

CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, FUNDING

1516. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health

With regard to the importance of mental health as a priority area for Western Australia I ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware that the funding for the Centre for Mental Health Services Research (the Centre) was cut as from 30 June 2003;
- (b) is the Minister aware of the performance of the Centre and the unique contribution it has made to Western Australia;
- (c) is the Minister aware of the recent report of the Centre for Mental Health Services Research that outlines the achievements of the Centre as follows -
 - (i) completing applied strategic research of vital importance to Western Australia on the effectiveness of mental health services to people who suffer from serious disablement due to a serious and persistent mental illness;
 - (ii) demonstrating a high level of productivity in dissemination of its research in publications, professional presentations, technical reports and consultation with the community; and
 - (iii) demonstrating effective, efficient and accountable governance and management as evidenced by separate reviews conducted by KPMG and the Corporate Governance and Audit Services, Department of Health WA;
- (d) was a formal review of the Centre for Mental Health Services Research undertaken by the Department of Health;
- (e) if a formal review was undertaken who conducted the review and who were the members of the review panel;
- (f) did the Centre for Mental Health Services Research participate in the review;
- (g) if so, what was the nature of the Centre's participation;
- (h) if a formal review was undertaken what were the recommendations;
- (i) will the Minister table a copy of the report of the review and its recommendations;
- (j) if a formal review was not conducted, why not;
- (k) where there any other reviews conducted that informed the decision of the Minister;
- (l) if so, what were these and who conducted them and what were the recommendations;
- (m) will the Minister table copies of these reviews;
- (n) did the Centre for Mental Health Services Research participate in these other reviews;
- (o) what are the plans to provide for continuity for the important ongoing research the Centre conducts for Western Australia;
- (p) who will be providing for the continuity of the important ongoing research program established and conducted by the Centre; and
- (q) how long will it take the new provider of the research to develop the level of outputs currently provided by the Centre for Mental Health Services Research?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) The relationship between the Centre for Mental Health Services and Department of Health was a contractual one for a period of five years. The Department of Health did not renew the contract as the priorities for spending the funds have shifted
- (b) Yes
- (c) I am aware of the activities undertaken by the Centre for Mental Health Services Research as reported to the Department of Health, however a more specific response can be provided if the title of the report is provided. The Centre for Mental Health Services Research has provided a number of reports to the Department of Health
- (d) No

- (e) Not applicable
 - (f) Not applicable
 - (g) Not applicable
 - (h) Not applicable
 - (i) Not applicable
 - (j) The reason for not renewing the contract related to a change in funding priorities consistent with the changes in focus for the Department of Health
 - (k) No
 - (l) Not applicable
 - (m) Not applicable
 - (n) Not applicable
 - (o) The Centre for Mental Health Services Research is an independent research body and is best placed to answer questions about its long term research agenda and program
 - (p) The Centre for Mental Health Services Research is an independent research body and is best placed to answer questions about its long term research agenda and program
 - (q) The Department of Health has refocussed its priorities for funding in the mental health area and the University of Western Australia School of Psychiatry and Neurosciences will, in partnership with others, forward the research agenda in the area of population mental health. As the nature of the research and its outputs will differ from those provided by the Centre for Mental Health Services Research it is not appropriate to attempt comparisons of levels of outputs.
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