

MENTAL HEALTH — BALGO COMMUNITY — FUNDING

3630. Ms J. Farrer to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Mental Health:

- (1) What funding has the Department provided for training to be delivered in Balgo to community members?
- (2) What community based health prevention and promotion programs does the Department fund which service Balgo?

**Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:**

- (1)–(2) In answering this question, the ‘Department’ is taken to refer to the Mental Health Commission (MHC) as purchasers of mental health services in WA.

With specific reference to mental health and suicide prevention initiatives funded through the MHC, the State has committed \$29.1 million over three years to continue the Statewide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service (SSAMHS).

This program is delivered Statewide with approximately \$744 000 per annum of this investment provided through the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council for 4 FTE to deliver the SSAMHS to Derby (2 FTE) and to the Kutjungka region (Balgo, Billiluna and Mulan) (2FTE).

The SSAMHS’s objectives and outputs include improving mental health outcomes for Aboriginal people with severe and persistent mental illness; improving access to culturally appropriate mainstream mental health services for Aboriginal people and their families; and providing cultural training to mainstream mental health services that improve their service delivery to Aboriginal people. Aboriginal mental health workers are also sponsored and supported to undertake post-secondary, VET and tertiary studies in mental health. SSAMHS workers support individuals, families and the community through treatment and the provision of information and training on mental health and wellbeing.

Under the State Suicide Prevention Strategy, approximately \$2.5 million has been invested in six Community Action Plans (CAPs Stage 1 and 2) and suicide prevention training in the Kimberley.

In 2013, the MHC provided \$32 380 to Anglicare WA for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training to communities impacted with recent losses of young people in the Kimberley. Communities targeted include: Kalumburu, Wyndham, Kununurra, Warmun, Halls Creek and Balgo

Under the One Life Suicide Prevention Small Grants scheme, approximately \$56 376 has been provided to organisations.