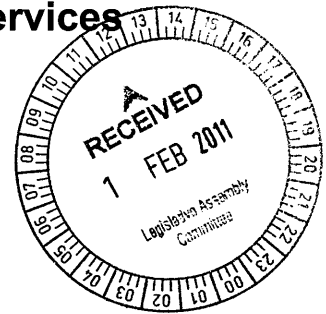




## Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services

Our Ref: 43-00184



Dr Janet Woollard MLA  
 Chairman  
 Education and Health Standing Committee  
 Parliament House  
 PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Woollard

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2010 addressed to Hon Dr Graham Jacobs MLA in his capacity as Minister for Mental Health, regarding the implementation of recommendation 7 of the *Healthy Child-Healthy State: Improving Western Australia's Child Health Screening Programs* report.

As you will be aware I have been appointed as the Minister for Mental Health and Disability Services as of 14 December 2010. Accordingly, your enquiry has been forwarded to me for reply.

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) currently funds the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTs) to provide counselling, support groups and advocacy to refugees of any age who are survivors of torture or trauma.

The contract specifies the following outputs:

- (a) the collection of routine quality of life consumer outcome measures using consumer self-reports;
- (b) personal care plans for each consumer accessing the service. The provider must use this plan to provide and review the services being provided;
- (c) providing counselling to individuals and groups, approximately two-thirds direct contact and one-third indirect contact, comprising of follow up, supervision and support;
- (d) providing education and information services to health and welfare professionals, individuals and groups;
- (e) providing an average of two sessions per week of a Consultant Psychiatric Service for individuals;
- (f) providing community work and implementing projects based on a self-help model, which assists people through the resettlement process; and
- (g) providing interpretive services to facilitate long term counselling and advocacy services and the translation of educational and informational materials.

The 2010/11 financial year funding allocation is for \$480,555 to enable 1653 hours of service contact in total. The funding is recurrent and subject to yearly indexation.

The MHC has recently obtained feedback on the *WA Mental Health Towards 2020 Consultation Paper*, which will further inform the development of the final mental health policy and strategic directions document. This document will provide a blueprint for mental health priorities and reform in Western Australia over the next decade. ASeTTS' services will be given consideration as part of this process.

In addition, this Government is currently working with the non-government community services sector with regard to implementation of recommendations from the Economic Audit Committee's report "*Putting People First*". This will include an assessment of funding requirements of non government organisations to ensure that service delivery is sustainable into the future.

Thank you for inviting me to a hearing to discuss the Government's response to the Committee's report. I have asked Mr Eddie Bartnik, Commissioner for Mental Health, to make himself available to discuss the Government's response to the report on the specific matter you have raised. Mr Bartnik's office can be contacted on 6272 1219 to organise a suitable time.

Yours sincerely



**HON HELEN MORTON MLC  
MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

28 JAN 2011