide further comment on the evidence given by WOMEN'S Healthworks (WHW) at the Senate Enquiry held in Perth on 7 May 2008.

We provide the following comments;

In relation to the statistics questioned by Senator Humphries, WHW would like to clarify that our understanding is as follows;

- Total female population of WA – **982966**¹
- 15.5%² of female population of WA – **152359** (number of women who will have an eating disorder in their lifetime)
- 7%³ of this population, that is 7% of 152359 – **10665** (likely to have a current eating disorder)

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) Census QuickStats: Western Australia
<http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/ABSNavigation/prenav/ProductSelect?newproducttype=QuickStats&btnSelectProduct=View+QuickStats+%3E&collection=Census&period=2006&areacode=5&geography=&method=&productlabel=&producttype=&topic=&navmapdisplayed=true&javascript=true&breadcrumb=LP&topholder=0&leftholder=0¤taction=201&action=401&textversion=false>

² Wade, Tracey D. et al (2006) 'Prevalence and long-term course of lifetime eating disorders in an adult Australian twin cohort', *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists*

³ Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria website:
<http://www.eatingdisorders.org.au/content/view/57/38/>

In addition, we would like to clarify the following:

Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa are consistently seen to be more common in females than males. Anorexia Nervosa affects about 2 per cent of the total population; Bulimia Nervosa, about 3 per cent of the total population; and Binge Eating Disorder about 4 per cent of the population. It does seem, based on the latest statistics out of Victoria, that an equal percentage of males and females are affected by Binge Eating Disorder.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this information.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Stringer

Mandy Stringer
Manager

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) Census QuickStats: Western Australia
<http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/ABSNavigation/prenav/ProductSelect?newproducttype=QuickStats&btnSelectProduct=View+QuickStats+%3E&collection=Census&period=2006&areacode=5&geography=&method=&productlabel=&producttype=&topic=&navmapdisplayed=true&javascript=true&breadcrumb=LP&topholder=0&leftholder=0¤taction=201&action=401&textversion=false>

¹ Wade, Tracey D. et al (2006) 'Prevalence and long-term course of lifetime eating disorders in an adult Australian twin cohort', *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists*

¹ Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria website:
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