

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Examination of Additional Estimates 2009-2010

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2

**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

Cross Outcome and Outcomes 1 to 7

3 JUNE 2010

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2009-2010

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on 11 February 2010 and cross portfolio Indigenous matters hearing 12 February 2010

* Please note that the tabling date of 24 June 2010 is the proposed tabling date

FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
Barnett	1, 3	Staffing		13.05.10
Barnett	4-6	Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts		13.05.10
Barnett	8-9	Hospitality		13.05.10
Barnett	10	Board appointments		13.05.10
Barnett	11	Grants		13.05.10
Barnett	12-14	Freedom of information		13.05.10
Barnett	18-21	Departmental reviews		13.05.10
Barnett	22-23	Consultancies		13.05.10
Fifield	29	Exit interviews		13.05.10
Fifield	30	Staff with a disability		13.05.10
Humphries	34	Discretionary grants		13.05.10
Siewert	35	DLOs		13.05.10
Siewert	36	Ethical research approval		13.05.10
Siewert	38	Income quarantining research approval		13.05.10
Humphries	39	Staffing		13.05.10
Fifield	42	CEI procurement		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	229-232	Average staffing level		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	238-239	Consultancies		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	241	Advertising and marketing		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	243-246	Commissioned reports		13.05.10
Back	252-254	AHL Biala Hostel		13.05.10
Barnett	7	Government advertising		13.05.10
Barnett	15	Community Cabinet		13.05.10
Eggleston	27	Grants		13.05.10
Humphries	33	Advertising		13.05.10
Humphries	41	Campaigns		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	228	ASL		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	240	Advertising and marketing		13.05.10
Barnett	2	Staffing		13.05.10
Humphries	32	Reporting at Electorate level		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	235-237	Electoral reports		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	242	Discretionary grants		13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	227	Average staffing levels		13.05.10
Eggleston	24-26	Grants		24.06.10
Fifield	31	SES notes		24.06.10

Boyce	181	Staffing	24.06.10
Siewert	47	Provision of funding	24.06.10
Fierravanti-Wells	233	Status of election commitments	24.06.10

Outcome 1: Families

Fielding	43, 46	Sexual abuse	13.05.10
Boyce	49	PPL consultations	13.05.10
Boyce	51	Family Relationship Services succession planning advice	13.05.10
Boyce	169-170	Paid parental leave	13.05.10
Boyce	171	Proposed PPL scheme compared with other OECD countries	13.05.10
Boyce	172	Paid parental leave	13.05.10
Boyce	202-209	Northern Territory Emergency Response Strategies	13.05.10
Boyce	44	Sexual abuse	24.06.10
Boyce	173	Family support program	24.06.10
Boyce	199	Indigenous domestic violence	24.06.10
Boyce	48	Paid parental leave	24.06.10
Boyce	50	Communities for Children and National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children	24.06.10
Boyce	200	Indigenous domestic violence	24.06.10

Outcome 2: Housing

	T1 tabled at hearing	Housing – 2009-2010 funding	25.02.10
		FaHCSIA letter 26.02.10 clarifying evidence provided at hearing on 11.02.10 relating to rent assistance	13.05.10
Humphries	53, 55	National Rental Affordability Scheme	13.05.10
Humphries	56	Payment accuracy	13.05.10
Humphries	59	COAG Reform Council	13.05.10
Humphries	61	Homeless rough sleepers	13.05.10
Humphries	62, 64	Construction of new dwellings	13.05.10
Humphries	65	Planning approval process	13.05.10
Humphries	66	Notification period	13.05.10
Humphries	67	Appeals on developments	13.05.10
Ludlam	68	Social Housing Initiative projects	13.05.10
Ludlam	69	Energy efficiency and public housing stock	13.05.10
Ludlam	70	Social Housing Initiative dwellings	13.05.10
Humphries	71	Research objectives	13.05.10
Humphries	268	Intergovernmental agreements	13.05.10
Humphries	52, 54	National Rental Affordability Scheme	13.05.10
Humphries	58	NAHA Schematic	13.05.10
Humphries	60	Supply and affordability initiatives	13.05.10
Humphries	63	Construction of new dwellings	13.05.10
Boyce	178	Domestic violence and homelessness – social housing investment \$8.5b	13.05.10
Humphries	57	Reports commissioned by Government in relation to housing	13.05.10
Boyce	177	Domestic violence and homelessness – social housing investment \$8.5b	13.05.10

Boyce	175	Domestic violence and homelessness – social housing investment \$8.5n	24.06.10
Boyce	225	Property value checks for pensioners	24.06.10
Boyce	223	Property value checks for pensioners	24.06.10
Boyce	174, 176	Domestic violence and homelessness – social housing investment \$8.5 billion	24.06.10

Outcome 3: Community Capability and the Vulnerable

	T2 tabled at hearing	Australian Government Victorian bushfires summary report	25.02.10
Siewert	37	Income management research approval	13.05.10
Bernardi	72-76	Financial stress seminars	13.05.10
Xenophon	77-81	Ministerial Council on Gambling	13.05.10
Scullion	83-84	Income management	13.05.10
Siewert	85	Income management	13.05.10
Siewert	87	Commonwealth financial counselling	13.05.10
Siewert	88	Voluntary income management and child protection income management exit numbers	13.05.10
Humphries	136-140	Income management	13.05.10
Humphries	411	Child protection	13.05.10
Siewert	256	Income management	13.05.10
Fielding	45	Sexual abuse	13.05.10
Siewert	257	Income management	13.05.10
Scullion	82	Income management	13.05.10
Siewert	86	Ethical research approval	13.05.10
Scullion	274	Income management and the RDA – legal advice	13.05.10

Outcome 4: Seniors

Fierravanti-Wells	89	Seniors	13.05.10
Boyce	95-96	Same-sex couples	13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	90-92	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	13.05.10
Boyce	97, 179	Working pensioners	13.05.10
Boyce	226	Property value checks for pensioners	13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	94	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	266	Income threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	93	Income text	24.06.10

Outcome 5: Disability and Carers

Fifield	28	Australian Disability Enterprises	13.05.10
Fifield	29	Income support for carers	13.05.10
Fifield	112, 115-116	Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability	13.05.10
Fifield	118-119	Australian Disability Enterprises	13.05.10
Fifield	120	Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres	13.05.10
Fifield	121	National Carer Recognition Framework	13.05.10
Boyce	122	Disability policy	13.05.10
Siewert	124	Young people in nursing homes	13.05.10
Boyce	180	National Disability Strategy: Women with Disabilities	13.05.10

Boyce	255	Disability funding for Indigenous groups	13.05.10
Boyce	158-261	People with vision and hearing disabilities	13.05.10
Siewert	264	YPIRAC	13.05.10
Fifield	110	Carer Allowance (child)	24.06.10
Fifield	111	Children with a recognised disability	24.06.10
Fifield	113	Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability	24.06.10
Fifield	98	Income support for carers	24.06.10
Fifield	100-108	Carer payment	24.06.10
Fifield	117	Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability	24.06.10
Siewert	262	Respite care places	24.06.10
Siewert	263	YPIRAC	24.06.10
Siewert	123	National Disability Strategy	24.06.10
Fifield	109	Carer Allowance (child)	24.06.10
Siewert	125	Respite care places	24.06.10

Outcome 6: Women

Boyce	126-127	Workshops	13.05.10
Boyce	183, 182	Leadership programs	13.05.10
Boyce	184-187	National telephone and online crisis service	13.05.10
Boyce	188	Respectful Relationship Program in schools	13.05.10
Boyce	192	Primary prevention activities	13.05.10
Boyce	201	Indigenous domestic violence	13.05.10
Boyce	128	Respectful Relationships Program	13.05.10
Boyce	129	Social marketing	13.05.10
Boyce	189-191	Respectful Relationship program in schools	13.05.10
Boyce	193-194	Primary prevention activities	13.05.10
Boyce	198	Domestic violence	13.05.10
Boyce	197	Women's participation in Local Government	24.06.10

Outcome 7: Indigenous

Siewert	142-143	Indigenous Representative Body	13.05.10
Siewert	145-146	New approach to Indigenous languages	13.05.10
Siewert	147, 153	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery	13.05.10
Siewert	159-160	Alice Springs Transformation Plan	13.05.10
Humphries	164, 166	Overcrowding	13.05.10
Boyce	167	Institute of Health and Welfare report on State owned and managed Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Siewert	168	Outback Stores	13.05.10
Siewert	251	CAPSSU Report	13.05.10
Boyce	265	Wild Rivers legislation	13.05.10
Siewert	144	New approach to Indigenous languages	13.05.10
Siewert	149, 151	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery	13.05.10
Moore	155	Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Siewert	150	Closing the Gap – Remote Service Delivery – Priority Communities	13.05.10
Siewert	152	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery	13.05.10
Moore	156	SIHIP	13.05.10

Adams	158	Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Humphries	162	Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Fierravanti-Wells	247-250	Commissioned reports	13.05.10
Payne	269	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing	13.05.10
Scullion	130	Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Scullion	132, 135	SIHIP	13.05.10
Siewert	148	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery	13.05.10
Humphries	163	Indigenous housing	13.05.10
Boyce	215, 217, 220	Torres Strait	13.05.10
Boyce	222	Torres Strait	24.06.10
Scullion	267	National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	24.06.10
Scullion	131	Indigenous housing	24.06.10
Scullion	133	SIHIP – revised budget for new houses, rebuilds and refurbishments	24.06.10
Scullion	134	Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program	24.06.10
Humphries	165	Indigenous homelessness	24.06.10
Boyce	216, 218-219, 221	Torres Strait	24.06.10
Humphries	154	Indigenous housing	24.06.10
Scullion	157	SIHIP – Ali Curung	24.06.10
Payne	273	National partnership agreement on remote Indigenous housing	24.06.10
Payne	271	Indigenous housing	24.06.10
Boyce	210-214	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation	24.06.10
Payne	272	National partnership agreement on remote Indigenous housing	24.06.10
Scullion	161	SIHIP allocations	24.06.10
Payne	270	National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing	24.06.10

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 001

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many permanent staff recruited since the supplementary budget estimates? What level are these staff?

Answer:

107 permanent staff were recruited since the supplementary budget estimates. The levels of these staff were:

APS2	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	Public Affairs Officer 2	Senior Legal	SES Band 1	SES Band 2	SES Band 3
3	9	19	25	34	4	1	2	7	2	1

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 003

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Since supplementary budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

Since supplementary budget estimates, FaHCSIA has employed 96 employees on temporary contract. The average time of employment covered by these contracts is 6.7 months.

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 004

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend / Budget Cuts

Hansard Page: CA94

Senator Barnett asked:

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and / or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?

Answer:

No.

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 005

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend / Budget Cuts

Hansard Page: CA94

Senator Barnett asked:

Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services / programs to be cut etc.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 006

Topic: Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

For 2011 FaHCSIA plans to expand its entry level commitment to include participation in DEEWR's 2010 Indigenous Australian Government Development Program (IAGDP) which is a '*Closing the Gap*' initiative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

No reductions are envisaged for the entry level programs for FaHCSIA.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 008

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?
Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events

Answer:

- 1) The Department's hospitality spend for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010 was \$84,230.
- 2) With regard to detailing date, location, purpose and cost of all events, the Department's financial system is not configured to provide this level of detail without significant resourcing implications.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 009

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer:

Please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation for information on hospitality expenditure for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's Offices.

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 010

Topic: Board Appointments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

These are subject to a continuing order of the Senate. Examine what has been provided and ask about non-answers, or potentially controversial appointments.

What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?

Answer:

Boards	Female	Male
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	2	3
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee #1	1	0
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited	2	3
Common Approach to Assessment Referral and Support	10	12
Indigenous Business Australia	5	3
Indigenous Land Corporation	2	5
International Repatriation Advisory Committee	3	5
National Housing Supply Council	3	6
National Indigenous Clearing House	2	1
National People with Disabilities and Carer Council	10	7
National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	1	3
Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness	6	4
Violence Against Women Advisory Group	8	2
Total across the portfolio	55	54

Elected statutory bodies, elected by communities	Female	Male
Anindilyakwa Land Council #2	4	19
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee #1	3	11
Central Land Council #3	2	9
Northern Land Council #4	3	6

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Tiwi Land Council #5	0	24
Torres Strait Regional Authority #6	2	18
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council #7	3	6
Total across the portfolio	17	93

Notes:

#1 The Minister can appoint up to three members of the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee. As at this date, she has appointed the Chairperson. The other members of the Advisory Committee are elected by the Northern Territory Land Councils.

#2-#5 The Anindilyakwa Land Council, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Tiwi Land Council have arrangements where a board function is performed by elected representatives from their communities.

#6 The Torres Strait Regional Authority Board consists of 20 elected members who are all Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people living in the region and whom are elected by their community.

#7 The Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council's Executive Committee of nine members, is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Council.

The Social Security Appeals Tribunal data has not been included in the above table as it is a tribunal not a board. The members of the Tribunal are appointed by the Governor-General.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 011

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

These are subject to a continuing order of the Senate. Examine what has been provided and ask about non-answers, or potentially controversial grants.

Has the Department complied with the interim arrangements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

Yes. The Department has and continues to comply with requirements for publishing grant information. All grants from 1 January 2009 are on the Department's website which is updated weekly. Grant listings from previous years which were on the Department's website have been removed as these were in a different format to that now prescribed by the new Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

The Department's grant listing can be found on the FaHCSIA Grant Funding Announcements webpage. The address is:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/grantsfunding/announcements/Pages/default.aspx>

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 012

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of having received any advice over the last year in relation to how to respond to FOI requests except information provided to all agencies about Government reforms.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 013

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many FOI requests has the Department received? How many have been granted or denied?

Answer:

The Department has received the following FOI requests:

1. From 1 July 2009 to 2 March 2010:

- Number of requests received: 26
 - 13 primary decisions
 - 2 granted in full
 - 10 granted in part
 - 1 denied
 - 2 transferred
 - 3 withdrawn
 - 8 on hand as of 2 March 2010

2. From 01 July 2008 to 30 June 2009:

- Number of requests received: 32
 - 24 primary decisions
 - 3 granted in full
 - 16 granted in part
 - 5 denied
 - 2 transferred
 - 4 withdrawn
 - 2 on hand as of 2 March 2010

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 014

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

No conclusive certificates have been issued over the past year in relation to FOI requests.

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Outcome Number: Cross

...Question No: 018

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency? When will each of these reviews be concluded?
Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?

Answer:

Note: The definition of 'reviews' used focuses on reviews publicly initiated by the Department or by one of its portfolio Ministers. Other work relating to Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, COAG working groups and internal committees are excluded. This approach is consistent with previous responses and updates information provided in answers to Questions on Notice 55 to 60 from the 2009 Additional Estimates.

There are currently five reviews being undertaken by the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency:

- The Independent Review of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory - due to be completed end of March 2010.
- The Senate Community Affairs References Committee *Inquiry into Suicide in Australia* - due to be completed in April 2010.
- The Review of Youth Services in the Northern Territory - due to be completed in June 2010.
- The Review of the National Disability Service Standards - due to be completed in July 2010.
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability and Care Support due to be completed July 2010.

Since answering similar questions in the context of Additional Budget Estimates (February 2009), the following eight reviews have concluded:

- The Review of the Models of Disability Advocacy was funded under the National Disability Advocacy Program and completed in June 2009. The review is being considered by the government in the context of the national reform of disability advocacy.

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- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Homelessness Legislation was completed in November 2009. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/House/committee/fchy/homelessness/index.htm>
- The Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Third Sector. The Inquiry concluded in December 2009 and the final Report was released on 11 February 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/not-for-profit>
- An Evaluation of Income Management in the Northern Territory was concluded in August 2009. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/Pages/income_management_evaluation.aspx
- Review of Central Australian Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit finalised in November 2009. Report not publicly available.
- The evaluation of the 2006 Family Law Reforms was completed in December 2009 and released in January 2010.
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/Pages/evaluate_2006_familyLawReforms.aspx
- The Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling review has been finalised. Terms of Reference and Report are available at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/gambling-2009>

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: Cross

...Question No: 019

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Answer:

As indicated in response to Question on Notice 58 to Senator Humphries (2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009), the Government will respond in accordance to its responsibilities in relation to all completed reviews.

A response to the findings of the Evaluation of the 2006 Family Law Reforms, completed in August 2009, will be provided later in 2010. The decision on timing is a matter for the Attorney-General, the Honourable Robert McClelland MP.

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Outcome Number: Cross

... Question No: 020

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?
What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?

Answer:

The Department has previously responded to these questions providing answers to Question on Notice 031 by Senator Bernardi, set out in the portfolio's Senate Estimates Consolidated Volume 6 on 8 April 2009, and in answers to Question on Notice 055 by Senator Humphries, included in Senate Estimates Consolidated Volume 2 on 18 June 2009. Only variations to previous answers are included in this response. These variations are described in answers to Questions on Notice 18 above.

The Department does not separately identify due costs of supporting reviews in its finance systems. Consequently, and as previously advised, a significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and estimate the total costs of all reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007.

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Outcome Number: Cross

... Question No: 021

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What further reviews are planned for 2009-10 Financial Year?

Answer:

A further five reviews are planned for 2009-10. These are:

- An evaluation of Income Management trials in WA
- A whole-of-government review of disaster recovery arrangements as agreed by COAG and being led by the Attorney General's Department with FaHCSIA as a contributor
- A review of the assessment tables of work-related impairment for the Disability Support Pension
- A review of advocacy arrangements under the National Disability Agreement and the Government's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and
- An independent review on the operation of the amendments under the *Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Act 2008*.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 022

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
- b) Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please include total value for all consultancies.

Answer:

- a) During the period 1 December 2007 to 24 February 2010, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has initiated a total of 492 consultancies.
- b) Full details of each consultancy valued at \$10,000 or more are publicly available and are published on the Government Tenders website, AusTender: www.tenders.gov.au.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 023

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year?
- b) Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and, if not, why not?
- c) In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant, if known.

Answer:

a) As at 23 March 2010 the 2009-10 FaHCSIA Annual Procurement Plan shows that the Department is expecting to approach the market in respect of three consultancies in the first six months of this calendar year.

The number of consultancies forecast for the second half of the calendar year is not yet known but will be reflected in the Department's 2010-11 Annual Procurement Plan. The Plan will be published on the AusTender website before 1 July 2010, in accordance with the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines* (clause 7.15).

b) See answer to question (a).

c) As required by the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*, the Annual Procurement Plan includes details of the subject matter of any planned procurement and the estimated date of the publication of the approach to market.

The other information requested will not be known until after the award of a contract. Details of awarded contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more are published on the AusTender website www.tenders.gov.au.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 029

Topic: Exit Interviews

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Fifield asked:

Have any departing staffs with a disability provided reasons for their departure?

Answer:

FaHCSIA provides all departing staff with the opportunity to complete an Exit Survey. Over the last 12 months only 4 staff completing the survey have identified as having a disability.

The reasons provided do not differ significantly from other respondents, and include transfer to another APS agency, end of contract and moving overseas.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 030

Topic: Staff with a Disability

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Fifield asked:

Has the Public Service Commission or other departments sought advice from FaHCSIA as to how they might improve the engagement rate with people who have a disability?

Answer:

FaHCSIA continues to share information with other agencies relating to our programs and initiatives that have been implemented in the Department to improve the engagement of people with disability.

This information is shared with other agencies through the APS Diversity Network meetings and through general telephone enquiries.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 034

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Hansard Page: CA10-11

Senator Humphries asked:

Can the department provide an update of those grants by financial year since November 2007?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided for QoN 11. The listing of grants which was on the website prior to 1 January 2009 is attached for your information.

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Output Number: Cross

Question No: 035

Topic: DLOs

Hansard Page: CA12

Senator Siewert asked:

How does a senator find out if a particular person is a Departmental Liaison Officer or not?

Answer:

The name of each person who works in the Australian Parliament House (APH), including in a Minister's office, is listed in the Parliament House Communications Directory which is distributed to every Member of Parliament. The contact booklet is produced by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).

DPS has advised that the Communications Directory is produced twice yearly and the information can also be obtained online by accessing the Occupant Directory which is found on the APH Intranet site.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 036

Topic: Ethical Research Approval

Hansard Page: CA13

Senator Siewert asked:

Who sits in the ethics committee in DoHA? Are they internal or external to DoHA?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing Ethics Committee is made up of external members, and a Departmental Representative.

The members have been chosen for their relevant experience and expertise, and in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (the guidelines for all Human Research Ethics Committees). Current membership consists of:

- Chairperson - Dr Tony Ireland
- two lay people (one man and one woman)
- one person with knowledge of, and current experience in, the professional care, counselling or treatment of people
- one person who performs a pastoral care role in a community
- one lawyer
- three people with current research experience that is relevant to research proposals to be considered at the meetings they attend.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 038

Topic: Income Quarantining research approval

Hansard Page: CA15

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the process for approving research and evaluation in FaHCSIA?

Answer:

The process for approving research and evaluation in FaHCSIA is the responsibility of the Department's Research and Evaluation Committee (REC). The committee is accountable to the Secretary through the Executive Management Group.

Committee membership comprises: Deputy Secretary, Social Policy (Chair); Group Manager, Social Policy; Group Manager, Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination; Group Manager, Housing; Group Manager, Families; Branch Manager, Research and Analysis; Branch Manager, Information Services; Group Manager, Disability and Carers; and Branch Manager, Office for Women.

Under the arrangements established by REC, responsibility for the development and management of research and evaluation projects rests with individual branches.

The process for approving projects is as follows:

- branches develop proposed projects within the context of the department's priorities and their specific needs at a business level;
- proposed projects are approved by the branch and group manager, who is responsible for assessing business needs and the appropriateness of the project;
- projects are then submitted to REC for formal approval (the Branch Manager of Research and Analysis Branch has authority to approve projects on REC's behalf).

In deciding whether to approve a project, REC considers:

- whether the proposal aligns with the R&E Plan and supports the Government's policy agenda
- how well the proposal supports policy development in forward years and addresses gaps in our current knowledge
- if there are any significant risks or sensitivities
- whether the methodology is sound and meets relevant standards and guidelines, such as those of the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the Australasian Evaluation Society, and relevant regulatory obligations such as those in the National Privacy Principles
- how well the proposal represents value for money

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Programs of research, such as the annual set of projects conducted under the Social Policy Research Services agreements or the Homelessness Research Agenda, are considered by the committee rather than the delegate as they constitute major investments. Projects, when approved, may be fully developed or have some elements that require further refinement. In some cases the services of an external contractor are sought to both assist the department in finalisation of the projects approach and to undertake the research or evaluation project.

Research and evaluation projects outlined in the Indigenous Affairs Whole of Government Research and Evaluation Plan 2008-11 are not assessed through the REC process. Due to their whole of government focus they are managed by the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination in consultation with other agencies using the approval principles outlined above for the REC.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 039

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many permanent staff have been recruited since the last round of supplementary budget estimates? What are the levels of these staff?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided in QoN 001.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 042

Topic: CEI Procurement

Hansard Page: CA94

Senator Fifield asked:

Have the Chief Executive's Instructions for procurement in FaHCSIA changed as a result of Finance's changes to procurement guidelines?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 229

Topic: Average Staffing Level

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What have been the changes in ASL since November 2007? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the budgetary implications?

Answer:

The Department's ASL has increased since November 2007 which aligns with the resources necessary to deliver the portfolio outcomes as shown in our PBS and PAES publications.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 230

Topic: Average Staffing Level

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions have been sacrificed and why?

Answer:

This question is not applicable to this Department as staff numbers have increased.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 231

Topic: Average Staffing Levels

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this?

Answer:

There is no target for staff reductions.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 232

Topic: ASL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?

Answer:

In the financial year commencing 1 July 2009, 36 staff have been offered and accepted voluntary redundancies. In the same period, there have been no involuntary redundancies. Staff are identified for an offer of voluntary redundancy in line with the provisions of the FaHCSIA Collective Agreement 2009-2011. Future plans to offer voluntary redundancies are determined by the operational requirements of the Department.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 238

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since November 2007? How can the Department justify this expenditure?

Answer:

Details of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) expenditure on consultancy services contracts are published in the Department's Annual Report. Table 5.3 in the 2008-09 FaHCSIA Annual Report (page 382) shows that total expenditure in 2006-07 was \$29,603,020, in 2007-08 it was \$28,894,703 and in 2008-09 it was \$18,438,179. Consultancy expenditure in the first six months of this financial year (as at 31 December 2009) was \$5,617,907.

New consultancies let with a value of \$10,000 or more are listed in the Department's Annual Report (Table 4.18). This includes details of the justification for each consultancy contract, as follows:

- a. skills currently unavailable within the department;
- b. requirements for collection of quantitative/qualitative statistical information;
- c. requirement for independent or impartial research/assessment by an independent organisation;
- d. requirement for specialist/professional expertise; and
- e. consultant is recognised as an expert in the field and uniquely able to provide the required services.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 239

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services? For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

Answer:

Full details of each consultancy valued at \$10,000 or more are publicly available and are published on the Government Tenders website, AusTender: www.tenders.gov.au.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 241

Topic: Advertising and Marketing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts? Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.

Answer:

The Department has a warehousing and distribution contract with National Mailing and Marketing Pty Ltd, and three panels from which it accesses communication services. There is a contract in place with each of the panel providers:

Panel Description	Suppliers
Printing and Promotional Products Panel Services provided: offset and digital printing services and production of promotion items	Blue Star Print Group Australia Pty Ltd
	CanPrint Communications Pty Ltd
	GEON Australia Pty Ltd
	New Millennium Print Pty Ltd
	Vega Colour Group Pty Ltd
	Independent Print Media Group Pty Ltd
	Whirlwind Print Pty Ltd
	Adelaide Copy Office Pty Ltd
	Partech Pty Ltd t/a Bytes 'n Colours
	Lindsay Yates & Partners Pty Ltd
	Intandem Pty Ltd
Yetimo Marketing Pty Ltd	
Creative and Public Relations Panel Services provided: advertising strategies, branding/imagery development, copywriting, creative development, development and implementation of communication strategies, direct marketing, event management,	SMART Sydney Pty Ltd
	Quay Connection Pty Ltd
	Language Partner Pty Ltd
	Horizon Communication Group Pty Ltd
	ZOO Communications Pty Ltd
	Porter Novelli Australia Pty Ltd
	Gavin Jones Communications Pty Ltd
	Morris Walker Pty Ltd
	Singleton, Ogilvy & Mather (Sydney) Pty Ltd
	The Red Agency Pty Ltd
	LOTE Marketing Pty Ltd
	Words at Work Editorial Services Pty Ltd
The School of Thought	

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issues/risk/media management, multimedia/electronic media (radio/television) production, publicity and promotion, and sponsorship management.	Digital Dogma
Communications Market Research Panel Services provided: market research consultancies	Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd
	Taylor Nelson Sofres Pty Ltd
	Orima Research Pty Ltd
	GFK Blue Moon Research and Planning Pty Ltd
	Cultural & Indigenous Research Centre Australia
	Urbis Pty Ltd
	The Open Mind Research Group
	Jigsaw Strategic Research
	Inside Story Knowledge Management Pty Ltd
	The Echidna Group – Indigenous Research & Development Consultancy
	Colmar Brunton Social Research Pty Ltd
	Ipsos Public Affairs Pty Ltd
	Roy Morgan Research Pty Ltd

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 243

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio since November 2007?

Answer:

Note: The definition of a 'report' used in providing an answer to these Questions on Notice focuses on any report authorised by government, finalised, handed to government and subsequently made public. Reports produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, COAG working groups and internal committees are excluded.

Eighteen reports have been commissioned, completed and made public by the Government in the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio since November 2007.

A number of additional reports commissioned by the Department can be found at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 244

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

Answer:

The date commissioned, date report handed to Government, the date of public release for each report and cost is listed below. Where available, a link is provided to the Report's internet site for information on Terms of Reference and Committee members.

Title: National Compact Between the Australian Government and Third Sector – Consultation Report

Commissioned: May 2009

Handed to Government: December 2009

Publicly Released: February 2010

Cost: \$0.009m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/pubs/national_compact_consultation/Pages/default.aspx

Title: National Compact Consultation – Final Report

Commissioned: August 2008

Handed to Government: October 2008

Publicly Released: December 2008

Cost: \$0.098m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/pubs/Documents/national_compact_consultation/pdf.htm

Title: 2009: Our Future in Our Hands: Creating a Sustainable National Representative Body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Commissioned: December 2008

Handed to Government: August 2009

Publicly Released: August 2009

Cost: \$0.092m

Additional Information:

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/Social_Justice/rebody/report2009/index.html

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Title: Petrol Sniffing Strategy – Review of First Phase

Commissioned: November 2007

Handed to Government: July 2008

Publicly Released: September 2008

Cost: \$0.083m

Additional Information:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/evaluation/petrolsniffing/Pages/default.aspx>

Title: Report of the NTER Review Board

Commissioned: June 2008

Handed to Government: October 2008

Publicly Released: October 2008

Cost: \$2.600m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/final_report_2008/Pages/default.aspx

Title: Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program – Review of Program Performance

Commissioned: July 2009

Handed to Government: August 2009

Publicly Released: August 2009

Cost: The report was undertaken by two senior officials from the Australian and Northern Territory Governments and was funded through departmental salary expenses.

Additional Information:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/housing/sihip/Pages/default.aspx>

Title: The Way Forward: A New Disability Policy Framework for Australia (Disability Investment Group)

Commissioned: April 2008

Handed to Government: September 2009

Publicly Released: December 2009

Cost: \$0.407m

Additional Information:

http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/way_forward/Pages/default.aspx

Title: Voices from the Campfires: Establishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Commissioned: February 2008

Handed to Government: September 2008

Publicly Released: September 2008

Cost: \$0.358m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/healing/voices_campfire/Pages/default.aspx

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Title: Report on the Evaluation of Income Management in the Northern Territory
Commissioned: March 2009
Handed to Government: August 2009
Publicly Released: December 2009
Cost: \$0.202m
Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2009/Pages/nter_eval.aspx

Title: Disability Insurance Scheme Final Report – Disability Investment Group
Commissioned: October 2008
Handed to Government: October 2009
Publicly Released: October 2009
Cost: \$0.302m
Additional Information:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/National_Disability_Insurance_Scheme/Documents/default.htm

Title: Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia
Commissioned: October 2008
Handed to Government: August 2009
Publicly Released: August 2009
Cost: \$0.297m
Additional Information:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/community_consult/Pages/default.aspx

Title: House of Representatives Standing Committee on Families, Community, Housing and Youth – Inquiry into Homelessness Legislation
Commissioned: June 2009
Handed to Government: November 2009
Publicly Released: November 2009
Cost: Not applicable
Additional Information:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fchy/homelessness/index.htm>

Title: Time for Action: The National Council’s Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children – 2009-2021
Commissioned: May 2008
Handed to Government: April 2009
Publicly Released: April 2009
Cost: \$2.100m
Additional Information:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/national_plan/Pages/default.aspx

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Title: The Leadership Challenge: Women in Management

Commissioned: November 2007

Handed to Government: March 2008

Publicly Released: March 2008

Cost: \$0.005m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/economic/leadership_challenge_women_manage/Pages/default.aspx

Title: Women in Management Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (EOWA)

Commissioned: June 2009

Handed to Government: January 2010

Publicly Released: February 2010

Cost: \$0.294m

Additional Information:

http://fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2010/Pages/eowa_kpmg_11022010.aspx

Title: Report on the population impact of the new child support formula

Commissioned: July 2008

Handed to Government: July 2008

Publicly Released: August 2008

Cost: Not applicable

Additional Information: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/childsupport/pubs/PopulationImpact/Pages/default.aspx>

Title: Updated report on the population impact of the new child support formula

Commissioned: July 2009

Handed to Government: July 2009

Publicly Released: August 2009

Cost: Costs not separately identified

Additional Information: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/childsupport/pubs/PopulationImpactUpdate/Pages/default.aspx>

Title: International Review of Future Planning Options (for carers of people with disability)

Commissioned: June 2008

Handed to Government: January 2009

Publicly Released: May 2009

Cost: \$0.101m

Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/pubs/Documents/international_review/default.htm

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 245

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

(a) How much did each report cost? (b) How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?

Answer:

(a) The cost of each report is listed in the answer to Question 244.

(b) The Department does not separately identify the costs and number of staff supporting reports in its finance system. A significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and calculate the total number and level of departmental staff involved in each of these reports. Consequently, the Department is unable to provide a response to this question.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 246

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

All reports listed in this response are complete. The Government will respond in accordance to its responsibilities in relation to all completed reports.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 252

Topic: AHL Biala Hostel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Beck asked:

I refer to a report in *The Australian* newspaper in September 2009 “Tough luck for disadvantages boarders at Sydney’s Biala Hostel” – located in Allambie Heights on the northern beaches which was said to be closing. This measure would affect hundreds of female aboriginal students from accessing education opportunities in metropolitan Sydney. Were measures initiated by the Minister to remedy this following its exposure by the media?

Answer:

Biala Hostel is a 21-bed secondary education (SE) hostel for Indigenous girls located at Allambie Heights, Sydney. It has been owned and operated for the last 30 years by Aboriginal Hostels Limited. Its tenure came up for review in 2009 as occupancy at the Hostel had been at approximately 50 per cent over recent years. AHL also operates the 30-bed secondary education Kirinari Hostel at Sylvania which could also house the girls with minimal disruption if Biala closed.

The AHL Board met on 15 October 2009 and decided to keep Biala open for a trial period of another 12 months. During this time renewed efforts are being made to attract and retain students through increased community involvement. An Advisory Committee for Biala was set up to examine the issues and propose strategies for improving retention, including enhanced mentoring and support arrangements. The Committee includes representatives from the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee, the Mackellar Girls’ Campus attended by Biala students, the Senior Houseparent of Biala Hostel and the Education Officer or Regional Manager of the Sydney Office of Aboriginal Hostels Limited. The Board has extended this strategy to all AHL secondary education hostels.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 253

Topic: AHL Biala Hostel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Beck asked:

If it is now to be funded, how much has been allocated and for what period?
Is any funding provided through the Aboriginal Hostels Limited? If so, how much and if there are any other sources, please provide details?

Answer:

The complete operating deficit for Biala Hostel is met by Aboriginal Hostels Limited (that is the difference between the hostel operating costs and the income received from the Abstudy of the boarding students). For the 2009-10 financial year the operating subsidy paid by AHL for this hostel was \$215,071.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 254

Topic: AHL's Biala Hostel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Beck asked:

Which other metropolitan hostels have been funded?
 What are the numbers of students that each cater to?

Answer:

Most of Aboriginal Hostels Limited's eight secondary education hostels are located in remote areas to service students living in these areas. AHL has four hostels in the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Cairns. AHL secondary education hostels and their bed capacities are listed in the table below.

AHL HOSTEL	TOWN	STATE	NO. BEDS
Biala Hostel	Sydney	NSW	21
Kirinari Hostel - Sydney	Sydney	NSW	30
Kirinari Hostel - Newcastle	Newcastle	NSW	14
Joe McGinness Hostel	Cairns	QLD	16
Warrina Hostel	Dubbo	NSW	36
Canon Boggo Pilot Hostel	Thursday Island	QLD	36
Fordimail Student Hostel	Katherine	NT	32
Wangkana Kari Hostel	Tennant Creek	NT	30
TOTAL			215

In addition, AHL funds a further seven secondary education hostels through the Community Grants Program in remote areas for 296 students as shown in table over page.

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CHG HOSTEL	TOWN	STATE	NO. BEDS
Nyangatjatjara College	Yulara	NT	30
Woodleigh Residential College	Herberton	QLD	64
Western Cape Secondary Hostel	Weipa	QLD	20
Worawa Aboriginal College	Healesville	VIC	54
Clontarf Aboriginal Football Academy	North Fremantle	WA	18
Wongutha CAPS Hostel	Gibson	WA	50
Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre	via Meekatharra	WA	60
TOTAL			296

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 007

Topic: Government Advertising

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What communications programs have the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake? For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

The department has undertaken three communication campaigns since November 2007:

- The total spent on the Economic Security Strategy Payments campaign was \$4.07 million.
- The total spent on the First Home Owners Boost campaign was \$5.06 million.
- The total spent to date on the Secure and Sustainable Pensions campaign is \$1.8 million.

The department is currently developing two communication campaigns: They are:

- Promoting Respectful Relationships campaign – the proposed expenditure for 2009-10 is \$9.135 million.
- Paid Parental Leave campaign - the 2009–2010 Budget identified administered funds for communication of \$8.9 million.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 015

Topic: Community Cabinet

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates? How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel? What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

Information on the attendance and associated costs of Ministers' and advisers' attending Community Cabinet meetings since the 2009 Budget Estimates Hearing is obtainable from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The total Departmental cost for staff to attend Community Cabinet meetings held since the 2009 Budget Estimates held in June 2009 (through to February 2010) is \$33,574.

The table below shows the number of Departmental staff that attended each Community Cabinet meeting since 2009 Budget Estimates.

Community Cabinet Location	Departmental Staff Attendance
Beenleigh, QLD, 30 June 2009	5
Elizabeth, SA, 28 July 2009	5
Port Macquarie, NSW, 25 August 2009	5
Geraldton, WA, 1 October 2009	5
Hobart, TAS, 13 October 2009	4
Bathurst, NSW, 9 November 2009	3
Townsville, QLD, 8 December 09	4
Adelaide, SA, 20 January 2010	5
Ballarat, VIC, 18 February 2010	4

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 027

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

Why did Tim Hammond, the endorsed Labor candidate for the House of Representatives seat of Swan, present a funding increase of \$50,000 to the Jacaranda Community Centre under the Bridging the Gap program?

Answer:

Minister Macklin announced the funding increase when she visited the Jacaranda Community Centre, Western Australia recently. She was accompanied on her visit to the organisation by Mr Tim Hammond who welcomed the additional funding but did not present or announce it.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 033

Topic: Advertising

Hansard Page: CA10

Senator Humphries asked:

What has the department spent on advertising and marketing in the two preceding financial years?

Answer:

During the two preceding financial years the Department has spent the following on advertising media purchases:

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Campaign Advertising	Nil	\$8,030,000 (Economic Security Strategy Payments: \$3,740,000) (First Home Owners Boost: \$4,290,000)
Non-campaign advertising Includes advertising of tenders, expressions of interest, requests for submissions, information sessions, consultation and training sessions, event promotions. Does not include recruitment advertising.	\$2,073,663	\$2,063,508
Total	\$2,073,663	\$10,093,508

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 041

Topic: Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

In the recent hearing, you referred to two advertising campaigns that the department has planned. Can you give me some more information on these? How much is the projected spend on each of these campaigns? What do these campaigns entail?

Answer:

There are two potential campaigns currently being developed by the department.

Promoting Respectful Relationships

Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009-2021 (Time for Action), recommended that a social marketing strategy be developed in partnership with state and territory governments.

The Prime Minister announced Immediate Government actions in response to *Time for Action*.

The aim of the Promoting Respectful Relationships campaign is to promote the development of healthy and respectful relationships through changing attitudes and behaviours of young people.

The proposed expenditure on the campaign in 2009-10 is \$9,135,000.

Paid Parental Leave

The proposed Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Campaign will support the scheme commencement by informing employers, parents and potential parents who are planning a family or expecting a baby about details of the scheme before it commences on 1 January 2011.

The 2009–2010 Budget identified administered funds for communication of \$8.9 million.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 228

Topic: ASL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers? What is the breakdown by location?

Answer:

As at 5 February 2010 the staffing levels (headcount) were as follows:

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
SES Officers	102	2	8	4	3	1	1	4	125
Non-SES Officers	2403	148	266	162	76	23	66	135	3279

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 240

Topic: Advertising and Marketing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007?
 Ask for justification of expenditure.

Answer:

Since November 2007 the Department has spent \$12,789,000 on the purchase of advertising media, comprising:

Campaign advertising:	\$9,198,000
Including:	
Economic Security Strategy (ESS)	\$3,740,000
First Home Owners Boost (FHOB)	\$4,290,000
Secure and Sustainable Pensions (Pensions)	\$1,168,000
Non-campaign advertising	\$3,591,000
This includes advertising for tenders, expressions of interest, requests for submissions, information sessions, consultation and training sessions and event promotions, but not recruitment advertising	
TOTAL	\$12,789,000

The campaigns undertaken by the Department were in accordance with the *Guidelines on Campaign Advertising by Australian Government Departments and Agencies*.

Non-campaign advertising includes advertising for tenders, expressions of interest, requests for submissions, information sessions, consultation and training sessions and event promotions. Examples include calling for nominations for NAIDOC awards, seeking applications for the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program and inviting non-profit community organisations to apply for funding under the Volunteers Grants Program.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 002

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many temporary positions exist or have been created since supplementary budget estimates?

Answer:

As at 5 February 2010 there were 234 non-ongoing staff in the department.

Since supplementary budget estimates the number of non-ongoing staff has increased by 29.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 032

Topic: Reporting at Electorate Level

Hansard Page: CA8-9

Senator Humphries asked:

Can we have tabled all currently prepared reports on progress of the implementation of government/FaHCSIA programs at the electorate level?

Answer:

As per advice provided at earlier Senate Estimates hearings, the department does not routinely prepare reports on government/FaHCSIA programs at the electorate level.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 235

Topic: Electoral Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?

Answer:

No, electorally based reports are not routinely produced by the Department. The department publishes to its website all information on grants required under the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 236

Topic: Electoral Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Does the Department prepare electoral level reports for Ministers? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Request copy of latest reports.

Answer:

As per advice provided at earlier Senate Estimates hearings, the Department does not provide reports on the progress of the implementation of government programs at electorate level. Information is provided for ministerial or prime ministerial visits to particular electorates.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 237

Topic: Electoral Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

Answer:

Electorate data is not provided as part of the grant decision making process.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 242

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since November 2007? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants?

Answer:

Please refer to the answers provided for QoNs 011 and 034.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 227

Topic: Average Staffing Levels

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies?
What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?

Answer:

The total 2008-09 expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies is \$407.9m. The breakdown between SES and non-SES is \$34.1m and \$373.8m respectively.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 024

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

I refer to the article in the Canning Examiner on 29/10/2010 regarding the grant to help people on the fringes. What persons are authorised to act as representatives for the government and present grants to community groups or projects?

Answer:

Successful grant applications are advised in writing, either by the Minister or the Department. The Minister may decide to make a specific announcement, for example via a press release. The Minister may also decide to advise the local member of a specific grant decision. It should also be noted not all grants are 'presented' at a formal level. All grants are listed on the Department's website in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 025

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

Is it not the practice that all grants be presented by a Member of Parliament or Senator representing the relevant Minister or, if such a person are not available, a representative of the relevant government department?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided for QoN #024.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 026

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

Is it still the practice that endorsed candidates for political parties who are not members of Parliament have no official status in representing the government for the presentation of grants?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided for QoN #024.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 031

Topic: SES Notes

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a copy of the SES notes that are provided to senior executives across the Public Service through the APSC?

Answer:

Attached is a copy of the article on the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs traineeship program for people with intellectual disability that was placed in the Australian Public Service Commission SES Notes publication in December 2009.

FaHCSIA begins pilot traineeship program for people with intellectual disability

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is currently piloting a traineeship program for people with intellectual disability.

The department recently selected five trainees to take part in the 18-month program at the department's national office in Canberra. The trainees commenced in August 2009.

The traineeship program is the first of its kind in the APS and is part of the department's commitment to fulfilling the objectives of the Management Advisory Committee 6 (MAC6) Report on Employment of People with Disability across the APS.

Without the significant commitment and support from FaHCSIA's Secretary, Dr Jeff Harmer and other Senior Executives including the (then) Disability Champion, Geoff Leeper, the program would not have been successfully established. Support for the program was also provided by other areas of the Department, including:

- branches that willingly offered placements for the trainees
- supervisors who participated in mandatory disability awareness training
- staff who nominated to become mentors of the trainees and attend customised training to effectively support them throughout the program
- the Diversity Team in People Branch who continue to provide support to trainees and their supervisors.

Selection and recruitment

The positions were advertised using special measures for people with intellectual disability as set out by the Australian Public Service Commissioner's Directions 1999. These measures allow for employment opportunities to be advertised as restricted to applicants who have an intellectual disability.

Positions were advertised in the APS Gazette, the Disability Works Australia (DWA) website, and The Canberra Times.

The success of the recruitment, selection and job placements was due to the collaboration between FaHCSIA and external organisations that provided their expertise and knowledge in the job design, supervisor training, and the recruitment and selection process.

Branch placement

Information sessions were held for business areas interested in offering a placement. The information sessions included details about the academic components of the program, the recruitment process and support arrangements for the trainees.

Business areas nominated to place a trainee and, from these nominations, five business areas from across the department were selected to participate in the pilot program.

Trainees

The trainees completed a two week induction program, which included training in occupational health and safety, performance management, code of conduct, records management, fraud awareness; and protective security. They also received introductory training in FaHCSIA's IT records management system and Microsoft applications.

The trainees currently work part-time for 36 hours per fortnight. This includes 30 hours per fortnight on the job and a further six hours per fortnight at Capital Careers, a Registered Training Organisation, undertaking the training component which leads to attainment of a Certificate II in Business.

Ongoing support is provided to the trainees by:

- the FaHCSIA Disability Access Coordinator
- a FaHCSIA mentor
- their Employment Consultant through their Disability Employment Network in Canberra.

Supervisors and mentors

Each trainee is supervised by two staff members who support them throughout the program. Each supervisor has been trained in 'Skills for a Diverse Workplace', which involves one training day per month for four months, conducted by Capital Careers.

The Australian Employers Network on Disability also provided a half day disability awareness training session for the supervisors. FaHCSIA mentors completed the 'Willing and Able' mentor program.

Stakeholders

FaHCSIA would like to acknowledge and thank the external stakeholders who have assisted the Department with getting this traineeship off the ground. They include:

- Australian Employers Network on Disabilities (ENOD) who assisted with the selection process
- Capital Careers who provided the academic components of the traineeship
- Disability Works Australia who assisted with the recruitment process
- The Disability Employment Network (DEN) members in Canberra who provide ongoing support for the trainees during their traineeship
- Mission Australia who administers the traineeships.

Further information

If you are interested in finding out more about the FaHCSIA traineeship program, please contact Lynette MacLean, People Branch Manager on (02) 6200 9599.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 181

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the percentage of women in FaHCSIA by classification? Are there any new professional appointments that have been taken by women?

Answer:

As at 5 February 2010 the percentage of women by classification were as follows;

APS1	APS2	APS3	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	SES Band 1	SES Band 2	SES Band 3	Other Professional
52.6	42.9	76.9	71.6	73.3	68.9	61.8	56.3	57.5	43.3	12.50	74.1

Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates there have been three professional appointments taken by women. These include 2 Senior Legal Officers and 1 Public Affairs Officer Grade 2. Professional positions are determined as being those that required specific tertiary qualifications.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 047

Topic: Provision of Funding

Hansard Page: CA71

Senator Siewert asked:

What I am after is whether you dealt with this in the past, or was it fairly recently in response to the situations that have arisen fairly recently?

Answer:

Community Sector workforce issues are an ongoing issue. The Department has provided advice on these issues in the past, and recently (2009 and 2010) in relation to changes to the Queensland SACS award. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has primary responsibility for this issue as it is an industrial relations issue.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 233

Topic: Status of Election Commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?

Answer:

The Department advises Government on progress in the implementation of its full range of priorities.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 234

Topic: Status of Election Commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Which election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?

Answer:

Refer to Question on Notice No. 233.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 043

Topic: Sexual Abuse

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

Can FaHCSIA please advise what has been budgeted to tackle the specific issue of male childhood sexual abuse? And what was the difference between last reporting period and this reporting period?

Answer:

FaHCSIA funds a number of initiatives that address both male and female childhood sexual abuse. There is not a separate budget for the specific issue of male childhood sexual abuse.

To date in 2009-10, FaHCSIA has delivered funding of \$336,280 to initiatives designed to prevent, respond to, and support survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

In 2008-09, FaHCSIA provided funding of \$511,594 to initiatives designed to tackle childhood sexual abuse.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 046

Topic: Sexual Abuse

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

What processes or procedures are currently in place to capture statistics linked to specific male childhood sexual abuse survivors?

Answer:

FaHCSIA funds a number of clearinghouses that publish data and research on childhood sexual abuse, including statistics on childhood sexual abuse. These are:

- Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault
- National Child Protection Clearing House
- Closing the Gap Clearing House

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, funded by FaHCSIA, also provides a yearly report on child protection statistics, including sex-disaggregated data on substantiated notifications of childhood sexual abuse.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 049

Topic: PPL Consultations

Hansard Page: CA75

Senator Boyce asked:

Where were the consultations held?

Answer:

- Face to face consultations were held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Representatives from organisations present at these consultations were based in cities and regions across Australia including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, Hobart, and Nowra (New South Wales).
- Teleconferences were held with representatives from organisations based in Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart, Gosford (New South Wales), Gladstone (Queensland), Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 051

Topic: Family Relationship Services succession planning advice

Hansard Page: CA84

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a state-by-state breakdown of the numbers of families that have used that service?

Answer:

The information below provides a breakdown of the total number of clients seen through the Family Relationship Services for Carers (FRSC) program in the 2008-09 financial year.

State/Territory	Clients Seen
Australian Capital Territory	26
New South Wales	336
Northern Territory	8
Queensland	40
South Australia	209
Tasmania	94
Victoria	976
Western Australia	79
Total	1,768

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 169

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What are the conditions for the “keeping in touch provisions” for PPL?

Answer:

Policy relating to "keeping in touch" provisions for parents and employers in the Paid Parental Leave scheme is still being considered by Government.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 170

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the concurrent recipients of PPL and employer paid top up benefits accrue long service leave and other entitlements?

Answer:

Yes, provided that the accrual of long service leave and other entitlements occurs as a result of receipt of employer provided benefits.

The Australian Government's Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme does not provide employees with additional unpaid leave from their employer or result in additional accrual of employer-provided leave entitlements.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 171

Topic: Proposed PPL scheme compared with other OECD countries

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How does the government proposed scheme compare with OECD countries? Have there been any comparative studies completed? Has the department looked at Norway?

Answer:

There are marked differences in provisions offered by paid parental schemes across the OECD (see for example *PF7- Key characteristics of parental leave systems*, OECD Family Database, www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database).

The OECD Family Database has been updated to reflect Australia's proposed scheme but there have been no other comparative studies completed that include the proposed changes.

Provisions of schemes in other countries (including Norway) have been looked at by staff of the Department.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 172

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

When does the government plan to review their PPL scheme?

Answer:

The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme, starting two years after the scheme commences.

There will also be an evaluation of the scheme to determine how effective it is in achieving its objectives. Both the evaluation and the review will be completed by the end of 2014.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 202

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response Strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The last two years the government has spent \$22 million on nine cooling off centres for men, 22 safe houses for women and 10 mobile child support teams.

Where are these centres located?

How many people do they accommodate?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government allocated \$22 million for the Northern Territory Family Support Package which included funding for Safe Places, Mobile Child Protection Teams and Remote Aboriginal Family and Community workers.

Safe Places

The Family Support Package funds 22 Safe Places in 15 remote communities (some communities with more than one Safe Place) as well as a transitional house in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Each Safe Place can provide secure accommodation for up to 8 clients at any one time. Additional clients can be accommodated for by placing additional bedding in the accommodation.

Locations of Safe Places

Indigenous Communities	Women	Men's and Youth
Angurugu	1	1
Apatula (Finke)		1
Beswick (Wugalarr)		1
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)	1	
Kalkarindji/Daguragu	1	
Lajamanu	1	
Maningrida	1	1
Nguiu (Bathurst Island)	1	1
Ngukurr	1	1
Peppimenarti	1	
Pmara Jutunta		1
Ramingining	1	1
Ti Tree	1	
Yarralin	1	
Yuendumu		1
Alice Springs(Transitional House)	1	
Darwin (Transitional House)	1	

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Total	13	9
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Mobile Child Protection Team and Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers

The Mobile Child Protection Team commenced in May 2008 and since July 2008 had been involved in 1,113 child protection cases across the NT. There is currently one team manager, nine mobile advanced practitioners (mobile child protection workers) and an administration officer employed and they are based in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers are currently working in eleven remote communities of Galiwin'ku, Borroloola, Elliot, Daly River (Naiyu), Docker River (Kaltukatjara), Oenpelli (Gunbalanya), Ti-Tree, Nguiu, Hermannsburg (Ntaria), Santa Teresa, and Kalkarindji. Recruitment has commenced in Haasts Bluff and Yuendumu.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 203

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Who staff the Centres?

How many staff are resourced for these Centres?

Answer:

Safe Places Staffing:

Under current arrangements, the NT Government has the responsibility for the identification, recruitment and training of local staff in each of the Safe Places.

Safe Places are generally staffed by a mix of full-time, part-time and casual workers who are available for call-out overnight.

There are 20 full-time staff, seven part-time staff and 53 casual staff employed across 21 safe places.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 204

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response Strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What lessons have been learned?

What assessment methods, if any, have been used?

Answer:

The safe places are still in a relatively early stage of operation, so it is difficult to draw out lessons. They are being assessed via ongoing monitoring through regular visits, frequent phone contact, and the use of research.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 205

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What, if any, further funds have been allocated and for what period?

Answer:

2009-10 to 2011-12 Family Support Package funding

In the 2009-10 Budget the Commonwealth Government allocated \$31.6m over three years in administered funds to the Family Support Package.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 206

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response Strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What are the predicted and anticipated outcomes?

Answer:

The Safe Places are predicted and anticipated to provide men, women and children who are at risk of violence or abuse with access to safe accommodation, and access to support services.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 207

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response Strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What impacts have the cooling off centres made?
How often have they been used?
What are the demographics of those in the centres?

Answer:

Cooling Off Places have provided accommodation and support to men and have enabled some women and children to stay in their homes after a domestic dispute.

Client demographics cannot be given by community as this may identify individuals, however between 30 January 2009 and 21 January 2010, 26 men were formally assessed for intake to the Cooling Off Places.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 208

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What impact have the Safe Houses had?

How often have they been used?

What is the demographics of those using the facilities?

Answer:

Safe Houses have provided accommodation and support to women and their children.

The women's facilities have recorded an intake of 270 women with 238 accompanying children since the first Safe House opened in January 2009. Client demographics cannot be given by community as this may identify individuals.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 209

Topic: Northern Territory Emergency Response

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What impact have the mobile child support teams had?

Answer:

The Mobile Child Protection Team commenced in May 2008 and since July 2008 had been involved in 1,113 child protection cases across the NT.

- Between 1 July and 30 December 2008, 459 cases were investigated and 50 remote and regional communities had been visited by the team.
- Between 1 January and 30 June 2009, 236 cases were investigated and 40 remote and regional communities had been visited by the team.
- Between 1 July and 31 December 2009 the team has provided investigation and casework services in 418 cases, and visited 45 remote and regional communities.
- Between 1 July and 31 December 2009, 29 children were taken into care and made subject to court orders under the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 044

Topic: Sexual Abuse

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

What initiatives is FaHCSIA putting in place to address the support needs of male victims of sexual abuse within the broader Australian communities?

Answer:

In the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*, one of the six outcomes specifically addresses the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse. The Commonwealth is working with states and territories through the National Framework to take forward the priority project *Responding to Sexual Abuse*.

FaHCSIA is contributing to a National Workshop on Therapeutic Residential Care, proposed for September 2010, which will focus on best practice models of therapeutic residential care for children displaying behavioural or psychological problems as a result of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse.

FaHCSIA has also funded a number of initiatives under this priority project to address the support needs of survivors of child sexual abuse.

In 2008-09, Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) was funded \$79,134 to deliver national workshops in capital cities for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. In 2009-10, ASCA were funded \$96,330 to deliver these workshops in rural and regional areas throughout Australia.

In 2008-09, Heartfelt House was funded \$28,650 to deliver workshops with adult survivors of child sexual abuse, their non-offending parents and spouses. In 2009-10, Heartfelt House was funded \$45,200 to implement, evaluate, and further develop these workshops.

In 2009-10, Bravehearts were funded \$98,750 to deliver a workshop aimed at increasing the understanding of the nature of child sexual abuse, strengthening therapeutic skills in effective interventions for this client group, and ensuring effective responses to disclosures of sexual assault.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 173

Topic: Family Support Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government's Family Support Program which brings together a range of early intervention and specialist services to better focus on the needs of families and children at risk commenced in February 2009.

What has occurred in the last 12 months?

Will the program commence in February 2011?

Answer:

What has occurred in the last 12 months?

Over the last 12 months the Department has undertaken a broad ranging national consultation process on how the Family Support Program would operate in the future. A range of stakeholders were consulted including CEOs, practitioners, peak bodies, state, territory and local government representatives and clients.

Other key activities have also been finalised during the last 12 months that are informing the future development of the Program. These include:

- the evaluation of the 2006 Family Law Reforms;
- the evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy; and
- other important projects such as the Victorian Linkages Project and the Communities for Children Program.

Will the program commence in February 2011?

No the Family Support Program takes effect from 1 July 2011.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 199

Topic: Indigenous Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What new initiatives have been put in place to reduce the shocking rates of domestic violence in Indigenous communities and families?

What funding has been made available for these new initiatives?

Answer:

In 2009-10 Family Violence Regional Activity Program has an appropriation of \$5.4 million and funds 31 projects and Family Violence Partnership Program has an appropriation of \$10 million and funds 15 projects.

The **Northern Territory Emergency Response Family Support Package** is aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect as well as other forms of family violence. The Package funds 22 Safe Places in remote communities as well as in Darwin and Alice Springs. The Package also funds a Mobile Child Protection Team and Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers for 13 remote communities. Total Commonwealth funding for the package since 2007-08 is \$53.4 million.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 048

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: CA74-75

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a table that outlines the net and gross cost of the scheme across the forward estimates? Administered and departmental funding?

Answer:

The gross costs of the scheme are outlined in 'Table 2.1.3: Budgeted expenses for Parental Payments and Care Incentives' on page 49 of the *Families Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio Budget Statement 2010-11*.

The total net cost of the Paid Parental Leave scheme as detailed in the financial impact statement of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Paid Parental Leave Bill 2010 is as follows:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total net cost	-13,577	-196,704	-269,808	-278,953	-283,347

The total departmental expenses, including those for Centrelink, the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, for the implementation and administration of the Paid Parental Leave scheme are as follows:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total Departmental expenses (all agencies)	-11,527	-33,566	-25,663	-23,046	-21,744

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 050

Topic: Communities for Children and National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Hansard Page: CA83

Senator Boyce asked:

Communities for Children and National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children - Can you give me any figures on how many grandparents are being supported under those two initiatives? Could you provide it in a state-by-state breakdown?

Answer:

Of the 33,608 adult clients assisted through *Communities for Children* services in the July – December 2009 period, 1,070 were identified as Grandparents and Kinship Carers. The table below provides the state-by-state breakdown of these 1,070 clients.

NSW	411
QLD	188
WA	164
NT	129
VIC	94
SA	77
TAS	7
ACT	0

The National Framework includes more than 70 actions across the Australian and State and Territory Governments. It is not possible to identify the number of grandparents assisted under the Framework as a whole.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 200

Topic: Indigenous Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What work has been done to increase access to safe houses or women's refuges in Indigenous settlements? How much has been expended on these? Who runs them? How are the managers and other workers paid?

Answer:

The **Northern Territory Emergency Response Family Support Package** funds 22 Safe Places in 15 remote communities and transitional houses in Darwin and Alice Springs. There are 13 women's Safe Houses and 9 men's Cooling-Off Places.

The Safe Places are run by Northern Territory Government who pay workers and managers.

Across 2007-08 and 2008-09, \$21.8 million allocated funds were fully expended. Commonwealth funding of \$31.6m over three years for the Family Support Package was announced in the 2009-10 Budget, which also covers Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers and the Mobile Child Protection Team.

The Family Violence Regional Activities Program (FVRAP) provides funding for community driven projects, to respond to family violence and promote child safety and wellbeing and safer communities. In 2009-10 there are 31 FVRAP projects with total funding of \$5.4 million. **Family Violence Partnership Program (FVPP)** provides funding for partnerships with State and Territory Governments to jointly fund initiatives that address family violence. In 2009-10 there are 15 FVPP projects with total funding of \$6.3 million. This includes projects that increase access to safe houses/women's refuges.

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Housing – 2009-2010: \$5,713.7m	
Payments to Individuals	Payments for Community Services 2009-10: \$129.5m
[Rent Assistance] No Separate Appropriation	National Rental Affordability Scheme 2009-10: \$23.5m
Working With the States and Territories 2009-10: \$5,584.2	Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention 2009-10: \$106m
National Housing Affordability SPP (Treasury) 2009-10: \$1,202.6m	Policy Development, Leadership, Advice and Coordination
NPP Homelessness (Treasury) 2009-10: \$97.7m	The Road Home – A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness
NPP Social Housing Subsidy Program (Treasury) 2009-10: \$11.9m	Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Project
NPP Investment in Social Housing (Treasury) 2009-10: \$4,072m	
NPP Social Housing (Treasury) 2009-10: \$200m	

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Australian Government

**Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

**CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
HEARING – 11 February 2010**

I am writing to clarify an answer that I provided during the Community Affairs Committee's examination of Output 2, Housing of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Additional Estimates on 11 February 2010.

In response to a question on the percentage of Rent Assistance recipients who were paying no more than 30 percent of their income in rent for the September quarter of 2009-10 (Proof Committee Hansard page CA 32), I stated 'For September 2009 that would be 41 per cent'.

My answer should have been 'For September 2009 that would be 58%.'

The error occurred due to a simple misreading of the table in which the information was presented. Please accept that there was no intention on my part to mislead the committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Croke'.

Leesa Croke
Branch Manager
Office of Housing Branch
Housing Group

26 February 2010

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 053

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA30

Senator Humphries asked:

The second KPI is the proportion of all rental dwellings affordable by low-income households. You do not have brackets after that saying “NRAS households”. Can I take it that means that you are talking about all rental dwellings occupied by NRAS households?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 055

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA31

Senator Humphries asked:

How much had been paid to contracted organisations since July last year? Could you also provide the information for the last financial year as well?

Answer:

The Performance Indicator refers to amounts paid as capacity building grants to community housing organisations participating in NRAS. In 2008-09, \$480,000 was paid to organisations as capacity building grants.

In 2009-10, the allocation for capacity building is \$520,000. Payments will be distributed during March – April 2010.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 056

Topic: Payment Accuracy

Hansard Page: CA34

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide the figure for last year and this year to date?

Answer:

The payment accuracy figure for Rent Assistance reported in the Annual Report for 2008 - 09 is 98.1%. There is no year to date figure available. The 2008 - 09 is figure is extrapolated from a one-off series of Random Sample Surveys of recipients of Rent Assistance in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Currently, there are no plans to repeat the one-off sampling exercise.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 059

Topic: COAG Reform Council

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide the portfolio's perspective in terms of the COAG arrangements?

Answer:

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Federal Financial Relations provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth's financial relations with the States and Territories (the States). It is aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of government services by reducing Commonwealth prescriptions on service delivery by the States, providing them with increased flexibility in the way they deliver services to the Australian people. The IGA also provides a clearer specification of roles and responsibilities of each level of government and an improved focus on accountability for better outcomes and better service delivery.

Additionally, the actual performance of all governments in achieving mutually-agreed outcomes and performance benchmarks specified in each National Agreement is monitored and assessed by the COAG Reform Council (CRC) and reported publicly on an annual basis.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 061

Topic: Homeless Rough Sleepers

Hansard Page: CA46

Senator Boyce asked:

What do you classify as young people? It is under 18?

Answer:

The department has adopted the classification for young homeless people from the ABS *Counting the Homeless 2006* report. This report classifies young people in one of two categories, 12 to 18 year olds (21 per cent) of total homeless population, and 19 to 24 year olds (10 per cent). The department also classifies children as under 12 years of age (12 per cent)¹.

¹ *Counting the Homeless 2006*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008, Cat 2050.0 table 5.1 page 27, Age Breakdown of the Homeless Population

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 062

Topic: Construction of new dwellings

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide a breakdown by state of the figures for the construction of new dwellings?

Answer:

The table below provides a breakdown of funding allocations and Commonwealth payments under the Social Housing Initiative as at the end of February 2010. The figures include both the New Construction (Stage 1 (S1) and Stage 2 (S2)) and Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) elements of the Initiative.

STATE	PROGRAM	TOTAL PAYMENTS TO FEB 10
NSW	R&M	\$130,402,000
	S1	\$225,594,000
	S2	\$1,538,053,000
		\$1,763,647,000
	Total	\$1,894,049,000
		\$108,681,000
		\$156,918,000
		\$484,492,000
		\$641,410,000
		\$750,091,000
VIC	R&M	\$99,152,000
	S1	\$171,532,000
	S2	\$995,225,000
		\$1,166,757,000
	Total	\$1,265,909,000
		\$82,628,000
		\$119,313,000
		\$221,340,922
		\$340,653,922
		\$423,281,922
QLD	R&M	\$80,096,000
	S1	\$138,565,000
	S2	\$946,907,000
		\$1,085,472,000
	Total	\$1,165,568,000
		\$66,746,672
		\$111,382,000
		\$134,722,214
		\$246,104,214
		\$312,850,886
WA	R&M	\$40,488,000
		\$33,764,000

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	S1	\$70,044,000	\$52,721,000
	S2	\$479,683,000	\$80,228,780
		\$549,727,000	\$132,949,780
Total		\$590,215,000	\$166,713,780

SA	R&M	\$29,980,000	\$24,990,000
	S1	\$51,866,000	\$36,078,000
	S2	\$352,397,000	\$85,000,000
		\$404,263,000	\$121,078,000
Total		\$434,243,000	\$146,068,000

TAS	R&M	\$9,324,000	\$7,782,000
	S1	\$16,131,000	\$11,223,000
	S2	\$109,349,000	\$25,000,000
		\$125,480,000	\$36,223,000
Total		\$134,804,000	\$44,005,000

ACT	R&M	\$6,442,000	\$5,381,000
	S1	\$11,147,000	\$10,147,000
	S2	\$75,933,000	\$24,000,000
		\$87,080,000	\$34,147,000
Total		\$93,522,000	\$39,528,000

NT	R&M	\$4,116,000	\$3,418,000
	S1	\$7,121,000	\$4,621,000
	S2	\$48,453,000	\$2,000,000
		\$55,574,000	\$6,621,000
Total		\$59,690,000	\$10,039,000

TOTAL	R&M	\$400,000,000	\$333,390,672
	S1	\$692,000,000	\$502,403,000
	S2	\$4,546,000,000	\$1,056,783,916

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	\$5,238,000,000	\$1,559,186,916
Total	\$5,638,000,000	\$1,892,577,588

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 064

Topic: Construction of new dwellings

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Humphries asked:

Of those 7,700 which have been commenced, how many of them are detached dwellings and how many are multi-unit dwellings?

Answer:

The 7,700 dwellings reported as being commenced at the Senate hearing on 11 February 2010 was determined from fortnightly progress reports provided by jurisdictions. These reports do not provide details of the individual dwellings completed.

The Department receives detailed monthly reports that provide current information on the new construction projects funded under the Social Housing Initiative. The end of January 2010 report showed that construction had commenced on a total of 8,011 dwellings. Jurisdictions have categorised these dwellings as follows:

Type of Dwelling	Number of Dwellings
House	933
Townhouse	2,519
Apartment	4,559
Total	8,011

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 065

Topic: Planning approval process

Hansard Page: CA49-50

Senator Humphries asked:

Which states and territories have enacted nation building legislation to speed up development assessment?

Answer:

New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia have enacted nation building legislation and the Australian Capital Territory has amended its planning and development regulations to expedite Social Housing Initiative projects.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 066

Topic: Notification period

Hansard Page: CA50

Senator Humphries asked:

Does the 21 day notification and comment period differ from what was previously in place with the council?

Answer:

There are over 150 local councils in New South Wales and each council has different arrangements in place to consider submissions related to development proposals. These arrangements can also vary within individual councils depending on the location and scale of the proposed development.

NSW Housing has advised that the 21 day period that has been set for projects being funded through the Social Housing Initiative is consistent with the timeframes set by most councils for small and medium scale residential developments.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 067

Topic: Appeals on developments

Hansard Page: CA50

Senator Humphries asked:

Are those appeals still available under these processes?

Answer:

In respect of the *New South Wales Nation Building and Jobs Plan (State Infrastructure Delivery) Act 2009 No 1* which provides for special planning arrangements for projects funded through the Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan, New South Wales has advised that there are no mechanisms in place to appeal against any planning approval issued under the Act.

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2009-10 Additional Estimates, 11 February 2010

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 068

Topic: Social Housing Initiative projects

Hansard Page: CA58

Senator Ludlam asked:

Do you have data that you could table or would there just be a summary table of the compliance with the six-star rating state by state?

Answer:

Under the Commonwealth Guidelines for the Social Housing Initiative, only projects constructed under Stage 2 were required to, where possible, achieve a six star energy efficiency rating.

Based on data provided by the States and Territories, it is expected that the proportion of Stage 2 dwellings that will achieve this rating will be as follows:

State / Territory	Proportion of Stage 2 dwellings expected to achieve a six star energy efficiency rating
NSW	96 %
VIC	99 %
QLD	94 %
WA	94 %
SA	99 %
TAS	100 %
ACT	100 %
NT	74 %
National	97 %

The lower figure for the Northern Territory is a result of a large project being unable to achieve the six star rating. The project involves a major redevelopment of an existing facility in Alice Springs into a managed accommodation centre. Existing structural constraints will mean that the dwellings will only be able to achieve a five star rating.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 069

Topic: Energy efficiency and public housing stock

Hansard Page: CA58-59

Senator Ludlam asked:

What is the process for going back through the existing public housing stock in the country and assessing it?

Answer:

As part of the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency, all States and Territories have advised they will conduct and make publicly available an independent audit of the energy efficiency of their public housing stocks.

Most states and territories have programs to improve water and energy efficiency in existing public housing dwellings, for example through installation of water efficient shower heads, dual flush cisterns, lighting and the use of solar or gas hot water systems instead of electric systems.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 070

Topic: Social Housing Initiative dwellings

Hansard Page: CA60

Senator Ludlam asked:

Is it possible to tell us what proportion is being commissioned or purchased off the plan?

Answer:

Based on data provided by the States and Territories in February 2010, dwellings that have been categorised as being purchased “off the plan – house and land” represent 13 per cent of the total dwelling numbers. A further 3 per cent are categorised as being purchased through “spot purchase” arrangements. The remaining dwellings are being purchased either through fixed and non fixed price contracts or other arrangements.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 071

Topic: Research Objectives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

The First Annual State of Supply Report outlined two research objectives including a number of projects, on notice, can you inform the committee as to what progress has been made in the following?

- (a) Macro-economic model of the housing market,
- (b) Ongoing collection of data and implementation plans from States and Territories,
- (c) Ongoing collection of demographic information to support demand projections,
- (d) Refinement of ongoing indicator measures and definition of associated data collection requirements,
- (e) Analysis and refinement of housing lot supply data provided by States and Territories,
- (f) Development, calibration, testing and application of macro-economic model of the housing market,
- (g) Development of a housing cost model built on data pertaining to all inputs to the final cost of housing for consumers,
- (h) Analysis of housing submarkets to provide a more detailed assessment of the current situation and likely trends in supply, demand and affordability for particular dwelling types and housing types,
- (i) Characteristics of an efficient housing market and assessment of Australian housing markets against these characteristics,
- (j) Detailed assessment of housing market 'hotspots',
- (k) Lag between growth in demand and increase in construction activity,
- (l) Analysis of the vacant dwelling stock, and
- (m) Environmental sustainability requirements (costs and benefits).

Answer:

- a) Existing housing models in Australia would need to be adapted to model changing economic circumstances in the housing market and to provide better insight into the interactions between supply and demand issues. A workshop was conducted in late 2009, which outlined possible approaches for determining the key variables in the housing market and relationships between them. Further investigation of its suitability and adaptability to model the housing market will be undertaken for successive reports.
- b) The collection of data and implementation plans from States and Territories on the dwelling supply pipeline is ongoing, and was undertaken for the second report. This work will continue to be undertaken for future reports.

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- c) Updated household projections by capital city and balance of state for living arrangements, dwelling, and household types from 2009 to 2029 have been finalised for inclusion in the second report.
- d) The indicator measures for the second report include both updated and new sources of data to assess housing affordability. The refinement of indicators is expected to continue with each successive report.
- e) States and Territories have provided housing lot supply data for use in the second report, and will continue to do so for successive reports.
- f) Please refer (a).
- g) Work on sourcing data on housing costs was undertaken in 2009, and will continue for successive reports. The collection of housing cost data will also be enhanced (where possible) for successive reports to better understand the costs of housing inputs.
- h) Work on housing sub markets is progressing, with specific work on the ageing population, first home buyers and medium and high density redevelopment in metropolitan areas undertaken for the second report. As part of the Council's research program, further work on other relevant sub-groups will take place for successive reports.
- i) Work is progressing on determining the indicators of an efficient housing market, which will be linked with the COAG Reform Council processes.
- j) The Council decided not to pursue this area of research for the second report due to the changing nature of housing issues by location over time. Research on this topic may be undertaken for future reports.
- k) The research being conducted on the lag between growth in demand and increase in construction activity is fundamentally related to sub question (a).
- l) The analysis of the vacant dwelling stock is complete.
- m) No formal research into the impacts of environmental sustainability has been commissioned at this point, but is likely for future reports.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 268

Topic: Intergovernmental Agreements

Hansard Page: CA56

Senator Humphries asked:

Why was it not felt necessary by the Commonwealth to place some kind of constraint on the use by the states of money that the Commonwealth had provided to them?

Answer:

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Federal Financial Relations provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth's financial relations with the States and Territories (the States). It is aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of government services by reducing Commonwealth prescriptions on service delivery by the States, providing them with increased flexibility in the way they deliver services to the Australian people. The IGA also provides a clearer specification of roles and responsibilities of each level of government and an improved focus on accountability for better outcomes and better service delivery.

Additionally, the actual performance of all governments in achieving mutually-agreed outcomes and performance benchmarks specified in each National Agreement is monitored and assessed by the COAG Reform Council (CRC) and reported publicly on an annual basis.

The outcomes of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) are measured through 10 performance indicators. NAHA indicators and contextual information will be included in the second tranche of CRC reporting. The CRC will report to COAG by end of March 2010. It is expected that the CRC reports will be publicly available about one month after COAG has considered them.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 052

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA29

Senator Humphries asked:

For 2009-10 to date, can you provide figures on whether we have decreased the proportion of the low-income households in rental stress in the category of people who are occupying NRAS accommodation?

Answer:

Information on the tenancies of NRAS accommodation is provided by participant organisations after the end of the NRAS year on 30 April 2010.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 054

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA31

Senator Humphries asked:

So can you say at this point in time that since the beginning of the financial year we have, in fact, increased the proportion of all rental dwellings affordable by low-income households in Australia?

Answer:

Yes. NRAS is able to verify the number of affordable rental dwellings available at the end of each NRAS year.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 058

Topic: NAHA Schematic

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Humphries asked:

Is the schematic map available or is it in progress?

Answer:

The schematic map was provided to the Committee in response to QoNs 11 and 116 from the Budget Estimates hearings 2009.

As an update to the information provided in the earlier response, it should be noted that the estimates for National Partnership Payments are published in the following budget statements:

- Australia's Federal Relations Budget Paper No.3, which is released in May; and
- Mid year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, which is released in November.

The latest published estimates are in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2009-10.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 060

Topic: Supply and affordability initiatives

Hansard Page: CA43

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you give me a list of initiatives that are underway to deliver things like faster planning approvals, better forward planning and the sorts of things you spoke about that are likely to deliver?

Answer:

There is a wide body of work currently being progressed around issues such as planning processes, development controls, land audits, developer charging and land supply processes:

- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on 7 December 2009 to develop a housing supply and affordability reform agenda led by the Treasury.
- As also announced at the December COAG meeting, all States and Territories will have Capital City Strategic Plans in place by 2012.
- In July 2009, COAG agreed to reform development assessment processes to reduce building costs.
- COAG also agreed to integrate the plumbing code and the building code into a single more complete National Construction Code.
- In February 2010, the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council agreed to accelerate current development assessment reform initiatives wherever possible.
- Also in February 2010, a Joint Meeting of Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council and Housing Ministers agreed to a range of strategies to increase housing supply, including affordable housing supply. These include active strategies to identify and progress infill and redevelopment opportunities, promoting more transparent, consistent and predictable decision-making in planning and development assessment, and contributing to the Treasurers' review of housing supply and affordability for COAG.
- The Australian Government's \$512 million Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) reduces the price of homes in new developments, by bringing down the cost of infrastructure and streamlining planning processes. Projects aiming to improve planning processes include:
 - the Growth Areas Authority Accelerated Precinct Structure Planning project;
 - the Council of Mayors (SEQ) Target 5 Days project;

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- the Council of Mayors (SEQ) Next Generation Planning project;
 - the Brisbane City Council Infrastructure Charges Subsidisation and Reform project;
 - the Clarence Valley Council Clarence Valley Affordable Housing Reform Project;
 - the Delfin LendLease Ropes Crossing Community Resource Hub project;
 - the Delfin LendLease St Marys Western Precinct Stage 1 Northern Road upgrade project; and
 - the City of Charles Sturt St Clair Residential Development project.
- It is expected that over the next five years these HAF projects will improve the delivery of around 300,000 new homes.
 - A further \$30 million from HAF targets the roll-out of electronic development assessment (eDA) nationally, starting with high growth areas.
 - \$3.6 million has been provided to develop and implement a national standard for how different eDA IT systems ‘talk’ to each other.
 - In December 2009, the eDA communication protocol was formally endorsed by the Cross-Jurisdictional Chief Information Offices’ Committee using the Australian Government Information Officers’ National Standards Framework.
 - A further \$26 million to roll out eDA in each jurisdiction has been allocated across States and Territories based on housing growth.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 063

Topic: Construction of new dwellings

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the total value of work undertaken for those 475 dwellings?

Answer:

The 475 completed dwellings reported at the Senate hearing on 11 February 2010 was determined from fortnightly progress reports provided by jurisdictions.

The Department receives detailed monthly reports that provide current information on the new construction projects funded under the Social Housing Initiative, including expenditure. The end of January 2010 report showed that 488 dwellings had been practically completed. The approximate total cost for these dwellings is \$135.531 million of which the Commonwealth Government has approved funding of \$124.981 million. Jurisdictions have contributed towards the costs for some of these projects. Final actual costs for the projects will be provided by jurisdictions to the Department over the coming months once final accounts have been settled.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 178

Topic: Domestic Violence and homelessness- Social Housing investment \$8.5 billion

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How was the level of investment determined?
How do the actual costs compare to the estimated costs?

Answer:

The total level of investment for the Social Housing Initiative (\$5.638 billion) was determined by the Australian Government as part of its Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan.

Under the Social Housing Initiative, the Commonwealth anticipated its contribution towards the cost of newly constructed dwellings would average \$300,000 per dwelling. Current estimates provided by States and Territories indicate that the expected Commonwealth contribution towards costs will now average around \$275,000 per dwelling.

The actual average cost contribution of the Commonwealth per dwelling will not be known until all construction under the Initiative has been completed and final accounts have been paid.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 057

Topic: Reports commissioned by Government in relation to housing.

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you tell me how many reports have been commissioned by the Government in relation to housing since November 2007? For each report could you provide:

- details of the report;
- date commissioned;
- date handed to the Government;
- date publicly released;
- Terms of Reference (if available) and if they were assigned to a committee;
- members of the committee;
- cost of each report;
- departmental resources dedicated to the report; and
- current status of each report (whether implemented or considered by Government).

Answer:

Six reports have been commissioned by the Government in relation to housing since November 2007. Details are:

1. Queensland Shelter – National Report on the Housing Situation of Seniors. Shelter conducted roundtables with older persons and relevant groups and organisations in six separate locations across Australia, to obtain information, identify and report on issues and propose solutions for the following topics:

- NRAS and Seniors
- Homelessness among seniors
- Private rental
- Share options
- Specific population groups (eg Indigenous, Refugees and Asylum Seekers)
- Planning issues

The report included a literature review of current research regarding seniors' housing issues and options, covering public and community housing options, private rental market issues, share housing for seniors and the interaction between income support and housing options.

Date commissioned: 17 December 2008

Date handed to the Government: 1 September 2009

Date publicly released: August 2009 (via Shelter's website)

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Terms of reference: N/A

Members of the committee: N/A

Cost of the report: \$50,000 excluding GST

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: 0.4 FTE

Current status of the report: The report will be used to inform further policy development.

2. Post Implementation Review - Housing Affordability Fund

Ernst & Young were engaged to conduct a post implementation review (PIR) on the administration of the assessment process for HAF Round One. Its focus was on the process and systems improvement for the Housing Affordability Fund Assessment process.

Date commissioned: 8 July 2009

Date handed to the Government: 17 November 2009

Date publicly released: N/A - Not intended for public release

Terms of Reference: As above

Members of the committee: N/A

Cost of the report: \$60,500 excluding GST

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: 0.3 FTE

Current status of the report: The PIR report is being used to inform further HAF Rounds in regard to assessment processes.

3. Comparative tax analysis of for-profit and of charitable organisations participating in NRAS.

- Ernst and Young undertook a comparative tax analysis of for-profit and of charitable organisations participating in NRAS. The analysis used NRAS financial models built previously by Ernst and Young.

Date Commissioned: August 2009.

Date handed to the Government: 2 December 2009

Date publicly released: N/A

Terms of reference: Ernst and Young were asked to address three areas:

- Detail the relevant tax treatment and concessions available to both for-profit and charitable providers participating in NRAS including an assessment of GST concessions or liability, FBT, stamp duty, land tax and income tax liabilities, tax offsets and depreciation;
- Provide a comparative analysis of the tax treatment and concessions available to for-profit organisations and charitable providers engaged in NRAS under various scenarios of building dwellings, purchasing dwellings or managing tenancies;
- Using a case study approach, undertake a comparative analysis of the FBT treatment of for-profit and charitable providers.

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Members of the committee: N/A

Cost of the report: \$48,377.49 excluding GST

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: estimate 0.1 FTE

Current status of the report: The report is being used to inform further work on the viability of the community housing sector.

4. State of Supply Report – National Housing Supply Council

The Council was established in May 2008 to provide forecasts, analysis and policy advice to the Minister for Housing and publish an annual State of Supply Report on the adequacy of land supply and construction activity to meet demand and improve affordability over a 20-year forecast period. The Council's Terms of Reference outlined that it will:

- adopt consistent national standards in measuring and assessing the supply of land and housing and their relationship with housing demand and affordability;
- provide a detailed assessment of trends in land availability, construction activity and housing affordability; and
- advise on research findings and desirable additional research on housing demand, supply and affordability at regional, State and national levels.

Date commissioned: 2 May 2008

Date handed to Government: First report: February 2009

Date publicly released: First report: 11 March 2009

Terms of reference: See description above

Members of the committee: 9 Council Members (8, plus Council Chair)

Cost of the report: \$54, 000 excluding GST

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: 8.8 FTE

Current status of the report: The second State of Supply Report is scheduled for publication in April 2010.

5. Comparative Analysis of National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) supported residential property against other asset classes.

Ernst and Young undertook a comparative analysis of NRAS supported residential property portfolios against other asset classes including equities and other property asset classes. The purpose of the report was to assist FaHCSIA in demonstrating the financial outcomes achievable under the NRAS compared to other asset classes.

As part of this body of work, Ernst and Young developed a Financial Modelling Tool to assist potential investors in affordable housing to better understand the cash-flows and financial returns that may be generated through investing in affordable housing supported by the NRAS.

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Date commissioned: 23 February 2009

Date handed to the Government: 25 May 2009

Date publicly released: N/A

Terms of reference: See above

Members of the committee: N/A

Cost of the report: \$120,118 excluding GST. Includes cost of developing the Financial Modelling Tool which is made available free of cost to potential NRAS applicants

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: Estimate 0.75 FTE

Current status of the report: The report is being used to improve the NRAS communication strategy.

6. Achieving a viable and sustainable community housing sector

FaHCSIA engaged KPMG to identify and assess the factors associated with a viable and sustainable community housing sector in Australia.

Date commissioned: March 2009

Date handed to Government: 25 November 2009

Date publicly released: not yet released

Terms of reference: KPMG was asked to address the following:

- Identify a framework which considered minimum performance standards for the sector that support industry development, sustainability and establishes a level of accountability;
- Advise about community housing models that ensure that financial incentives provided to the sector assist to build the capacity and sustainability of providers and facilitate growth that is not dependent on recurrent government subsidies beyond existing commitments; and
- Advise how to support the development of a mature and high functioning community housing sector in Australia that can effectively contribute to the priority of improving the availability of affordable housing.

Members of the Committee:

Title/organisation
Group Manager, Housing, FaHCSIA – (Chair)
Branch Manager, Affordable Housing Programs, FaHCSIA
Section Manager, Community Housing Industry Development, FaHCSIA
Manager, Housing Strategy, Housing Tasmania
Director, Community Partnerships and Growth Office, Housing SA
General Manager, Community and Public Housing, Department of Communities (Housing Services) Queensland
Director Housing Sector Development, Department of Human Services, Victoria
Executive Director, Community Housing Division, Department of Housing NSW

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Executive Director, Community Housing Federation of Australia
Policy Officer, Aged and Community Services, Australia
National Manager Housing Services, Mission Australia
Managing Director, Community Housing Ltd
Executive Manager, Development, Argyle Housing
Director, Affordable Housing Solutions
Associate Professor, City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales
Executive Director, Community Sector Innovation

Departmental resources dedicated to the report: 0.3 FTE

Cost of the report: \$286,196 excluding GST

Current status of the report: The report is being used to inform policy development work around the community housing sector.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 177

Topic: Domestic Violence and homelessness- Social Housing investment \$8.5 billion

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many have been assisted with short term rental compared to longer term housing solution?

Answer:

States and Territories are not required to provide data on the length of tenancy. The Commonwealth's position is that wherever possible women escaping domestic violence should be housed permanently and not relocated from crisis to transitional to permanent accommodation.

This position is included in the White Paper on Homelessness and underpins the Place to Call Home program.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 175

Topic: Domestic Violence and homelessness- Social Housing investment \$8.5 billion

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How long were they homeless before being accommodated?

Answer:

This data is not collected under the agreed reporting framework that has been established for the Social Housing Initiative.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 225

Topic: Property Value Checks for Pensioners

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Please advise exactly what special provisions will be used to ensure disability support pensioners are not subject to hardship by these valuations and what rights of appeal exist for those affected?

Answer:

The pensioner assets hardship provisions under s1129 of the *Social Security Act 1991* are used to assess cases of hardship.

The social security review and appeals system is available to Centrelink customers if they disagree with a valuation decision. Customers seeking a review of a Centrelink decision can request reconsideration by the original decision maker (ODM). If the customer is not satisfied with the ODM decision they can request the Centrelink Authorised Review Officer thoroughly review the decision. The Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT) is the first level of external review of Centrelink decisions. If the customer is dissatisfied with a decision by SSAT they can appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). The Federal Court hears appeals of AAT decisions on questions of law.

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Question No: 223

Topic: Property Value Checks for Pensioners

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Would the Department confirm that 10,000 disability support pensioners are to be subject to property value checks? Please provide a state-by-state breakdown where valuations will be undertaken and when?

Answer:

The Department has estimated that 48,000 disability support pension customers will be subject to property value checks under the 2009-10 Budget Measure *Fraud and Compliance-Extending Real Estate Assets Reviews to Disability Support Pension*. Of these, it is estimated that approx 10,000 Disability Support Pension customers will be likely to have their payment reduced as a result of the value of their property having increased.

Anticipated state-by-state breakdowns of valuations, as at January 2010, are shown below.

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
0.59%	26.62%	.33%	20.63%	10.31%	4.37%	29%	8.16%

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 174

Topic: Domestic Violence and homelessness - Social Housing investment \$8.5 billion

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the trend in domestic violence?

How many victims of domestic violence have been accommodated?

Answer:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005 *Personal Safety Survey*, approximately one in three Australian women have experienced physical violence during their lifetime, and nearly one in five women have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.²

Findings from the *Personal Safety Survey* also demonstrate that females are more likely than males to experience an act of physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner.³

- 31 per cent of women who experienced physical assault in the 12 months prior to the survey were assaulted by their current or former partner, compared to 4.4 per cent of men.
- 21 per cent of women who experienced sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey identified a previous partner as the perpetrator.
- Since the age of 15, 2.1 per cent of women and 0.9 per cent of men experienced current partner violence.
- Since the age of 15, 15 per cent of women and 4.9 per cent of men experienced violence from a former partner.

The proportion of women who experienced violence since the age of 15, increased slightly from 38.4 per cent in 1996 to 39.9 per cent in 2005. ⁴

In 1996, 17.9 per cent of women had experienced sexual violence since the age of 15, while in 2005, 19.1 per cent of women had experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. ⁵

² Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 2006. *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, 2005. ABS cat. no. 5906.0. Canberra: ABS.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 2006. *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, 2005. ABS cat. no. 5906.0. Canberra: ABS.

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 2006. *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, 2005. ABS cat. no. 5906.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 1996. *Women's Safety Survey*. ABS cat. no. 4128.0. Canberra: ABS.

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Domestic and family violence continues to be the major driver of homelessness, with escaping violence being the most common reason provided by people who seek help from specialist homelessness services. ⁶

Twenty-two per cent of people seeking help from specialist homelessness services do so because they are escaping domestic or family violence. ⁷

The Commonwealth Government is working with State and Territory Governments to develop a National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, for consideration in early 2010. The plan is designed to have a substantial, long-term effect on the rates of violence against women and their children.

Under the Social Housing Initiative, data provided by States and Territories as at the end of January 2010 indicated that 488 new dwellings had been practically completed. Of these, first tenant information had been provided for 173 dwellings. Based on this data, 17 dwellings have been occupied by persons escaping domestic violence.

The actual number of persons occupying each of these dwellings is not collected under the agreed reporting framework that has been established for the Social Housing Initiative.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 2006. *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, 2005. ABS cat. no. 5906.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (ABS) 1996. *Women's Safety Survey*. ABS cat. no. 4128.0. Canberra: ABS.

⁶ Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). *The Road Home: A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness*. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 2008.

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2010. *Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection annual report, 2008-09*. Cat. no. HOU 219. Canberra, 2010.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 176

Topic: Domestic Violence and homelessness- Social Housing investment \$8.5 billion

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the break down of women and children and in what states /territories?

Answer:

Under the Social Housing Initiative the Government has approved \$5.2 billion for the construction of over 19,300 new dwellings. Data provided by States and Territories as at the end of January 2010 indicated that 488 new dwellings had been completed. Of these, first tenant information had been provided for 173 dwellings. Based on this data, 17 dwellings have been occupied by persons escaping domestic violence and these are located as follows:

State / Territory	Number of Dwellings occupied by persons escaping domestic violence
New South Wales	4
Victoria	-
Queensland	-
Western Australia	5
South Australia	3
Tasmania	1
Australian Capital Territory	3
Northern Territory	1
Total number of dwellings	17

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T2 Australian Government Victorian Bushfires Summary Report

Initial Response

The Australian Government is continuing to work closely with the Victorian Government to support the recovery of the individuals, families and communities impacted by the devastating February 2009 Victorian bushfires. The Commonwealth's financial contribution has included more than \$455 million towards the reconstruction and recovery efforts.

The Australian Government has also committed over \$1 billion in spending across Victorian bushfire affected areas under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, which is helping to generate significant economic activity across these areas, and create employment opportunities for local job seekers.

The Australian Government acted instantly to provide immediate financial and counselling assistance to those in need. This included more than \$82 million in direct financial assistance to more than 63,000 adversely affected individuals through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, the Income Recovery Subsidy and Funeral/Memorial Assistance.

Commitment to the recovery and rebuilding effort

The Australian Government also worked with the Victorian Government on a wide range of recovery programs, including the cleanup of fire damaged dwellings, comprehensive case management services, community service hubs, small business and primary producer assistance, tourism support, environmental recovery and the construction of memorials.

Furthermore, the Australian Government provided additional funding to existing services to assist them cope with the increased demands of individuals and families in bushfire affected communities; for example, an additional \$6 million was provided to 171 Emergency Relief organisations in Victorian bushfire affected communities.

The Way Forward

The Rebuilding Together Statewide Plan for Reconstruction and Recovery (The Rebuilding Together Plan), released in October 2009, committed \$52.31 million from the Australian Government for funding up to 2010-11, towards projects to replace major community facilities, including schools damaged or destroyed in the fires, to support people as they rebuild their lives and their homes, and to kickstart the economic and environmental recovery of those communities.

While the Australian Government has committed this funding towards the rebuilding efforts over the next two years, at the local level the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) (established jointly by the Australian and Victorian Governments on 10 February 2009 and led by Ms Christine

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Nixon), will continue to oversee and coordinate the recovery and rebuilding program until January 2011 at which time it will handover to the Victorian Government.

(VBRRA regularly reports on its efforts to help rebuild and restore communities, local economies, infrastructure and the environment in bushfire-affected regions and towns. The VBRRA 12 month report is available on their website at <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/>.

A detailed breakdown of the Commonwealth's financial contribution is attached.

One Year Anniversary – 7 February 2010

The Prime Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, the Opposition Leader and other members of Parliament made commemorative statements in Parliamentary Question Time in the week leading up to the first year anniversary of 'Black Saturday'. The Prime Minister urged all Australians to keep in their thoughts and in their prayers all those who have been and continue to be affected by these fires. He also noted the extraordinary courage and resilience of the survivors in these devastated communities.

Communities touched by the 7 February 2009 fires commemorated at locally planned events. A service was held in Melbourne on Sunday 7 February 2010 for all Victorians to pay their respects to the 173 people who lost their lives and the thousands who have suffered. The occasion focused on remembrance, reflection and the communities affected by the fires.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd, MP and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, represented the Australian Government at the service.

The Premier of Victoria, the Hon John Brumby, the Governor General, Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, the Opposition Leader, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and officers from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs also attended the event.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, attended a private locally-led commemorative service in Strathewen where he was joined by the bereaved community and representatives from the Country Fire Authority.

The Australian National Flag was flown at half-mast and the nation paused for a minute's silence.

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (the Fund) was established on 8 February 2009 by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Australian Government and the Australian Red Cross, to support individuals and communities in areas affected by the bushfires. The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments each committed

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\$2 million to the Fund. No monies were taken from the Fund to cover administration costs, and any interest earned has been put back into the Fund.

The Fund raised more than \$388 million through an incredible show of support and compassion from the Australian people. More than 20,000 payments were made to individuals during the last twelve months. Donations under the Fund have supported people with injuries; hospital and health related issues; funerals and bereavement support; damage to property; replacement of lost tools and home contents and the rebuilding of homes.

The Australian Government supported changes to the tax laws that allowed the Fund to conduct a broader range of charitable and community activities. The Fund committed

\$43 million in the Rebuilding Together plan to fund projects identified in the locally-led Community Recovery Plans.

Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission

The Australian Government continues to support the ongoing work of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, which is due to deliver its final report by 31 July 2010.

The Australian Government is committed to working with the Victorian Government wherever possible to assist with the implementation of the recommendations made.

The Australian Government promotes the new disaster resilience approach to emergency management to help prepare Australia for all hazards that may arise (including bushfires) and ensures measures are implemented to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

In promoting that approach the Australian Government has implemented a number of measures that are designed to assist the states and territories to prepare for and respond to bushfires.

Some of these measures are specifically in response to the Victorian bushfires and include more than \$26 million for the establishment and operation of the new national telephone-based emergency warning system, Emergency Alert, developed by Victoria. Emergency Alert and Western Australia's State Alert have been activated on numerous occasions by states and territories this current disaster season.

The Australian Government has also invested significant time, working with the states and territories, to implement emergency warnings measures for this season. The Bureau of Meteorology has incorporated the new scale of fire danger ratings into its fire weather and warning services, which includes a catastrophic (code red) category of fire warnings.

The new fire warning system has operated successfully in a number of states this summer.

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The Australian Government will encourage all jurisdictions to adopt the new standard for bushfire bunkers identified by the Royal Commission, as soon as practicable once it is developed and/or referenced in the Building Code of Australia.

A whole of government witness statement on Australian Government initiatives post February 2009 was filed with the Commission on 21 December 2009.

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Australian Government Financial Contribution

The Australian Government has committed more than \$455 million to the recovery and rebuilding effort, including:

- \$220 million advance payment to the Victorian Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA);
- \$17.06 million for a range of exceptional circumstance assistance to be funded under the NDRRA), based on an estimate for 2008-09 expenditure;
- \$2 million Australian Government contribution to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund;
- More than \$82 million paid to individuals through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, the Income Recovery Subsidy and Funeral/Memorial Assistance;
- Around \$83 million for bushfire recovery programs and projects, some of which includes:
 - \$20.3 million for Case Managers and staff in Community Service Hubs over two years;
 - \$13.27 million for a Rail Trail under the Community Infrastructure Program;
 - \$10.8 million committed under the Caring for Our Country Bushfire Recovery Program;
 - \$7.5 million for a mental health package over two years;
 - \$6 million to 171 Emergency Relief organisations across bushfire affected areas;
 - \$5.4 million for solar hot water rebates for fire victims (until 2010);
 - \$4.8 million under the Jobs Fund for five projects to support and create jobs and skills development through projects that build community and social infrastructure along with bushfire recovery;
 - \$2.4 million for Rebuilding Affordable Homes under the National Building and Jobs Plan;
 - \$1.95 million to rebuild the destroyed schools under the Building the Education Revolution; and
 - \$10.6 million for a range of support such as fire fighting; legal assistance; support for young people, volunteers and family relationship services; and funding support for primary care.
- \$52.31 million as the Australian Government's share for the Rebuilding Together, A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery which is jointly funded with the Victorian Government (including \$21.21 million under the NDRRA).

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 037

Topic: Income Management research approval

Hansard Page: CA14-15

Senator Siewert asked:

When was the research which was later denied by AIHW approved by the evaluations branch?

Answer:

FaHCSIA's Research and Evaluation Committee approved the plan for the evaluation of income management in the Northern Territory on 24 December 2008.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 072

Topic: Financial Stress Seminars

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

A joint media release from Ministers Ludwig and Macklin on 2 June 2009 announced funding of \$60,000 for 20 Coping with Financial Stress seminars. Did this come in under the \$60,000 budget?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 073

Topic: Financial Stress Seminars

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Regarding the list of 20 locations for the seminars attached to the media release: why were these locations chosen?

Answer:

Sites were selected based on an analysis of ABS data and an Australian Housing Affordability Survey which identified areas where higher levels of mortgage stress or financial stress were likely to be experienced and the availability of financial counsellors to co-present these seminars with Centrelink Financial Information Officers.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 074

Topic: Financial Stress Seminars

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many seminars were held in ALP electorates?
Why did WA, NT, VIC and TAS miss out on having a seminar in their state?

Answer:

Seminars were conducted in the following locations:

- NSW: Maitland (2 seminars), Dapto, Wollongong, Blacktown, Castle Hill, Campsie, Penrith and Liverpool
- Qld: Nundah, Bundaberg, Inala, Logan, Ipswich, Southport, and Robina
- ACT: Gungahlin and Woden
- SA: Marion and Elizabeth.

Sites were selected based on an analysis of ABS data and an Australian Housing Affordability Survey which identified areas where higher levels of mortgage stress or financial stress were likely to be experienced and the availability of financial counsellors to co-present these seminars with Centrelink Financial Information Officers.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 075

Topic: Financial Stress Seminars

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Did all 20 seminars go ahead? How many people attended each seminar?

Answer:

20 seminars were held in June 2009. There were 238 participants in total or an average of almost 12 people per seminar.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 076

Topic: Financial Stress Seminars

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Did the financial councillors receive any payment for taking part in these seminars?

Answer:

No personnel employed by Commonwealth Financial Counselling services were paid. Organisations were reimbursed for the cost of preparation, supporting material and travel expenses.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 077

Topic: Ministerial Council on Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

How often has the Ministerial Council on Gambling met in the last 12 months?

Answer:

The Ministerial Council on Gambling met once, on 10 July 2009.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 078

Topic: Ministerial Council on Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

How many times has the Council met to discuss the recent Productivity Commission's draft report on gambling in Australia?

Answer:

The Ministerial Council on Gambling (MCG) has not met since the release of the Productivity Commission's draft report on 21 October 2009.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 079

Topic: Ministerial Council on Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

How often has the Prime Minister's office been involved in these discussions?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has been tasked with leading a whole of government approach to problem gambling. The Department consults with a range of other Departments in developing policy advice in relation to this issue, including the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Department does not liaise directly with the Prime Minister's Office.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 080

Topic: Ministerial Council on Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What is the Council's position on the Commission's recommendations?

Answer:

The Ministerial Council on Gambling (MCG) has not yet considered the Productivity Commission's final report into Gambling which was presented to the Australian Government on 2 March 2010.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 081

Topic: Ministerial Council on Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What, if any, recommendations will the Council commit to implementing?

Answer:

The Ministerial Council on Gambling (MCG) has not yet considered the Productivity Commission's final report into Gambling which was presented to the Australian Government on 2 March 2010.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 083

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

What are the projected number of people expected to be on income management under the proposed expansion of compulsory income management over the entire Northern Territory? Again broken down by:

- a. Total Northern Territory numbers
- b. Numbers in the prescribed communities under the NT Intervention

Answer:

Please note, all figures are approximate and at a point in time and subject to change.

The number of people expected to be affected by the new scheme of income management across the Northern Territory is approximately 20,000.

It is estimated that approximately 8,000 people from communities prescribed under the Northern Territory Emergency Response will be subject to income management under the new scheme.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 084

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: CA108

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of people, by category and movement between categories, which informed the assumptions leading to the estimated expansion from 16,000 to 20,000 of the program?

Answer:

Estimated number of customers on the new scheme of income management

Please note, all figures are approximate and at a point in time and subject to change.

Long term unemployed and income management measure and disengaged youth income management measure: 18,000

Voluntary income management measure: 2,000

Child protection income management measure: 100

Vulnerable income support recipients measure: 500

The estimated expansion from 16,000 to 20,000 is based on the expansion of income management across the Northern Territory and the shift in affected payment categories.

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Question No: 085

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: CA108

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the difference between previous funding and the new funding?

Answer:

This question was answered by Gavin Matthews during the hearing (Hansard CA121):

I think I have a quick answer to Senator Siewert's previous question about the comparison of the existing scheme with the new one. I think the best we can do is give you a broad comparison of, say, what the funding was for the core of the existing model in 2009-10 compared with, for example, the forecast for the core of what would be the new model under the legislation in, say, 2010-11. You cannot really directly compare them, but, in broad terms, the existing funding in 2009-10 for the current scheme was \$89.2 million, and there are currently about 16,600 people on income management under that. For the new scheme in 2010-11, the published figures are about \$95.2 million and, as I said, approximately 20,000 or 21,000 people.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 087

Topic: Commonwealth Financial Counselling

Hansard Page: CA123

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide the physical locations of Commonwealth-funded financial counselling services in the Cannington district?

Answer:

The locations of the Commonwealth Financial Counselling services in the Perth Metropolitan trial site are as follows:

Organisation	Location/Outlets
Jacaranda Community Centre Inc	146 Epsom Avenue, BELMONT WA 6104
City of Wanneroo	<u>Main Outlet:</u> 23 Dundobar Road, WANNEROO WA 6065 <u>Outreach:</u> Hainsworth Community Centre, 29 Hainsworth Avenue, GIRRAWHEEN WA 6064
MIDLAS Inc	Suite 19, 8 Stafford Street MIDLAND WA 6056
The Salvation Army Western Australia	333 William Street, NORTHBRIDGE WA 6003
UnitingCare West	16 Sunbury Road, VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

The Financial Counsellors' Association of Western Australia (Inc) is also funded to provide telephone financial counselling state wide. It has a toll free hotline 1800 889 364.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 088

Topic: Voluntary Income Management and Child Protection Income Management Exit Numbers

Hansard Page: CA125

Senator Siewert asked:

How many people have come off both voluntary and compulsory income quarantine?

Answer:

As of 12 February 2010, a total of 419 customers exited voluntary and compulsory income management, since commencement in November 2008. Of these, 72 customers exited the Child Protection Scheme of Income Management, and 347 customers exited Voluntary Income Management.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 136

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many people in the 73 communities under the NT intervention are under income management?

How many Indigenous?

How many non-Indigenous?

Answer:

As at 12 February 2010, there were 16,807 people on income management as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). Of these 16,593 people were Indigenous and 214 people did not identify as Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 137

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many people in the 73 communities under the NT intervention are under income management?

How many of these people are aged under 25?

How many aged over 25 (to age pension)?

Answer:

As at 12 February 2010, there were 16,807 people on income management as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). Of these 3,991 were aged 24 years or under, 11,741 were aged 25 to 64 years and the remaining 1,075 were of pension age 65 years and older*. (See table 1 below).

* Some women under the age of 65 are on age pension. The provided figures still gives a good indication of the categories.

Table 1

Income Managed Customers in the Northern Territory by Age	
Age Group	Number on Income Management
24 and under	3,991
25 to 64 Years	11,741
65 Years and over	1,075
Grand Total	16,807

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 138

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many are in receipt of:

Newstart
Youth Allowance
Special Benefit
Parenting Payment

Answer:

The table below provides the number of people currently on income management in the Northern Territory who are in receipt of the above payments. Data is current as at 12 February 2010.

Payment Type	Number of people on payment
Newstart Allowance	5,945
Youth Allowance	992
Special Benefit	0
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	2,186
Parenting Payment (Single)	1,581

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 139

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many in each category have been on these benefits for more than 13 weeks in the last 26 weeks?

Answer:

The table below provides the number of people currently on income management in the Northern Territory who have been in receipt of Newstart, Youth Allowance, Special Benefit and Parenting Payment for more than 13 weeks in the last 26 weeks. Data is current as at 12 February 2010.

Payment Type	Number of people on payment for more than 13 weeks in the last 26 weeks
Newstart	5,311
Youth Allowance	789
Special Benefit	0
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	2,115
Parenting Payment (Single)	1,508

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 140

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many are in receipt of:

Age Pension

Disability Support Pension

Widow Allowance

Veteran's Service Pension

Answer:

The table below provides the number of people currently on income management in the Northern Territory who are in receipt of the above payments. Data is current as at 12 February 2010.

Payment Type	Number of people on payment
Age Pension	1,034
Disability Support Pension	3,764
Widow's Allowance	60

Data on Veteran's Service Pension was not available.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 141

Topic: Child Protection

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many children are under child protection orders (or the equivalent) in:

- The 73 communities
- In all of the Northern Territory
- In all of Australia

Answer:

The question should be directed to relevant State and Territory Government child welfare agencies to answer.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 256

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you please provide a breakdown of Category E recipients within the scope of the income quarantining measures by payment type and postcode, that is:

Persons 25 years and over on:

- a) Newstart Allowance (total, and those in receipt of the payment for over 12 months or more than 12 of the last 24 months if this is available)
- b) Parenting Payment (Single), as above
- c) Parenting Payment (Partnered), as above
- d) Special Benefit, as above

Answer:

Postcode	Payment Type	Total NT customers	In receipt of payment for over 12 months	In receipt of payment for more than 12 of the last 24 months
Total		16,076	9,799	12,341
800	NSA	222	85	116
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
	SPL	<20	<20	<20
801	NSA	23	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
810	NSA	620	207	305
	PPP	103	46	62
	PPS	394	335	354
	SPL	<20	<20	<20
811	NSA	<20	<20	<20
812	NSA	327	115	161
	PPP	91	51	61
	PPS	317	254	272
813	NSA	<20	<20	<20
820	NSA	304	110	157

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	PPP	28	<20	<20
	PPS	118	98	102
821	NSA	<20	<20	<20
822	NSA	2,852	1,818	2,305
	PPP	671	522	580
	PPS	417	347	364
	SPL	<20	<20	<20
828	NSA	39	<20	30
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
829	PPS	<20	<20	<20
830	NSA	439	180	263
	PPP	65	35	47
	PPS	437	348	372
	SPL	<20	<20	<20
831	NSA	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
832	NSA	68	22	30
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	71	48	53
835	NSA	86	24	40
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	38	25	29
	SPL	<20	<20	<20
836	NSA	123	37	52
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	69	56	58
837	NSA	21	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
838	NSA	21	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
840	NSA	21	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
841	NSA	39	<20	22
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
845	NSA	63	35	45

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	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	28	25	25
	NSA	28	<20	<20
846	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
847	NSA	24	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
850	NSA	430	194	305
	PPP	71	46	54
	PPS	140	97	110
851	NSA	<20	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
852	NSA	952	527	772
	PPP	206	157	181
	PPS	142	106	114
853	NSA	<20	<20	<20
854	NSA	183	93	127
	PPP	23	<20	<20
	PPS	26	20	21
860	NSA	247	115	192
	PPP	40	24	28
	PPS	48	38	41
861	NSA	<20	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
862	NSA	160	92	127
	PPP	29	24	25
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
870	NSA	745	322	492
	PPP	93	57	68
	PPS	392	325	342
871	NSA	33	<20	21
	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
872	NSA	2,122	1,322	1,790
	PPP	453	365	404
	PPS	285	219	233
880	NSA	416	219	325

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	PPP	76	58	63
	PPS	124	104	109
	NSA	<20	<20	<20
885	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
	NSA	69	50	60
886	PPP	<20	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20
909	NSA	<20	<20	<20
	NSA	90	55	76
4825	PPP	24	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20	<20

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 045

Topic: Sexual Abuse

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

The USA and UK have progressed toward active discovery within the male survivor segment. What research grants, open or pending, have been awarded in the last year to ascertain the prevalence of male childhood sexual abuse?

Answer:

FaHCSIA has not awarded any research grants in the last year to ascertain the prevalence of male childhood sexual abuse.

FaHCSIA funds a number of clearinghouses that publish data and research on childhood sexual abuse including the National Child Protection Clearinghouse which is an information advisory and research unit focusing on child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home-care.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 257

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you please provide a breakdown of Category E recipients within the scope of the income quarantining measures by payment type and postcode, that is:

Persons under 25 years on:

- e) Youth Allowance (Other), (total, and those in receipt of the payment for over 3 months/ or more than 3 of the last 6 months if this is available)
- f) Newstart Allowance, as above
- g) Parenting Payment (Single), as above
- h) Parenting Payment (Partnered), as above
- i) Special Benefit, as above

Answer:

The table below outlines the number of persons under 25 years on each of the payments above, by postcode for the Northern Territory. Data is current as at 12 February 2010.

At this time, no additional locations outside the Northern Territory have been announced and as such data projections on the numbers of people that may be affected are not able to be determined.

NSA refers to Newstart Allowance

PPP refers to Parenting Payment (Partnered)

PPS refers to Parenting Payment (Single)

SPL refers to Special Benefit

Postcode	Payment Type	Total NT customers	In receipt of payment for more than 3 of the last 6 months
Total		6,636	5,558
800	NSA	29	20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	SPL	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	26	<20
801	NSA	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20

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	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
804	PPS	<20	<20
	NSA	98	63
	PPP	25	20
	PPS	90	81
	SPL	<20	<20
810	YAL-OTH	172	125
811	SPL	<20	<20
	NSA	74	48
	PPP	32	24
	PPS	85	77
	SPL	<20	<20
812	YAL-OTH	117	97
813	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
814	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
	NSA	60	43
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	37	34
	YAL-OTH	69	52
	NSA	518	430
	PPP	327	311
	PPS	251	230
	YAL-OTH	498	382
	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
828	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
829	PPS	<20	<20
	NSA	93	68
	PPP	30	22
	PPS	135	123
	YAL-OTH	122	86
830	YAL-OTH	122	86
831	NSA	<20	<20
	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	25	23
	YAL-OTH	22	<20
832	YAL-OTH	22	<20
	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
835	PPS	<20	<20

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	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
836	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	20	<20
	YAL-OTH	27	<20
837	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
838	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
840	PPS	<20	<20
841	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
845	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
846	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
847	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
850	NSA	80	58
	PPP	33	28
	PPS	52	49
	YAL-OTH	69	47
851	NSA	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
852	NSA	198	162
	PPP	149	138
	PPS	76	74
	YAL-OTH	210	164
853	NSA	<20	<20
854	NSA	30	22

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	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	39	32
860	NSA	52	43
	PPP	22	21
	PPS	34	31
	YAL-OTH	49	42
862	NSA	39	30
	PPP	21	21
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	23	<20
870	NSA	148	110
	PPP	54	49
	PPS	117	108
	YAL-OTH	175	134
871	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
872	NSA	434	377
	PPP	321	308
	PPS	129	119
	YAL-OTH	529	467
880	NSA	77	68
	PPP	31	30
	PPS	48	44
	YAL-OTH	60	44
885	NSA	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
886	NSA	<20	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	<20	<20
4825	NSA	21	<20
	PPP	<20	<20
	PPS	<20	<20
	YAL-OTH	23	23

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Question No: 082

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

How many income support recipients are currently on income management in the Northern Territory?

Broken down by:

- a. Total Northern Territory numbers
- b. Numbers in the prescribed communities under the NT Intervention.

Answer:

As at 12 February 2010, there were 16,807 income support recipients on income management across prescribed communities, their associated outstations and townships in the Northern Territory.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 086

Topic: Ethical Research Approval

Hansard Page: CA122 (Also see CA14-15)

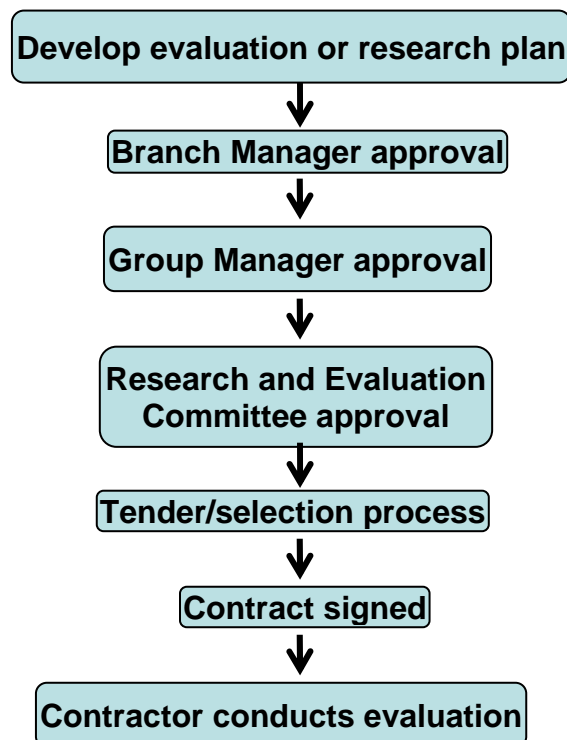
Senator Siewert asked:

Can we get a flow chart of the process of research evaluation normally? And specifically of the time when AIHW came in?

Answer:

The evaluation process followed by the Department with regard to the Evaluation of Income Management in the Northern Territory is described below, along with the FaHCSIA Departmental Research and Evaluation Project Flowchart. At the tender/selection point different projects will be at different stages of development and specification. In some instances an external contractor is sought to assist in further refinement of the detailed approach prior to conducting the evaluation.

FaHCSIA Departmental Research and Evaluation Project Flowchart



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The evaluation proposal for the Evaluation of Income Management in The Northern Territory was approved by the Branch Manager of Welfare Payments Reform Branch and the Group Manager of Families Group after an extensive consultation process with internal and external stakeholders.

The plan was approved by FaHCSIA's Research and Evaluation Committee (REC) on 24 December 2008.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) process was conducted in January / early February 2009. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) was chosen as the provider as it demonstrated best value-for-money and capacity to complete the evaluation on time.

In negotiating the contract, it was agreed AIHW would engage a provider to conduct customer interviews and FaHCSIA would engage a provider to conduct focus groups. This would ensure clearance and fieldwork could occur by the due date for the contract. AIHW would be funded to assist the consultant engaged by FaHCSIA to develop focus group tools. AIHW was consulted regarding the choice of consultant for the focus groups and agreed to ORIMA as the selected provider.

FaHCSIA and AIHW then signed a contract reflecting the above arrangements. FaHCSIA and ORIMA signed a contract for the focus groups, which required the focus group tools to be developed in consultation with AIHW and FaHCSIA.

As foreshadowed in its response to the RFQ, AIHW submitted the evaluation plan to its ethics committee. The AIHW Ethics Committee expressed concern and requested more detailed information about the methodology and instruments to be used, and requested a review by a member of the panel of experts which reviews projects involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, a Certificate of Ethical Acceptability was issued for the purposes of developing the project only. To ensure the contract could be completed on time, FaHCSIA and AIHW mutually agreed to vary the contract so that FaHCSIA would instead engage a provider for the client interviews and AIHW's role would be to analyse the various data provided to it by FaHCSIA and compile the report. To ensure the work was conducted appropriately, AIHW were contracted to provide input to the development of the customer questionnaire.

FaHCSIA subsequently engaged CIRCA for client interviews. AIHW had already recommended CIRCA be contracted. CIRCA is a member of the Social Policy Research and Evaluation (SPRE) Panel and abides by ethical research principles such as informed consent, privacy and confidentiality and has had considerable experience in conducting research with vulnerable groups. CIRCA was also required to consult with AIHW regarding the methodology and tools for the client interviews and process.

At all stages of the process, great care was taken to ensure parties to the evaluation abided by ethical research standards:

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- CIRCA and ORIMA adhere to Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) guidelines for ethical research. They were also required to consult with AIHW and FaHCSIA on the process and tools to undertake the fieldwork.
- AIHW had proven it had demonstrated experience with Indigenous peoples, as well as the ability to meet privacy standards when handling confidential information.
- FaHCSIA, in addition to following its internal clearance processes, consulted other areas throughout the process, such as the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination, FaHCSIA Northern Territory State Office, Money Management Branch and Centrelink. The Research and Analysis Branch was also consulted throughout all stages of the evaluation.
- The development of all customer interview and focus group guides and questionnaires were oversighted and approved by FaHCSIA with input and advice from AIHW.

The AIHW Director has been consulted in the preparation of this answer and agrees its content.

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Question No: 274

Topic: Income Management & the RDA – Legal Advice

Hansard Page: CA120

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you provide the legal advice that was received by the government in relation to income management and the Racial Discrimination Act?

Answer:

The Government does not normally disclose the content of legal advice it has received on policy matters.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 089

Topic: Seniors

Hansard Page: CA16

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What parts of the Department has policy or programs that touch on seniors within their portfolio?

Answer:

Seniors and Means Test Branch has primary responsibility for seniors policy within the Department. The Branch is responsible for the Age Pension, the Pension Bonus Scheme, Work Bonus, Wife (Age) Pension, Widow B Pension and policy relating to Centrelink's Financial Information Service.

The Social Security Policy Branch is responsible for the management of policy relating to Australian Government concession cards and supplementary allowances.

Both the Seniors and Means Test Branch and the Social Security Policy Branch are in the Social Policy Group.

The Community Investment Branch in the Community Engagement and Development Group has responsibility for the Broadband for Seniors initiative.

Other areas of the Department can also have an impact on seniors, depending on their circumstances. For example, grandparents with primary responsibility for grandchildren can receive Family Tax Benefit in certain circumstances.

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Question No: 095

Topic: Same-sex couples

Hansard Page: CA23

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you quantify by month the number of declared same-sex relationships?

Answer:

The table below illustrates the number of declared same-sex relationships to Centrelink (individuals who have been linked) from 31 July 2009 to 25 December 2009.

The data covers individuals in a same-sex, de facto or registered relationship that have had their Centrelink records linked.

4606	As at 31 July 2009
5696	As at 28 August 2009
6310	As at 25 September 2009
6960	As at 30 October 2009
7324	As at 20 November 2009
7904	As at 25 December 2009

From January 2010 the data will be collected on a quarterly basis.

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Question No: 096

Topic: Same-sex couples

Hansard Page: CA24

Senator Boyce asked:

What quantity of savings to the pension payment has resulted from declaration of relationships by same-sex couples?

Answer:

The Government removed differential treatment of same-sex couples and their families, including changes to social security law to provide equity in treatment of all people under the law. This was done to honour the Government's election commitment to remove differential treatment on the grounds of sexuality.

Details of the financial impact of these reforms are on page 87 of Budget Paper No.2 from the 2008/09 Budget.

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Question No: 090

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: CA17-18

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What support is available for self-funded retirees under the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card?

Answer:

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders may receive:

- medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at the concessional rate;
- access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescriptions, generally without charge, for the remainder of the calendar year after reaching the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety Net;
- bulk-billed general practitioner appointments, at the discretion of the doctor (the Government provides financial incentives for general practitioners to bulk-bill concession card holders); and
- a reduction in the cost of out-of-hospital expenses, through the extended Medicare Safety Net;
- payment of the Seniors Supplement; and
- concessional travel on Great Southern Rail services (the Indian Pacific, the Ghan, the Overland).

The Seniors Supplement is paid quarterly to all Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, with the current annual rate being \$785.20 for singles and \$592.80 for each eligible member of a couple.

In addition some concessions are offered to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders by State/Local Governments and private providers. The relevant government or private organisation decides what concessions will be offered, such as reduced council rates, and who can receive them.

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Question No: 091

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: CA18

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Could you confirm the adjusted taxable income thresholds for eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card when it was first introduced in 1999 were \$40,000 for singles and \$67,000 for couples?

Answer:

On 1 January 1999 the income limits for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card under the adjusted taxable income test were:

- \$40,000 for singles
- \$67,000 for couples
- \$36,698 for each member of a couple separated by illness, respite care or gaol separated.
- plus an additional amount for each dependent child of \$624 per year.

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Question No: 092

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: CA18

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide a history of the taxable income thresholds for eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card for couples and singles and the number of people at each of the levels at each threshold change.

Answer:

See attached table.

Year	Income Limits	Cardholder numbers
July 1994	\$19,151.60 single \$31,917.60 couple plus \$624 for each dependent child	33,000 (March 1996) 42,621 (June 1998)
1 Jan 1999	\$40,000 singles (from \$21,320) \$67,000 couples (from \$35,620) \$36,698 for each member of a couple separated by illness, respite care or gaol separated. plus \$624 for each dependent child	153,689 (June 1999)
1 July 2000	\$41,000 singles \$68,675 couple \$37,615 for each member of a couple separated by illness, respite care or gaol separated. plus \$639.60 for each dependent child	219,971 (July 2000)
1 July 2001	\$50,000 singles \$80,000 couples \$100,000 illness separated, respite care or gaol separated plus \$639.60 for each dependent child	226,140 (June 2001)

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 097

Topic: Working Pensioners

Hansard Page: CA26

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the department provide data on Age Pension recipients with employment earnings for both the total Age Pension population and for new entrants (12 months)?

Answer:

The proportion of Age Pension recipients with employment earnings is in the table below.

Age Pension recipients	Number	Proportion
All (stock)	68,000	3.2 %
Commencements*	15,000	8.8 %

Notes:

* Commencements' captures all people who commenced receiving the Age Pension within the previous 12 months.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 179

Topic: Working Pensioners

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many pensioners were undertaking casual or part-time work prior to September 20, 2009, when the ability to annualise their earned income ended?

Answer:

No data is available to answer the question. Administrative data does not identify whether earned income is due to casual or part-time work. The response to QoN 097 provides the available data on numbers of persons receiving employment income.

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Question No: 226

Topic: Property Value Checks for Pensioners

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

If a disability pensioner is found to have assets which put them beyond the threshold for a pension and they lose it, will any attempt be made to recoup previous pension payments made to that person since he or she gained that assets or would any consideration be given to bringing charges of welfare fraud against such pensioners?

Answer:

Debt recovery will be undertaken if the Disability Support Pensioner has provided a false or misleading statement about the ownership or valuation of properties to Centrelink. Prosecution action could be instigated if it is clear that a person deliberately provides false information.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 094

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: CA21

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many people were these two proposed budget measures affecting? How many people will lose the card as a consequence of these measures?

Answer:

In the 2009-10 Budget the Government decided not to proceed with the 2008-09 Budget measure to include gross tax-free superannuation pension income in the income test for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). These changes were expected to come into effect on 1 July 2009 and around 20,000 cardholders were expected to lose qualification due to assessing gross income from superannuation income streams with a taxed source.

The Government did proceed with a second measure to include reportable superannuation contributions, including income voluntarily salary sacrificed to superannuation, into the CSHC income test effective from 1 July 2009.

Around 2,000 CSHC holders were expected to lose qualification. At 4 December 2009, 1,977 cardholders, who notified having made reportable superannuation contributions, had their card cancelled as their income exceeded the income limits.

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Question No: 266

Topic: Income Threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: CA20

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

There was obviously the decision to raise the income thresholds for the Medicare Levy surcharge, but it has not moved to raise the income threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card? Can you enlighten us on that?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and the Medicare Levy Surcharge are separate Government programs.

There is no direct link between these Government programs, therefore a decision to increase or decrease the income threshold for one does not necessitate action on the other.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 093

Topic: Income Test

Hansard Page: CA20

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The decision to include income streams with tax sources and income that was salary sacrificed was forecast to save \$84.8 million in the 2008-09 Budget, but in the 2009-10 Budget, after the back-flip on the tax income, it appears to be an expense of \$120.9 million. What is that discrepancy about?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card measure in the 2008-09 Budget forecast savings for the period 2008-09 to 2011-12.

The majority of savings could not be achieved when the inclusion of gross tax-free superannuation was withdrawn from the measure.

The 2009-10 Budget item showed expected outlays for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13.

The discrepancy results from the reduced level of savings, an additional year of costs in 2012-13 and use of more accurate forecast variables than those available in 2008-09.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 028

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: CA5

Senator Fifield asked:

Has the Department, since the last estimates, procured any new services from Australian Disability Enterprises?

Answer:

At 22 October 2009 (the date of the last estimates hearing), the Department had spent \$29,312 on purchases from Australian Disability Enterprises during 2009-2010.

At 11 February 2010, the Department had spent \$50,847 on purchases from Australian Disability Enterprises during 2009-2010.

This equates to an additional \$21,535 in purchases from Australian Disability Enterprises since the last estimates.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 099

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

Please provide a breakdown of current Carer Payment recipients by location? i.e. Metro, Regional, Rural

Answer:

A breakdown of Carer Payment recipients by a metropolitan, regional and rural classification of location is not available.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 112

Topic: Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability

Hansard Page: CA92

Senator Fifield asked:

Why were no new hours allocated to Tasmania, ACT or the Northern Territory? Could you see if it was the issue of the spread?

Answer:

No applications for funding were received from the Northern Territory. One application was received from Tasmania and two from the ACT.

The 76 applications received were all assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines. The applications from these jurisdictions were not ranked highly enough to receive funding, compared to other applications.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 115

Topic: Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability

Hansard Page: CA92

Senator Fifield asked:

Could we get the locations and number of places represented by all applications received?

Answer:

Selection process 2009

State/territory	Places
ACT	24
NSW	386
QLD	274
SA	79
TAS	21
VIC	912
WA	308
Total	2,004

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 116

Topic: Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

Have there been any instances where the locations have had to move as a result of the school stimulus spending?

Answer:

No there have not been any instances where the locations have had to move as a result of the school stimulus spending.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 118

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide details of the 16 Australian Disability Enterprise organisations and the services they provide?

Answer:

The Australian Disability Enterprises the Department has procured from in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 are outlined below, along with the (a) number of people with disability they currently employ, (b) services they provide and (c) services the Department has procured from them to date.

1. Endeavour Foundation
 - (a) Employs 1,831 people with disability
 - (b) Packaging and repackaging; mail management; sewing and garment manufacturing; sub assembly; light manufacturing; cleaning and recycling; landscaping, gardening and horticulture; and food and hospitality
 - (c) Food and hospitality
2. The Flagstaff Group Limited
 - (a) Employs 228 people with disability
 - (b) Mail management; light manufacturing; food and hospitality; laundry; cleaning and recycling; sub assembly; and printing
 - (c) Printing
3. House With No Steps – Upper Crust Food and Catering (run by the Wheelchair and Disabled association of Australia)
 - (a) Employs 7 people with disability
 - (b) Food and hospitality
 - (c) Food and hospitality
4. Sisters of Mercy in QLD (run by the Corporation of the Trustees of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy in QLD)
 - (a) Employs 45 people with disability
 - (b) Food and hospitality

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- (c) Food and hospitality
- 5. Vatmi Industries
 - (a) Employs 306 people with disability
 - (b) Arts and crafts; cleaning and recycling; food and hospitality; and packaging and repackaging
 - (c) Arts and crafts and food and hospitality
- 6. S.A. Group Enterprises
 - (a) Employs 76 people with disability
 - (b) Printing; light manufacturing and sub assembly
 - (c) Printing
- 7. Peter Harcourt Disability Services Limited
 - (a) Employs 112 people with disability
 - (b) Mail management and packaging and repackaging
 - (c) Mail management
- 8. Lasercraft Australia Ltd
 - (a) Employs 21 people with disability
 - (b) Light manufacturing
 - (c) Light manufacturing
- 9. Waverley Industries Ltd
 - (a) Employs 210 people with disability
 - (b) Mail management; packaging and repackaging; food and hospitality; and sub assembly
 - (c) Food and hospitality
- 10. Printabout (run by the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland)
 - (a) Employs 43 people with disability
 - (b) Mail management and printing
 - (c) Printing
- 11. Mai-Wel Limited
 - (a) Employs 104 people with disability
 - (b) Light manufacturing; cleaning and recycling; mail management; packaging and repackaging; and printing

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- (c) Printing and packaging and repackaging
- 12. Bedford Industries Incorporated
 - (a) Employs 692 people with disability
 - (b) Cleaning and recycling; landscaping, gardening and horticulture; food and hospitality; light manufacturing; laundry; mail management; and packaging and repackaging
 - (c) Food and hospitality
- 13. Koomarri
 - (a) Employs 180 people with disability
 - (b) Mail management; retail sales; laundry; landscaping, gardening and horticulture; and sub assembly
 - (c) Mail management
- 14. Westcare Inc.
 - (a) Employs 106 people with disability
 - (b) Packaging and repackaging; printing; and sewing and garment manufacturing
 - (c) Printing
- 15. Grandma's Pantry (run by Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide)
 - (a) Employs 14 people with disability
 - (b) Food and hospitality
 - (c) Food and hospitality
- 16. Inprint (run by S.A. Group Enterprises)
 - (a) Employs 28 people with disability
 - (b) Printing
 - (c) Printing

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Question No: 119

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: CA95

Senator Fifield asked:

Please provide data on number of people who have accessed the Australian Disability Enterprises website?

Answer:

The Australian Disability Enterprises website was launched in April 2009. The number of visits to the Australian Disability Enterprises website (by month) is outlined below.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Site visits</i>
April 2009	1,371
May 2009	2,292
June 2009	1,456
July 2009	1,664
August 2009	1,537
September 2009	1,546
October 2009	555
November 2009	1,315
December 2009	1,201
January 2010	1,476
1 February – 24 February 2010	1,509
	15,922

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Question No: 120

Topic: Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres

Hansard Page: CA97

Senator Fifield asked:

Would you be able to give the autism statistics for those cities, or those pools, in whatever the most relevant and meaningful way is to identify the concentrations in the city and how they are specifically in the area around those sites?

Answer:

A number of factors were taken into consideration when determining the locations of the five Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres (ASELCCs). The sixth ASELCC in North West Tasmania was an election commitment.

The locations were selected in areas with a high percentage of children aged 0-6 years with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). A further consideration was a requirement for the ASELCC to be affiliated with a relevant university or hospital specialising in paediatric, early childhood or ASD related research or services.

Centrelink administrative data on Carer Allowance recipients was reviewed to ascertain the spread of children with ASD aged 0-6. The data highlighted that the five capital cities - Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney had the highest concentration of children with ASD.

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Question No: 121

Topic: National Carer Recognition Framework

Hansard Page: CA100

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of which states and territories have recognition legislation and/or policy?

Answer:

As of 3 March 2010:

State or Territory	Legislation	Policy
Australian Capital Territory	<i>Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006 (ACT)</i>	<i>Caring for Carers Policy</i> previously <i>Caring for Carers in the ACT – A Plan for Action 2004-07</i>
New South Wales	Nil	<i>NSW Carers Action Plan 2007-12</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Carer Recognition Act 2006 (NT)</i>	Nil
Queensland	<i>Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 (Qld)</i>	<i>Queensland Carer Recognition Policy</i> <i>Queensland Carer Action Plan 2006-10</i>
South Australia	<i>Carers Recognition Act 2005 (SA)</i>	<i>SA Carers Policy – Supporting Carers</i> <i>Plan for South Australian Carers 2009</i>
Tasmania	Nil	Nil
Victoria	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recognising and Supporting Care Relationships framework</i> • <i>Disability Services Carer</i>

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*Action Plan : Recognising
and supporting care
relationships*

- *Caring together – an action
plan for carer involvement
in Victorian public mental
health services 2003-08*

- *Recognising and supporting
care relationships for older
Victorians Action Plan
2006-09*

Western Australia *Carers Recognition Act 2004 (WA)* Nil

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Question No: 122

Topic: Disability Policy

Hansard Page: CA101

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the department doing in terms of looking at those sorts of rapid changes that can now happen in disability areas, applying them to policy and pushing flexibility through the disability system?

Answer:

The department works with the national disability peak organisations, advocacy agencies, the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council and the community to identify emerging policy issues. Policy responses including flexible person centred responses are being progressed through the implementation of the National Disability Agreement, the development of the National Disability Strategy and the Carers Framework. Under the National Disability Strategy, the Productivity Commission will inquire into the feasibility of new approaches for funding and delivering long-term disability care and support.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 124

Topic: Young people in nursing homes

Hansard Page: CA104

Senator Siewert asked:

Who from the states should be contacted to obtain information on the types of accommodation services provided by the states?

Answer:

Information about the types of accommodation services provided by the states for younger people with disability in nursing homes is available through the following state contacts:

Australian Capital Territory

- Phone:(02) 6207 1086
- Email: disabilityact (disabilityact@act.gov.au)
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

New South Wales

- Phone: 1800 467 622
- Email: ypirac (ypirac@dadhc.nsw.gov.au)
- Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Northern Territory

- Phone: 1800 139 656
- Email: disability.dhcs (disability.dhcs@nt.gov.au)
- Department of Aged and Disability

Queensland

- Phone: 1800 177 120
- Email: ypirac (ypirac@disability.qld.gov.au)
- Department of Communities

South Australia

- Phone: (08) 8372 1478 (Sharon Evans)
- Email: Sharon Evans (sharon.evans@dfc.sa.gov.au)
- Department for Families and Communities

Tasmania

- Phone: (03) 6230 7695 or (03) 6230 7742
- Email: disability.stateoffice@dhhs.tas.gov.au (disability.stateoffice@dhhs.tas.gov.au)
- Department of Health and Human Services

Victoria

- Phone: 1800 783 783
- Email: myfuturemychoice (myfuturemychoice@dhs.vic.gov.au)
- The Department of Human Services

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Western Australia

- Phone: 1800 998 214
- Email: yprac (yprac@dsc.wa.gov.au)
- Disability Services Commission

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 180

Topic: National Disability Strategy: Women with Disabilities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What stage is it at and what consultation has been undertaken to ensure its effectiveness?

Answer:

The National Disability Strategy is currently being developed under the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments and is due to be released in 2010.

A series of public consultations were held across the nation, giving people an opportunity to provide input. There was an extensive response to the consultations with over 2,500 people attending capital city forums and focus groups in regional and remote areas and over 750 submissions received.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 255

Topic: Disability Funding for Indigenous Groups

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The government has announced that \$5 billion will be allocated over five years to state governments to provide for people with disabilities. How much will be allocated to Indigenous groups?

Answer:

Under the National Disability Agreement, the Commonwealth Government is providing more than \$5 billion over five years to the State and Territory Governments for improved and increased specialist disability services for people with disability, their families and carers. State and Territory Governments will determine at a jurisdictional level how this funding will be allocated, including for Indigenous people with disability. Increased access for Indigenous Australians to disability specialist services is a reform priority under the National Disability Agreement.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 258

Topic: People with Vision and Hearing Disabilities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

I refer to the application made to the Australian Human Rights Commission for a Temporary Exemption under Section 55 of the Disability Act from complaints in relation to the provision of captions and audio description from the Hoyts Corporation, Greater Union Organisation, Village Cinemas and Reading Cinemas and ask:

Is the government aware that if this exemption is granted, cinemas throughout Australia will be required to provide only 105 screenings with captioning and audio description from a total of 41,370 screenings a week or less than 0.3 per cent of all cinema sessions?

Answer:

It is for the Australian Human Rights Commission to form a view about the appropriateness of any exemption application independently of the Government.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 259

Topic: People with Vision and Hearing Disabilities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot when launching the 2009 “Helping Older Australians Enjoy the Movies: Accessible Cinema” project said \$350,000 would be provided for 12 independent cinemas to install captioning, audio description equipment and assistance for promoting the new equipment to local citizens. If Minister Elliot can provide funding for cinemas to install this equipment and promote it on behalf of older Australians as part of the Government’s agenda to promote social inclusion and participation, why wasn’t there a strongly worded objection on behalf of people with vision and hearing disabilities to the cinema owners application for a Temporary Objection under the Disability Act?

Answer:

It would be inappropriate for the Government to make submissions to the Australian Human Rights Commission on such applications. It is for the Commission to form a view about the appropriateness of any exemption application independently of the Government.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 260

Topic: People with Vision and Hearing Disabilities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the Department aware that this submission states that if the Application is granted, more than 99 per cent of screenings nationally will remain inaccessible to people with vision and hearing disabilities?

Answer:

It is for the Australian Human Rights Commission to form a view about the appropriateness of any exemption application independently of the Government.

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Question No: 261

Topic: People with Vision and Hearing Disabilities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the Department aware that this submission from Arts Access Victoria also states that at the current rate of rollout of equipment in cinemas to allow those with vision and hearing disabilities equal access to all screenings would take more than one thousand years?

Answer:

It is for the Australian Human Rights Commission to form a view about the appropriateness of any exemption application independently of the Government.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 264

Topic: YPIRAC

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The YPIRAC program was targeted at those under 65 with an initial priority on those under 50. How many people between 50 and 65 receive a service through the program?

Answer:

According to the most recent Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program 2007-08 Minimum Data Set, as of 30 June 2008, out of a total number of 580 people who received a service through the YPIRAC Program; 97 (16.7%) of these were in the 50 to 65 years age group and 483 (83.3%) were in the under 50 years age group.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 110

Topic: Carer Allowance (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

Please provide number of people receiving Carer Allowance (Child) for a child (under 16 years) with

- Mild disability/developmental delay;
- Moderate disability/developmental delay;
- Severe disability/developmental delay;
- Profound disability/developmental delay.

Answer:

The number of people receiving Carer Allowance (Child) for a child (under 16 years) classified by mild, moderate, severe and profound levels of disability/developmental delay is not available as that is not the definition used in assessing eligibility. Eligibility is assessed through the Lists of Recognised Disabilities or the Child Disability Assessment Tool.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 111

Topic: Children with a recognised disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

- a. How many children have a recognised disability between the age of 0 to 4 years?
- b. How many children have a recognised disability between the age of 5 to 9 years?
- c. How many children have a recognised disability between the age of 10 to 15 years?

Answer:

It is understood that this question refers to children who have qualified their carer for Carer Allowance because they have a condition on the Lists of Recognised Disabilities.

- a. As at 12 February 2010, 12,946 Carer Allowance children aged 0 to 4 years had a recognised disability.
- b. As at 12 February 2010, 31,059 Carer Allowance children aged 5 to 9 years had a recognised disability.
- c. As at 12 February 2010, 39,166 Carer Allowance children aged 10 to 15 years had a recognised disability.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 113

Topic: Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability

Hansard Page: CA92

Senator Fifield asked:

Could we have a list of the 1,052 places over the 48 locations including a full breakdown in terms of states, providers, locations and the number of teenagers accessing at each location?

Answer:

Number of places by location

State	Location of Service Suburb	Provider	Total Number of Places 2009-10
ACT	O'Connor	Marymead Child and Family Centre	17
NSW	Whalan	ANGLICARE (Westlink ASC Program)	10
NSW	Ballina	Ballina District Community Services Association	20
NSW	Tamworth	Challenge Disability Services	30
NSW	Bankstown	Creating Links Cooperative Ltd	45
NSW	Lismore Heights	Dragonites Vacation Care (Interchange Respite)	10
NSW	Rosebery	Eastern Respite and Recreation	46
NSW	Woollahra		
NSW	Randwick		
NSW	Croydon Park	FRANS	25
NSW	Gladesville	Giant Steps Sydney	20
NSW	Bomaderry	Illawarra Disability Trust – Shoalhaven	12
NSW	Campbelltown	Illawarra Disability Trust – South West Sydney	18
NSW	Mittagong		
NSW	Inverell	Inverell Disability & Respite Services	20
NSW	Marsfield	Minimbah Challenge	10
NSW	Rosemeadow	Northcott Disability Services - Campbelltown	18
NSW	Wagga Wagga	Northcott Disability Services - Wagga Wagga	18
NSW	Narrabeen	Northern Beaches Interchange Inc	12
NSW	Kirrawee	Sylvanvale Foundation	20
NSW	Murwillumbah	Tweed Shire Vacation Care Inc	22

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NSW	Tweed Heads		
NT	Wanguri	Henbury School Council Inc	38
NT	Ludmilla	Nemarluk School	30
QLD	Calamvale	Calamvale State Special School	30
QLD	Manly	Darling Point Special School P&C Association	40
QLD	Ipswich	Focal Extended Inc	45
QLD	Labrador	FSG Australia	16
QLD	Mudgeeraba		
QLD	Mount Warren Park	Lifeline Community Care Qld	75
QLD	Mt Gravatt West		
QLD	Michelton		
QLD	Currimundi	Sunshine Coast Link Family Scheme Inc	53
QLD	Nambour		
SA	Elizabeth North	Elizabeth Special School	29
SA	Regency Park	Novita Children's Services Inc	24
TAS	Burnie	Ability Tasmania Group Inc	7
TAS	New Town	Cosmos Inc	24
VIC	Ashwood	Ashwood School - Out of School Hours Care	25
VIC	Berwick	Casey Kidz Klub	20
VIC	Echuca	Community Living and Respite Services Inc	45
VIC	Echuca	Echuca Holiday & After School Care Program	4
VIC	Clayton	Monash Special Developmental School Council	15
VIC	Lake Gardens	Pinarc Support Services Inc	25
VIC	Mount Evelyn	Villa Maria Society	20
VIC	Ballarat	YMCA of Ballarat Inc	60
WA	Subiaco	Children's Hospital Child Care Centre	36
WA	Kingsley	Community Vision Inc	18
		TOTALS	1,052

Data on the number of teenagers accessing each location will not be available until June 2010 reporting and therefore has not been included in this table.

The latest data on the number of teenagers was collected in June 2009, at which time there were 977 teenagers accessing 978 places.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 098

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people are currently receiving Carer Payment who are:

Under 18 years;

between 18 – 21; 22 – 25 years; 26 – 30 years; 31 – 40 years; 41 – 50 years; 51 – 60 years & 61 years and above?

Answer:

The following table provides the Carer Payment customer population by age range as at 12 February 2010.

Age range (years)	Customer count
0-17	412
18-21	2,988
22-25	3,559
26-30	5,708
31-40	22,755
41-50	39,244
51-60	50,441
61+	37,500
Total	162,607

Source: Centrelink administrative data – Carer Payment SuperCross cube

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 100

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have received (granted) Carer Payment each month since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of grants for Carer Payment since October 2009.

Period	Grants
26/9/2009 – 23/10/2009	4,463
24/10/2009 – 20/11/2009	4,201
21/11/2009 – 18/12/2009	4,399
19/12/2009 – 15/1/2010	3,298
16/1/2010 – 12/2/2010	3,604

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

Note: This data represents a count of events, not customers i.e. a customer may have more than one event in a reporting period.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 101

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have applied (claimed) for Carer Payment each month since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of claims for Carer Payment since October 2009.

Period	Claims
26/9/2009 – 23/10/2009	7,476
24/10/2009 – 20/11/2009	7,040
21/11/2009 – 18/12/2009	7,266
19/12/2009 – 15/1/2010	5,629
16/1/2010 – 12/2/2010	5,901

Source: Centrelink administrative data –COGNOS

Note: This data represents a count of events, not customers i.e. a customer may have more than one event in a reporting period.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 102

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people were suspended from Carer Payment each month since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of suspensions for Carer Payment since October 2009.

Period	Suspended
26/9/2009 – 23/10/2009	933
24/10/2009 – 20/11/2009	781
21/11/2009 – 18/12/2009	924
19/12/2009 – 15/1/2010	950
16/1/2010 – 12/2/2010	837

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

Note: This data represents a count of events, not customers i.e. a customer may have more than one event in a reporting period.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 103

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have transferred to Carer Payment from another payment in financial year 07/08, 08/09, and month by month since 1 July 2009 to date? What payments did they transfer from?

Answer:

The following tables provide the transfers to Carer Payment in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the month by month transfers since 1 July 2009, and the payments they transferred from.

Transfers to Carer Payment - Financial Year	2007-08	2008-09
Newstart Allowance	5,848	6,648
Parenting Payment	7,732	5,412
Age Pension	1,470	1,700
Other	2,750	2,789
TOTAL	17,800	16,549

Transfers to Carer Payment - Monthly analysis	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10
Newstart Allowance	1,343	1,070	1,134	1,405	1,144	1,161	1,100
Parenting Payment	620	553	630	840	638	628	564
Age Pension	318	252	269	347	259	241	250
Other	333	260	246	382	282	286	292
TOTAL	2,614	2,135	2,279	2,974	2,323	2,316	2,206

Note: Month to month transfers should not be added together to provide a year to date figure.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 104

Topic: Carer Payment (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have received (granted) Carer Payment (Child) each month since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of Carer Payment (Child) grants each four week period since 26 September 2009.

Period	Grants
26/9/2009 – 23/10/2009	759
24/10/2009 – 20/11/2009	696
21/11/2009 – 18/12/2009	637
19/12/2009 – 15/1/2010	569
16/1/2010 – 12/2/2010	436

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SAS extraction

Note: Carer Payment (child) management information is provided in four weekly intervals. The data provided is a count of events not customers.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 105

Topic: Carer Payment (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have applied (claimed) for Carer Payment (Child) since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of finalised Carer Payment (child) claims for the period 26/9/2009 to 12/2/2010.

Date	Count
26/9/09 – 23/10/09	1,440
24/10/09 – 20/11/09	1,279
21/11/09 – 18/12/09	1,181
19/12/09 – 15/1/2010	1,078
16/1/2010 – 12/2/2010	832
Total	5,810

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SAS extraction

Note: The data in the above table illustrates a count of events not customers, and excludes unfinalised claims.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 106

Topic: Carer Payment (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people were suspended from Carer Payment (Child) since October 2009?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of people suspended from Carer Payment (child) since October 2009 by each four week period.

Carer Payment (child) suspended customers

Date	Count
23/10/09	38
20/11/09	45
18/12/09	48
15/1/2010	46
12/2/2010	49

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SAS extraction

Note: Carer Payment (child) management information is provided in four weekly intervals. The above table provides point-in-time counts of suspended Carer Payment (child) customers.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 107

Topic: Carer Allowance (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

- a. How many people currently receive Carer Allowance (Child) – under 16 years old?
- b. How many people received Carer Allowance (Child) in 07/08 and 08/09?

Answer:

- a) As at 12 February 2010, there were 124,444 people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child).
- b) As at June 2008, there were 113,549 people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child).
As at June 2009, there were 120,090 people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child).

Note: The above figures are customers who are in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child) only and do not include Health Care Card only customers.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 108

Topic: Carer Allowance (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

- a. How many people currently receive Carer Allowance (Child) under 16 years old – for a child with disability?
- b. How many people received Carer Allowance (Child) under 16 years old – for a child with disability in 07/08 & 08/09?

Answer:

- a. Please see response to Question No. 107.

All people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child) care for a child with disability as assessed through the Lists of Recognised Disabilities or the Child Disability Assessment Tool.

- b. Please see response to Question No. 107.

All people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child) care for a child with disability as assessed through the Lists of Recognised Disabilities or the Child Disability Assessment Tool.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 117

Topic: Out-of-school hours care for teenagers with a disability

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

Of the out-of-school-hours program, are all of those 48 locations for teenagers with a disability only or are they inclusive settings?

Answer:

Three locations are mainstream child care services that also cater for teenagers with a disability, the other 45 locations provide disability specific services.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 262

Topic: Respite Care Places

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The More Respite Care Places to help Families and Carers program appears to be much smaller than the one promised. Is this the case? If so, why has the funding been reduced and where will the savings go?

Answer:

No that is not the case. In 2006 under the Council of Australian Governments National Mental Health Action Plan, the Mental Health Respite Program was funded for five years at a cost of \$224.7 million. Funding has not been reduced.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 263

Topic: YPIRAC

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

There are clearly still a significant number of young people who will remain in aged care or will still need to be placed in aged care despite the impact of the YPIRAC program. What links does the YPIRAC program have with the aged care system to assess and manage the needs of this group?

Answer:

Under the YPIRAC Program's third objective, young people with disability who choose to remain in residential aged care, or for whom residential aged care is the only available accommodation option, are provided with enhanced services, to maintain family and social relationships and to live a more age appropriate lifestyle. Enhanced services are tailored to meet the needs of the client and include supports such as case management, community access, aids and equipment, transport assistance, holiday support, therapy and other supports such as gym membership, massage and in-home support.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have jointly developed National Guiding Principles for the appropriate referral of younger people with disability for assessment and coordination of specialist disability accommodation and support services between the various disability services agencies and Aged Care Assessment Teams. The National Guiding Principles are at **Attachment A**.

As the various disability services programs and Aged Care Assessment Program are organised differently across jurisdictions and different disability legislation applies, YPIRAC Programs in each jurisdiction have, or are developing, protocols consistent with the National Guiding Principles.

NATIONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT OF YOUNGER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Between state and territory disability services and Aged Care Assessment Teams

While state and territory protocols may differ in accordance with the local legislative and regulatory environment, all protocols should be consistent with the COAG initiative arrangements and the following National Guiding Principles:

- Residential aged care services are designed specifically to meet the needs of frail older people, and are not oriented to provide for the needs of younger people with disability.
- The most appropriate outcome for younger people with disability is to access specialist disability accommodation and support services and age appropriate services, rather than aged care services.
- Younger people with disability, living in residential aged care or who are at risk of entering residential aged care, should have access to specialist disability accommodation and support services that are appropriate to their needs.
- Referral of younger people with disability to Aged Care Assessment Teams for assessment and approval for aged care services from disability services should only occur where it can be demonstrated that all disability service options have been exhausted and there are no other services more appropriate to meet the person's needs are available. Documentation should be provided to this effect.
- To minimise duplication in the assessment process, with the client's consent, any information from the assessment carried out by the disability services assessor must be provided to the Aged Care Assessment Team as part of the referral.
- An aged care service provider has the right to determine whether they will accept placement of a younger person with disability, based on their capacity to meet their individual needs. If there is no likelihood that a residential aged care facility are willing to accept a younger person with disability, an Aged Care Assessment Team assessment would not be appropriate or in the best interests of the person.

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Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Reviews

Wherever possible, and consistent with the COAG initiative and other support arrangements, younger people with disability who remain living in, or enter a residential aged care facility, will receive enhanced specialist disability support services to provide them with opportunities for community access, to maintain family and social relationships and to live a more age appropriate lifestyle.

If a younger person with disability enters a residential aged care facility, a review mechanism should be negotiated between all parties. This should be regular, and involve the younger person with disability, and their family and/or support network.

Dated – July 2008

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Question No: 123

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: CA101

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide an update on the legislative amendments on special disability trusts?

Answer:

This question relates to the Special Disability Trust two taxation measures announced in the 2009-10 Budget.

The Government expects to introduce the legislative amendments for the Unexpended Income measure in the 2010 Winter Parliamentary Sittings.

The Government is currently developing draft legislation and explanatory material for the Capital Gains Tax measure and will shortly release this material for public consultation.

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Question No: 109

Topic: Carer Allowance (child)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

- b. What is the current expenditure for Carer Allowance (Child) under 16 years old for a child with disability?
- c. What was annual expenditure in 07/08 & 08/09 for Carer Allowance (Child) under 16 years old for child with disability?

Answer:

Please refer to date sources noted below.

- a) The most recent expenditure data for Carer Allowance (child) are in the 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements.
- b) These expenditure data are in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 FaHCSIA Annual Reports.

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Question No: 125

Topic: Respite Care Places

Hansard Page: CA106

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide detail of projects funded across the program?

Answer:

The Department provides funding for three community mental health initiatives through the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) program:

- Personal Helpers and Mentors;
- Mental Health Respite; and
- Mental Health Community Based.

Personal Helpers and Mentors services provide support for people aged 16 years and over whose lives are severely affected by mental illness and who need support to regain control of their lives and live more independently in the community. The service uses a strengths-based, recovery approach that focuses on the needs and goals of the participant.

Mental Health Respite provides support to carers of people with a mental illness and carers of people with intellectual disability by increasing access to flexible respite services that meet the individual needs of carers and the care recipient.

Mental Health Community Based programs fund local community based projects that support families, children and young people affected by mental illness.

Details for the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) funded services for Personal Helpers and Mentors, Mental Health Respite and Mental Health Community Based can be found on the FaHCSIA website at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/mentalhealth/funding/Pages/default.aspx>

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 126

Topic: Workshops

Hansard Page: CA66

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you just tell me how many of the companies who are required to report have actually attended workshops? What would be a meaningful time in that regard: the last two to three years, by year, or something like that?

Answer:

Reporting organisations that attended workshop 1 – developing an EOWA program and preparing a compliant report.

2007-08 134 organisations out of 2501 reporting organisations – 5.36%

2008-09 145 Organisations attended out of 2556 reporting organisations – 5.67%

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Question No: 127

Topic: Workshops

Hansard Page: CA66

Senator Boyce:

Could you provide a list of where the workshops have been, how many attendees there were and also how many companies out of the 2,500 have actually complied.

Answer:

1) Where the workshops are held:

The workshops are run in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

2) How many attendees:

The attendance at the workshop can vary from Adelaide having 7 attendees to Sydney having 17 attendees.

3) How many companies complied with the EOWA Legislation?

In 2007-08, there were 2,501 organisations which complied with the Act and 12 non-compliant organisations.

In 2008-09, there were 2,556 organisations which complied with the Act and 12 non-compliant organisations.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 183

Topic: Leadership Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What are the current number of leadership and development programs currently run by EOWA?

Answer:

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) does not run any leadership and development programs.

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....Question No: 182

Topic: Leadership Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

I now refer to last years June Hansard record where I have inquired into womens' leadership programs.

Can you please detail the progress of the 33 programs that were discussed in the July Estimates?

Have any been discontinued? Any additions?

Answer:

The 33 initiatives are listed at **Attachment A**. None have been discontinued.

An additional 20 projects were funded in 2008-09 (**Attachment B**). In 2009-10, four projects have been funded as at 23 February 2010. These projects are listed at **Attachment C**.

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Attachment A

List of 33 initiatives funded (as discussed at 1 June 2009 Estimates)

No	Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
Funded in 2007-08:			
1	Australasian Council of Women and Policing	Fitting in or Standing Out - Surviving Your First Years. A Guide for Women Entering the Policing Profession	\$40,000
2	Australian Breastfeeding Association	National Implementation of Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Projects	\$99,949
3	Australian Federation of Medical Women	Bridging Leadership Barriers	\$89,000
4	Australian Local Government Women's Association	Implementation of the National Framework for Women in Local Government - The Way Forward	\$67,400
5	Australian Women in Agriculture	Step Out, Aspire and Reflect (SOAR) with Support Project	\$100,000
6	Australian Women in Information Technology and Science Entity	WIT Connections	\$100,000
7	Australian Womensport and Recreation Association	National Sport Leadership Training	\$100,000
8	Fitted for Work	Consolidating a National Service	\$89,550
9	Girl Guides Australia	Young Women - Taking the Lead	\$85,250
10	International Women's Development Agency	Global Youth Impact	\$91,360
11	Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Points of Departure: Immigrant and Refugee Women's Leadership and Advocacy Project (to be completed by mid 2010)	\$99,058
12	Muslim Women's National Network of Australia	SILC - Organisational Development Program	\$99,991
13	National Council for Single Mothers and Their Children	Social Inclusion and Capacity Building for Marginalised Single Mothers	\$90,000
14	National Council of Women of Australia	Building the Capacity of Aboriginal Women to Create a Thriving Community in Oodnadatta	\$97,300
15	Older Women's Network	Older Women Make Wise Leaders	\$99,996
16	The Association of Women Educators	AWE-SOME WOMEN - The Association of Women Educators Leading Social Change	\$85,000
17	The Maternity Coalition	Strengthening Women's Ownership of Childbirth: Organisational Development of the Maternity Coalition	\$46,800
18	UNIFEM Australia	Young Women's Leadership Forum	\$68,500
19	UNIFEM Australia	Gender Analysis Training Workshops for National Women's Non-government Organisations	\$100,000
20	Women in Adult Vocational Education	Minmaku Palyantja: Waltja Women Leaders' Project (Value Women's Good Work)	\$87,675
21	Women in Adult Vocational Education	Women on Track: Addressing Skills Shortages in Transport and Construction Industries	\$42,580
22	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Facilitating the Preparation and Participation of NGOs in the Development of Australia's National Action Plan on United Nations Security Resolution 1325	\$100,000
23	Women's Services Network	VirtualWESNET - Website Redesign and Professional Forum	\$64,070

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No	Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
24	Young Women's Christian Association	Non-English Speaking Background Women's Community Leadership Development and Mentoring Project	\$94,808
25	Young Women's Christian Association	CEDAW Shadow Report	\$94,651
Funded in 2008-09:			
26	University of New South Wales	2008 Australian Women's Debating Championships	\$1,000
27	The Women's Community Aid Association	Brisbane International Feminist Conference	\$5,000
28	Australian Technology Network Women's Executive Development Program	2008 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture	\$1,000
29	Australasian Society for HIV Medicine	ANZATSA Conference 2009	\$6,000
30	Carrie's Place	White Ribbon Day Event	\$1,000
31	International Association for Time Use Research	30th International Association for Time Use Research Conference	\$5,000
32	NSW Network of Women with Disability	Deaf/Blind Interpreters for Leadership Program for Women with Disability	\$5,255
33	Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia and the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia	Refugee and Immigrant Women Setting the Social Inclusion Agenda Conference	\$5,000
TOTAL			\$2,162,193

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Attachment B

Additional 20 projects funded in 2008-09

No.	Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
1	Association of Women Educators	National symposium on supporting pregnant and parenting young women.	\$62,250
2	Australian Climate Coolers	Women and climate change national forum series.	\$88,700
3	Australian Womensport and Recreation Association	"The Catalyst Project" – improving sports media coverage for women.	\$100,000
4	Fitted for Work	Supporting women experiencing disadvantage in Sydney.	\$92,000
5	Foundation of Australian Agricultural Women	Enhancing communication innovation capacities for women in leadership in rural and regional communities of Australia.	\$100,000
6	Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Setting the compass: building capacity for advocacy on immigrant and refugee women's issues.	\$99,993
7	Muslim Women's National Network of Australia	Gender advocacy and representation for Muslim women in Australia.	\$100,000
8	Network of Immigrant and Refugee Women in Australia	Raising the voice of migrant women workers in precarious employment.	\$100,000
9	Older Women's Network Australia	Older women's VOICE: valid, one, inclusive, committed, empowering.	\$97,205
10	Soroptimist International Australia	Media contact database and associated member training.	\$18,335
11	UNIFEM Australia	Building the capacity of national women's NGOs and their affiliates who work with marginalised women to engage in inclusive gender analysis.	\$100,000
12	UNIFEM Australia	Gender equality online.	\$42,550
13	Vitalstatistix National Women's Theatre Company	GO-GO African community arts project – driven by and for women.	\$54,500
14	Women in Adult and Vocational Education	Ulkumantjuta Ukarratjuta together for learning: Waltja and WAVE women learning and talking about training.	\$98,800
15	Women's Industry Network Seafood Community	Using smart IT to meet the challenge of distance for WINSC.	\$30,950
16	Young Women's Christian Association of Australia	From local to global and back again: using the CEDAW NGO Report in domestic and international advocacy.	\$60,393

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No.	Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
17	Girl Guides Australia	\$502,750 to support a program of activities to celebrate the centenary year of Guiding in Australia. \$80,000 to support financially disadvantaged Girl Guides from across Australia to attend the Centenary launch in September 2009.	\$582,750
18	Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN)	Support for the AWHN's Aboriginal Women's Talking Circle to develop and announce an Aboriginal Women's Health Strategy and provide input to the Australian Government's National Women's Health Policy	\$99,450
19	Young Women's Christian Association	Funding to support Indigenous consultations in the preparation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) NGO Report	\$15,000
20	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Update, reprint and distribute materials supporting the advancement of women's representation and gender equality in Pacific parliaments	\$6,000
TOTAL			\$1,948,876

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Attachment C

Initiatives funded in 2009-10 (as at 23 February 2010)

No	Organisation	Activity	Funding (ex GST)	Completion date
1	Justice Equality Rights Access International	Working Together for Equality – A review of the Beijing Platform for Action 15 years on	\$135,000	May 2010
2	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Support for Pacific Island Nations participation in the 15 year review of the Beijing Platform for Action	\$58,500	March 2010
3	Australian Local Government Women's Association	50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity program Note: The Office for Women (OfW) is providing \$150,000 for this initiative and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG) is providing \$100,000.	\$140,000 (OfW) \$50,000 (DITRDLG)	December 2012
4	Local Government Managers Australia	Local Government Managers Association's Management Challenge	\$40,000	September 2010
TOTAL			\$373,500	

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 184

Topic: National Telephone and Online Crisis Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has a dedicated centre been established?

How many people employed?

What are their qualifications of the operators?

Answer:

The Department is currently in the final stage of selecting a service provider to operate the new National Online and 1800 Counselling Service. No details are therefore available about employee numbers or site location for the new service.

It is intended that all counsellors and supervisors will be professionally qualified as social workers or psychologists, and have experience of family violence or sexual assault counseling.

Telephone counselling is currently being provided by Lifeline Australia.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 185

Topic: National Telephone and Online Crisis Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the break down of calls to the service and how many calls per week?

Answer:

The Department is currently in the final stage of selecting a service provider to establish and operate the National Online and 1800 Counselling Service.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 186

Topic: National Telephone and Online Crisis Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How does it link in with existing services – Kids Helpline etc
What measures are in place to ensure there is minimal overlap?

Answer:

The Department is currently in the final stage of selecting a service provider to establish and operate the National Online and 1800 Counselling Service.

The new Service will be required to complement and integrate with existing State and Territory services, link with other 1800 numbers, have direct links with relevant local and state services and provide the State and Territory services with active and ongoing referrals.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 187

Topic: National Telephone and Online Crisis Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Provide information on expenditure of the \$12.5 million for the telephone and online crisis service.

Answer:

The Department is currently in the final stage of selecting a service provider to establish and operate the new National Online and 1800 Counselling Service.

Telephone service is currently being provided by Lifeline Australia.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 188

Topic: Respectful Relationship Program in schools

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What action has happened to date to increase the update of the program?

Answer:

Respectful Relationships funded seven projects in 56 sites in Round One.

In Round Two funding has been announced for eight projects in at least 36 sites. In addition, one project provides services across Western Australia, and one national project will be conducted in community settings across Australia. Details of sites for these projects are yet to be confirmed.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 192

Topic: Primary prevention activities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What data was used to determine the \$26 million investment for primary prevention activities?

Answer:

The Government's decision to invest \$26 million for primary prevention activities was informed by the report of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021*.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 201

Topic: Indigenous Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What particular measures has this government introduced to educate CALD women and their communities about their rights in relation to domestic violence in Australia? What funds have been committed to this work, over what period, and where. Is there a decrease in funding in this area?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) funds 42 Specialised Family Violence Services (SFVS) nationally through a Family Support Program, with a total cost of approximately \$4.14 million for 2009-10. The services are designed to prevent violence or deal with the consequences of violence and primarily deliver counselling focused whole-of-family support to those affected by family violence, including those from CALD backgrounds.

SFVS funding levels have not been reduced.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 128

Topic: Respectful Relationships Program

Hansard Page: CA68 and CA69

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you give me the amount that is committed and over what period for the Respectful Relationships program? What amount has been expended to date on the program? Could you also include a breakdown of costings for Round 2?

Answer:

\$9.166 million has been allocated over five years (2008-2009 to 2012-2013) for the Respectful Relationships program including evaluation.

- In 2008-09 \$2.066 million was spent for Round 1 projects.
- In 2009-10 \$2.677 million is fully committed for Round 1 and Round 2 projects.
- Funding of \$4.423 million is available for the period 2010-11 to 2012-13.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 129

Topic: Social Marketing

Hansard Page: CA69

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide the amount that is being committed and over what period for the Social Marketing program that you have just mentioned? Could you tell us about how much you have spent on the social marketing measure and what you have done there?

Answer:

Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009-2021 (Time for Action), recommended that a social marketing strategy be developed in partnership with state and territory governments.

At the handover of the Time for Action report, the Prime Minister announced \$17 million over four years for a primary prevention social marketing campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to promote the development of healthy and respectful relationships through changing the attitudes and behaviours of young people. The campaign will run over four years reaching out to young people through a range of channels, such as the internet, radio and print advertising.

The notional allocation for 2009-10 is \$9,135,000. As of 19 March 2010, \$723,870.68 has been spent on market research, concept development, agency pitch fees and concept testing of preliminary material with mainstream and Indigenous audiences. Once the campaign is agreed by the Government the primary funds will be spent.

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Question No: 189

Topic: Respectful Relationship program in schools

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many schools are delivering the program? How many students have participated?

Answer:

Respectful Relationships projects funded under Round One are delivered in 40 Northern Territory schools, and three senior schools in the Australian Capital Territory.

As at 31 January 2010, 667 students have participated in Respectful Relationships School based Round One funded projects.

Respectful Relationships Round One also funded projects outside of school settings, and included 60 young men from the Brisbane Bronco's and Gold Coast Titans National Rugby League sub-elite squads, as well as 75 young people across four New South Wales sites.

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Question No: 190

Topic: Respectful Relationship program in schools

Hansard Page Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How has the program been developed?

Answer:

Respectful Relationships programs are being rolled out in a variety of sites, including schools, community groups and sporting settings. A number of approaches are being tested.

The Respectful Relationships program is based on:

- desktop research into primary prevention and social marketing to inform the design and engagement strategies most appealing to young people;
- the framework developed by the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV) which reflects best practice principles in the delivery of primary prevention education to young people that achieves attitudes and behaviours that support ethical intimate partner relationships.

The funding of Respectful Relationships projects under Round One and Round Two is part of the development of the program, with funded projects contributing to a National Evaluation. Information from the evaluation will be used to develop the program further.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 191

Topic: Respectful Relationship program in schools

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What results have been achieved through the 31 trial sites? How is the effectiveness to be monitored?

Answer:

The Government has allocated funding for an evaluation of the Respectful Relationships projects at the trial sites.

FaHCSIA is in the process of selecting an organisation to conduct the evaluation.

It is expected that the evaluation will provide evidence of the effectiveness of the programs in preventing violence through increasing knowledge and awareness of violence, teaching relationship and conflict management skills, and in changing attitudes that perpetuate gender stereotypes and support violence against women.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 193

Topic: Primary prevention activities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What has been spent to date of the \$9 million on the school age program and the \$17 million on social marketing?

Answer:

See the answer to Questions 128 and 129.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 194

Topic: Primary prevention activities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What has been achieved to date?

Answer:

See the answer to Questions 129 and 191.

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Question No: 198

Topic: Domestic violence

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The cost of domestic violence in Australia was estimated by the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children at an estimated \$8.1 billion per annum. Given this extraordinary cost why did the department cut funding for courses aimed at reducing domestic violence?

What funds have been committed to this work, over what period and where?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs does not and has not run courses on domestic violence.

The Commonwealth Government's investment has not decreased. The 2009-10 Budget committed around \$159 million over four years to address violence, compared with \$143 million over the previous four years.

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Outcome Number: 6

...Question No: 197

Topic: Women's Participation in Local Government

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

With reference to a media release from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese on October 9, 2009 on women's participation.

Has the department spent the \$500,000 promised by Minister Albanese on improving the participation of women in local councils and shires? What has the \$500,000 been spent on?

Answer:

The Government is providing \$490,000 for a range of projects to help improve the participation of women in the nation's councils and shires.

The Government is funding these activities through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG) and the Office for Women (OfW) as part of its commitment to 2010: the Year of Women in Local Government.

The Australian Government is providing:

- \$250,000 for a three-year 50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity program. This program, run by the Australian Local Government Women's Association, will audit councils and shires to determine the status and role of women in leadership roles as well as their participation in the workplace. The program will also establish an awards program to recognise excellence. \$150,000 is being provided by OfW and \$100,000 by DITRDLG;
- \$100,000 in scholarship funding provided by DITRDLG to enable senior women in local government to participate in the new Executive Leadership Program being developed by the recently established Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government;
- \$100,000 provided by DITRDLG to improve the collection of data and reporting on the status of women in the local government sector; and
- \$40,000 provided by OfW to Local Government Managers Australia for their 2010 Management Challenge, which will involve around 130 councils identifying strategies to promote gender equity in their councils.

Funding Agreements with the respective providers are currently being progressed with each organisation.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 142

Topic: Indigenous Representative Body

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What are the current and future funding arrangements for the National Indigenous Representative Body?

Answer:

The Government has committed \$29.2 million to the national Indigenous representative body – known as the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples (NCAFP):

- \$6 million is allocated for the establishment phase of the NCAFP up until December 2010.
- \$23.2 million is allocated for operation of the NCAFP until December 2013.
- Funding will be provided through a standard funding agreement with the NCAFP once the body is incorporated.

	Underlying Cash (\$ million)				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
FHCSIA	-3.0	-6.2	-6.8	-8.3	-4.9

Future funding for the NCAFP beyond December 2013 will be a matter for Government decision.

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Question No: 143

Topic: Indigenous Representative Body

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Has the capital investment fund been set up? If it hasn't been set up, why hasn't it been set up and when will it be set up if it is to be set up?

Answer:

No.

The Government agreed to provide \$29.2 million funding for the establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (NCAFP) during 2010 and its first three years of operation up to December 2013.

The NCAFP may decide to establish an investment fund of its own accord.

The Government has no plans to contribute to such a fund at this time.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 145

Topic: New approach to Indigenous languages

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the Government's approach be opened up to national consultations?

Answer:

Following the announcement of the National Indigenous Languages Policy, an Action Plan to implement the policy is being finalised by a working party of Australian Government departments. The Action Plan will involve consultation with state and territory government agencies and Indigenous languages organisations to identify and support strategic initiatives that align with the key objectives of the policy.

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Question No: 146

Topic: New approach to Indigenous languages

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the Government be talking to the NT Government regarding their stance on bilingual education in keeping with the objective 5: Working with languages to Close the Gap?

Answer:

Decisions around how schools offer learning programs are a matter for state and territory education authorities. Accordingly, a bilingual program is a matter for individual jurisdictions to determine with input from the local community.

Under the National Education Agreement (NEA), agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2008, the Government provides significant funding to the states and territories for languages education in government and community language schools. The NEA allows state and territory government education authorities flexibility to target resources according to individual jurisdictional priorities and educational needs. Funding can be used to support Indigenous language programs.

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Question No: 147

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will there be a second round of COAG projects focusing on prioritised Indigenous communities and if yes, how will communities be identified to participate?

Answer:

No decision has been taken by COAG to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery to a second round of priority communities.

However, the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership does make allowance for further communities to be included in the future. Any further priority communities will initially be identified through bilateral discussions between the Australian Government and relevant State and Northern Territory governments.

COAG will have regard to the *National Principles for investments in remote locations* at Schedule A to the National Partnership on Remote Service Delivery and to the *Principles to be taken into account for deciding sequencing* at Schedule B in any decision regarding additional priority communities.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 153

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: CA13

Senator Siewert asked:

Which Indigenous programs are just targeted at the 29 priority communities?

Answer:

There are no Indigenous programs that are targeted only at the 29 priority communities.

However, the Prime Minister has announced the establishment of a flexible funding pool of \$46 million over three years to assist implementation of the Local Implementation Plans in the 29 priority communities.

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Question No: 159

Topic: Alice Springs Transformation Plan

Hansard Page: CA33

Senator Siewert asked:

In which town camps are the 85 new houses to be located?

Answer:

The locations for the first eight houses to be constructed during the early works in the Alice Springs town camps are:

- two dwellings at Larapinta Valley;
- two dwellings at Hidden Valley;
- two dwellings at Little Sisters;
- one dwelling at Trucking Yards; and
- one dwelling at Warlpiri.

These eight houses are all three bedroom dwellings.

The locations for the remaining 77 new houses are yet to be finalised. A process is underway to determine the locations based on a number of considerations. These include the availability of lots in each town camp and the results of a needs-based analysis that takes into account issues such as overcrowding, the number of people with disabilities and waiting lists. Upon completion of this process, the locations of the 77 remaining houses will be finalised.

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Question No: 160

Topic: Alice Springs Transformation Plan

Hansard Page: CA34

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide a list of projects to which funds have currently been committed?

Answer:

Under action strategy 1 of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan (to deal with social issues), funds have been committed to the following projects:

- Communities for Children program \$3,000,000
- Expansion of the Targeted Family Support Services program \$1,566,000
- Family Group Conferencing program \$ 979,000
- Safe and Sober program \$5,400,000
- Fit out for Aranda House Transitional Accommodation \$ 80,000
- Additional alcohol counsellor for Central Australian Aboriginal Congress \$ 100,000
- Extension of the dog control program \$ 87,000

Under action strategy 2 of the Plan (to transform town camps), funds have been committed to the following projects:

- Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program in 18 town camps \$ 100,000,000

Under action strategy 3 of the Plan (to reduce homelessness), funds have been committed to the following projects:

- Demountable complex for temporary accommodation at Little Sisters town camp up to \$250,000
 - Alice Springs Accommodation Park confidential pending procurement
 - Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package – Social Housing Initiative \$13,400,000
- Projects include:
- Short-term transitional accommodation at Percy Court
 - Refurbishment of *The Lodge* to increase accommodation for health patients
 - Up-grade of the Salvation Army facility

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Question No: 164

Topic: Overcrowding

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide information, based on the most recent set of figures, the average occupancy per remote dwelling in each of the Australian states and territories?

Answer:

The following table shows the most recent information, from the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS), for the average number of Indigenous people per household in remote and very remote areas.

2006 CHINS average occupancy per remote/very remote households

State	Average people per dwelling
New South Wales	1.3
Northern Territory	10.7
Queensland	8.3
South Australia	7.8
Tasmania	2.5
Western Australia	8.3
Australian Total	8.8

Source: CHINS 2006

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Question No: 166

Topic: Overcrowding

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide information on the number of overcrowded remote households requiring one or more additional bedrooms?

Answer:

According to the 2006 Census there was a total of 7,035 overcrowded Indigenous households requiring one or more (overcrowded) extra bedrooms. The breakdown by remote and very remote classification is provided in the following table.

Dwellings: Indigenous households by 2006 Housing Utilisation (CNOS) for remote and very remote areas

	One or more bedrooms needed
Remote	2178
Very Remote	4857
Total	7035

Source – 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Customised Data Report

Notes on how utilisation is determined

Housing utilisation is based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness, a widely used measure that is sensitive to both household size and composition. The following criteria are used to assess bedroom requirements and households requiring at least one additional bedroom are considered to be overcrowded:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom
- a household of one unattached individual may reasonably occupy a bed-sit (i.e. have no bedroom)
- couples and parents should have a separate bedroom
- children aged less than 5 years, of different sexes, may reasonably share a room
- children aged 5 years or over, of different sexes, should not share a bedroom
- children aged less than 18 years and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom; and
- single household members aged 18 years or over should have a separate bedroom.

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Question No: 167

Topic: Institute of Health and Welfare report on State owned and managed Indigenous housing

Hansard Page: CA41

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a further breakdown of those figures contained in the report, which show overcrowding rates of state-owned and managed households by state?

Answer:

The Department is unable to provide a further breakdown of the figures identified from the Institute of Health and Welfare's report on state owned and managed Indigenous housing 2008-09. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collects this data directly from jurisdictions through annual sectoral reporting.

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Question No: 168

Topic: Outback Stores

Hansard Page: CA50

Senator Adams asked:

How many people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, have been employed since the Outback Stores have been ramped up and the community stores are starting to really get their act together?

Answer:

FaHCSIA does not, as part of the licensing assessment or monitoring regime, collect specific data relating to Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment in licensed stores in the Northern Territory. Data is only collected that specifically relates to the management positions where the managers are the licensees of the store.

As such we do not have historic data which would provide information on changes to Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment numbers in community stores since licensing was introduced.

Outback Stores, which operates stores in WA, SA, NT and QLD has advised as at 1 February 2010 there are 184 Indigenous staff out of 233 staff employed in Outback Stores managed community stores.

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Question No: 251

Topic: CAPSSU Report

Hansard Page: CA55

Senator Siewert asked:

Are we any closer to the release of the CAPSSU Report?

Answer:

The release of the CAPSSU report is being considered in the context of the finalisation of the Government's response to the two Senate Community Affairs Committee Reports into Petrol Sniffing.

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Question No: 265

Topic: Wild Rivers Legislation

Hansard Page: CA49-50

Senator Boyce asked:

What engagement is being undertaken with the Queensland government by the federal government [including] any planned meetings and when they would be, or if any meetings have occurred?

Answer:

Officers of FaHCSIA's Queensland State Office met with officers of the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on 30 July 2009 to enable FaHCSIA to gain an understanding of the operation of the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (Qld), the process adopted in declaring Cape York wild rivers and the impact of those declarations on economic development. There have also been ongoing informal discussions between DERM and FaHCSIA regarding the legislation.

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Question No: 144

Topic: New approach to Indigenous languages

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How is the Government working with languages to close the gap?

Answer:

On 9 August 2009, Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin announced a new National Indigenous Languages Policy. The policy is aimed at keeping Indigenous languages alive and supporting Indigenous Australians to connect with their language, culture and country. A copy of the National Indigenous Languages Policy can be found on the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website at http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/languages_policy

Underpinning the National Indigenous Languages Policy, the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records Program is supporting Indigenous language projects across Australia. These help to build a stronger sense of community, foster self-esteem, enhance skills and contribute to strengthening organisational infrastructure at community level.

In addition, COAG has committed \$38.6 million towards interpreting and translating services within the 29 Remote Service Delivery priority communities. The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership provides for the strengthening of interpreting and translating services in response to local needs in each priority location. The Commonwealth is also working with the States and Northern Territory to develop and introduce a national framework for the effective supply and use of Indigenous language interpreters.

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Question No: 149

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Commonwealth or Western Australia Government have any responsibility for supporting the provision of machinery and equipment that is essential for the delivery of municipal works, eg road grading, rubbish management, parks and garden maintenance?

If the answer to this question is yes, how can communities access this support?

Answer:

The Australian Government supports local communities by providing funding to local Governments in the form of Financial Assistance Grants. All Financial Assistance Grant funding is untied, which enables local councils to spend the funding on priorities determined by their local communities.

The Australian Government, through the Remote Indigenous Housing Program (RIHP), provides funding to eligible organisations to deliver a range of municipal and essential services to supplement the efforts of state, territory and local government. This is in accord with arrangements under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing that proposes a transfer of responsibility for municipal and essential service delivery from the Commonwealth to State, Territory and local governments from 1 July 2012. Under the RIHP, each jurisdiction has its own funding priorities.

Organisations involved in the delivery of municipal works seeking additional support should contact their local council, Main Roads Western Australia, the Western Australian Department of Regional Development and Lands (which administers the Royalties for Regions Scheme) or their local Indigenous Coordination Centre.

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Question No: 151

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: CA11

Senator Siewert asked:

At what stage are negotiations with the Fitzroy Crossing community regarding their regional implementation plan?

Answer:

The development of the first Local Implementation Plan has commenced for the community of Fitzroy Crossing. The development of the plan is being informed by a range of community consultations and regular engagement with the Fitzroy Crossing community, including with the Fitzroy Futures Forum.

The next stage of the process will involve the assessment of detailed baseline mapping of social and economic indicators, government investments, services, and infrastructure and services gaps. The baseline mapping report for Fitzroy Crossing is expected to be available in April following which further community consultations are expected to occur.

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Question No: 155

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA27

Senator Moore asked:

Can you provide the numbers and locations of Commonwealth embedded staff?

Answer:

In the Northern Territory, 13 of the planned 15 Australian Government officials are currently embedded in the program management team that leads and manages the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) and work under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing. Further recruitment action is underway to secure officials in the remaining two positions.

There is one senior Australian Government official appointed to each of the South Australian, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australian State Offices of FAHCSIA, working closely with housing agencies in each of those States, supported by relevant staff from each State Office and staff in the Office of Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Question No: 150

Topic: Closing the Gap -Remote Service Delivery - Priority Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In the COAG communiqué (December 7 2009) it is noted that 10 remote Indigenous communities will pilot initiatives under the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Indigenous communities by March 2010.

Have stores been identified to participate in this pilot and if so how was this decision made?
Are stores able to nominate to participate in this pilot?

Answer:

The National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Indigenous communities (the strategy) will be piloted in up to 10 remote communities across Australia. The pilots will look at innovative ways of improving food security in all action areas of the strategy, including:

- new ways of working with store owners and managers to drive continuous and sustainable improvement in store and takeaway management (financial, retail and nutrition); governance; and infrastructure;
- considering practical steps in the community to promote healthy eating and increase demand for healthy food and drinks; and
- examining the workforce requirements to support the implementation of these actions.

The selection of pilot sites is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of March 2010. As outlined in the strategy, the final selection of pilot sites as well as the planning, management and oversight of the pilots in each location will be negotiated and implemented bilaterally between relevant Governments.

A number of communities have approached the Commonwealth Government to express their interest in participating as a pilot site. All of these communities are currently under consideration, noting that community willingness and capacity to participate in the process is a key element in the selection process.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 152

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: CA12

Senator Siewert asked:

Was there consultation with communities in selecting the 29 priority communities, and if so, who was consulted from each of the communities?

Answer:

The process for selecting the 29 priority communities began with the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform initially identifying broad geographical areas within which the specific locations would subsequently be identified.

Detailed bilateral discussions were then held with each jurisdiction to agree on the specific locations and sites. The communities were not consulted prior to COAG agreeing on specific locations and sites. Once sites were agreed between jurisdictions, discussions were held with communities to confirm their willingness to participate. All communities have been prepared to engage with government around the RSD process to date. Through the development and implementation of Local Implementation Plans, communities will have the opportunity for full and active participation in this national partnership.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 156

Topic: SIHIP

Hansard Page: CA28

Senator Moore asked:

Could you provide the checklist (condition assessment tool) used by asset management officers to approve work completed under SIHIP?

Answer:

Attached to this response are the following documents, which together comprise the condition assessment tool (CAT) used by Asset Management Officers to approve work completed under SIHIP.

- Attachment A - The Condition Assessment Tool - Inspection Sheet
- Attachment B - Property Handover Form
- Attachment C - Acceptance Certificate (Final Inspection Dwelling Checklist and Defects Report)

Some further detail is provided below to assist in fully understanding the nature and use of the CAT in the SIHIP works approval process.

The CAT was developed by the Northern Territory Government as a tool to systematically record the condition of housing stock in remote Indigenous communities. Initial CAT data has been collected from all 73 communities where SIHIP is operating. The tool was recently improved through the addition of a functional assessment based on the *Fixing Houses for Better Health* (FHBH) methodology developed by HealthHabitat which records whether or not key components of the house operate correctly. This improved CAT data is currently being gathered and is due to be completed by July 2010.

The process for using the CAT is as follows:

- Asset Management Officers (AMOs) complete the CAT for each house within a particular community, after that community has been allocated to an Alliance Partner (see Attachments A and A1).
- The results of the CAT are first used to issue work orders to the Shires to carry out urgent and immediate safety works under the repairs and maintenance contracts that the Shires have with the NT Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS). AMOs inspect the completed urgent and immediate safety works.

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- The results of the CAT are also used by the Alliance Partner allocated to that community. One role of the AMOs is to ensure that the work of SIHIP and the work of the Shires in urgent and then ongoing repairs and maintenance is integrated and complementary.
- As each dwelling is completed by the Alliance Partner, the AMO inspects the dwelling and undertakes a CAT assessment, to ensure that all agreed SIHIP works have been completed (see Attachment B). It is also at this point that all certificates and warranties are provided to the AMO by the Alliance Partner.
- The AMO undertakes the final defects assessment using CAT prior to the end of the 26 week defect period for all new houses, refurbishments and rebuilds. The AMO advises the Alliance Partner of any defect findings and seeks remediation if required (see Attachment C).

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CONDITION ASSESSMENT TOOL - INSPECTION SHEET

ATTACHMENT A

RFM _____

Assessment date _____

Community Number _____

Lot No. _____

House No. _____

Asset Information

No Access (standard comments)	✓
Externally assessed	
Tenant refused entry	
Occupant didn't meet apptmt.	
Under Renovation	
*Room cannot be assessed	

* only use if cannot access a location eg bedroom locked

Responsibility	✓
TH - GEH	
TH - RCH	
Other	

Building Type & Material	✓
Dwelling Level	
High Set/Elevated	

Building Type & Material	A	F
Roof Fabric		
Tile		
Sheet metal		
Concrete slab		
Other		
Fibrous cement sheet		
Asbestos cement sheet		
Floor Construction		
Suspended Slab		
Timber bearer & joist		
Steel bearer & joist		
Steel bearer & timber joist		
Concrete		
Wall Construction		
Block		

Works* Information	✓
Heavily damaged, requires major work	
Shows wear and tear	
Appears to be structurally unsound	
Requires Minor Refurbishment	
Tenancy Support	

Refurbishment Costs	✓
Routine R&M <\$10K	
Works \$10K - \$75K	
Works \$75K - \$150K	
Works \$150K +	

Slab Height	✓
Slab under 200mm above ground level	

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Ground	
Low Set	
Multi Story	
Split	
Dwelling Type	
Duplex	
House	
Improvised	
Unit	
Other	
Vacant lot	
Unviable (eg abandoned)	

Brick		
Steel Frame FC		
Steel Frame Metal		
Steel Frame Suspected AC		
Tilt up Panels		
Timber Frame FC		
Timber Frame Metal Clad		
Timber Frame Suspected AC		

Cultural Sentivities	✓
Burial Plots	
Traditional Art / Design	

Slab 200-400mm above ground level	
Slab 400mm above ground level	

Slope - Fall of Land	✓
Level Block	
Sloping Block	

*Other Air Conditioning (add if required)	✓
RAC	
Split AC	

*record total number (Qty) of other air conditioners

Asset Details (Appearance and Function rating required)

Dwelling Electrics	A	F	Material/Comment
Card Reader			
Earth Stake			
Electrical Riser			
External Power			
House/Unit Wiring			
Power Meter			
Meter Box			
Telephone Line			

Pest Control	A	F	Material/Comment
Dog Screening			
Mowing Strip			
Termite Control			
Vermin Control			
Other			

Plumbing External	A	F	Material/ Comment
Water Meter			

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Switchboard			
*RCD			
*Smoke Alarm			

Stormwater Drainage							
Water Service							
Isolation Valve to dwelling							
Gas Service/System							

*record total number (Qty) of RCDs & smoke alarms

Disabled Modifications*	A	F	Material/Comment
Covered Walkway			
Dedicated Car Space			
Ramp			
Wheel Chair Friendly			

Room Heating	A	F	Material/ Comment
Gas			
Oil Burner			
Open Fire			
Solid Fuel			

Evaporative AC	A	F	Material/Comment
Roof mounted			
Side mounted on frame			

Waste Treatment	A	F	Material/ Comment
Sewer			
Septic Pump Out			
Leach Septic			
Aerated Septic			
Septic Lid			
ORG			

Hot Water System	A	F	Material/Comment
HWS Drainage			
HWS Press. Rel. Valve			
Solar			
Electrical External			
Electrical Internal			
Electrical Roof			
Gas External			
Gas Internal			

Water Tanks	A	F	Material/ Comment
Above ground			
Below ground			
Water pumps			

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Gas Roof			
One Shot Booster			
HWS Temperature			

*record HWS type

Painting External (tick)	✓	Painting Internal (tick)	✓
Full Paint >3yrs		Full Paint >3yrs	
Full Paint 1-3yrs		Full Paint 1-3yrs	
Full Paint within 12 months		Full Paint within 12 months	

CONDITION ASSESSMENT TOOL - INSPECTION SHEET

RFM _____

Assessment date _____

Community Number _____

Lot No. _____

House No. _____

Safe, Habitable and Cleanable Assessment

If not habitable (score 1 or 2) identify component with tick in box below

Location / Room	Safe, Habitable, Cleanable Rating (1 - 5 see rating definitions)	If not habitable (score 1 or 2) identify component with tick in box below												Comments		
		Wall/Ceiling do not protect against elements	Floor	Window Vent.	Lighting	Door	Power Points	Lock. Store	Water	Washroom (toilet Bath/Basin or Basin/Shower)	Cooking facilities	Benchtops	Toilet		Sinks/tubs	
External																
Roof																
Outdoor Cooking																

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Balcony / Verandah														
Living / Family														
Kitchen														
Hall														
Bathroom1														
Bathroom2														
WC1														
WC2														
Bedroom1														
Bedroom2														
Bedroom3														
Bedroom4														
Laundry														
*														

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Communicated (tick)	✓
Phoned Shire/Service Providers	
Personal Contact with Shire/Service Providers	
Written advice (Purchase order book request)	
Emailed details to Shire/Service Providers	

Further Notes or Comments

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ATTACHMENT B

Property handover form

On behalf of Housing Services, I hereby accept the property outlined below from the Builder / Project Manager / Alliance Member I have inspected the property and am satisfied that all work has been completed and the property will be suitable for tenancy.

Project No:

Description of works :

Community ID:

Community Lot ID No:

Practical Completion Date:

Defect Liability Period:

Builder / Project Manager / Alliance Member:

No. of Bedrooms NBED 1 2 3 4 5

Region: D E K T S

AIS Data Capture:

Dwelling Category:

RDWCT	- Public Housing	RNORM
	- Short term / Temp	RSHOR
	- Special housing	RSPEC

Dwelling Style:

RDWSY	- Elevated	EL
	- Ground level	GL
	- Use for flat / Unit / Duplex / Townhse etc	FT
	- Split level	SL

Dwelling Type:

RDWSY	- Bed sitter	B/S
	- Demountable	DMT
	- Duplex / convertible	DUP
	- Flat	FLT
	- House	HSE
	- Transportable	T/S

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Property accepted by

Signature / Date

Signature / Date

FROM

Name:

Name:

Asset Management Officer

Builder / Project Manager / Alliance Member

Keys:

Item	Number of Keys
External Doors	
Sliding Doors	
Security Doors	
Windows	
Manhole	

Compliance Verification

Section 69 builders declaration stating all works have been carried out in accordance with the NT Building Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 40 compliance certificates for roof trusses, wall frames, window and door design and installations and final inspection certificates from relevant reporting and consent authorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Window and Door manufactures glazing certificate to AS 1288, AS 2047, and AS 1170.20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certification of water proofing of wet areas to AS3740-2004 and BCA 2004 Part 3.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved full set of drawings for complete scope of works.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Plumbing and Drainers Self Certification installation certificate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
An electrical installation certificate in accordance with AS 3000 and AS 3786 for smoke alarms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Termite protection certificates and house maintenance sticker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copies of all compaction test reports on fill material and roadways	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concrete test results	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declaration of solar HWS fixed in accordance	<input type="checkbox"/>

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with relevant deemed to comply	
Completed renewable energy certificates for solar and / or Heat Pump HWS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy Efficiency compliance (Nat HERS sheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full set of as “Constructed Drawings”, upon completion including as installed drawings for all services (including all incoming services), in both hard copy and an electronic DWG format / separate PDF files. Where changes have been effected the Certificate of design compliance, ensure that the changes are approved by the Building Certifier and the drawings stamped accordingly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory declaration by builder confirming Defects period and responsibility Supplier letter acknowledging builder’s practical completion date is the start of all warranty items and proof of purchase for future warranty claims.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuals, Warranties and Guarantees :	
• Oven	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Cook Top	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Range hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Smoke Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Hot Water System	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Heating System	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Air-conditioning System	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sensor Lights	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Material / Design warranty	<input type="checkbox"/>
• House Hold Manual (Alliance only)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Telephone Number if applicable:

Telephone Number	
------------------	--

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Attachment C

External	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Clothes line			
Fences			
Gates			
Gutters/ downpipes			
Yard drainage			
Erosion			
Garden Taps			
Stairs			
Hand Rail			
Balcony / Veranda	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Light switch			
Light fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Post			
Floor			
Ceiling			
Eaves lining			
Roof	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Sky light			
Whirly bird			
Living / Family	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door frame			
Door & hinges			
Screen door			
Lock and handle			
Light switch			
Light fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke Alarm			
TV Aerial / Outlet			
Sink			
Faucet / spout			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			

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Hot water temp			
Sink drainge			
Stove hot plates			
Stove controls			
Griller			
Oven			
Isolation switch			
Isolation Time			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security screens			
Escape hatch			
Kitchen	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door frame			
Door & hinges			
Screen door			
Lock and handle			
Light switch			
Light fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Exhaust fan			
Cupboards			
Cupboards hinges			
Benchtop			
Overhead storage			
Sink			
Faucet / spout			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			
Hot water temp			
Sink drainge			
Stove controls			
Griller			
Oven			
Isolation Switch			
Isolation Timer			

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Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Fly screen			
Security screen			
Escape hatch			
Laundry	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door frame			
Door & hinges			
Screen door			
Lock & handle			
Light switch			
Light category			
Ceiling / Wall fan			
Fan Switch			
Power Points			
Tub secure			
Faucet / spout			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			
Tub drainage			
Foor grade to waste			
Floor waste / grate			
W/Machine space			
WM Drainage			
WM Tap cold			
Tap hot			
WM Power Point			
Shelf			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Flyscreens			
Security screen			
Escape hatch			
Basin 1	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Basin source			
Faucet /spout			
Tap cold			

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Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			
Hot water temperature			
Drain			
Cabinet / shelf			
Basin 2	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Basin source			
Faucet /spout			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			
Hot water temperature			
Drain			
Cabinet / shelf			
Basin 3	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Basin source			
Faucet /spout			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water			
Hot water temperature			
Drain			
Cabinet / shelf			
WC 1	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Light Switch			
Light Fitting			
Exhaust Fan			
Floor grade to waste			
Floor waste / grate			
Toilet roll holder			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Fly screen			
Security screen			

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WC 2	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Light Switch			
Light Fitting			
Exhaust Fan			
Floor grade to waste			
Floor waste / grate			
Toilet roll holder			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Fly screen			
Security screen			
WC 3	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Light Switch			
Light Fitting			
Exhaust Fan			
Floor grade to waste			
Floor waste / Grate			
Toilet roll holder			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Windows			
Fly screen			
Security screen			
WC (Toilet Suite) 1	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Cistern flush			
Cistern refill cistern			
Lock & Handle			
Cistern Lid			
Toilet Pan			
Toilet Suit			
Tap			
Waste pipe			

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WC (Toilet Suite) 2	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Cistern flush			
Cistern refill cistern			
Lock & Handle			
Cistern Lid			
Toilet Pan			
Toilet Suit			
Tap			
Waste pipe			
WC (Toilet Suite) 3	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Cistern flush			
Cistern refill cistern			
Lock & Handle			
Cistern Lid			
Toilet Pan			
Toilet Suit			
Tap			
Waste pipe			
BEDROOM 1	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security Screen			
BEDROOM 2	Response Category	Cause	Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			

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Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security Screen			
BEDROOM 3	Response Category		Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security Screen			
BEDROOM 3	Response Category		Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			

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Fly screens			
Security Screen			
BEDROOM 4	Response Category		Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security Screen			
BEDROOM 5	Response Category		Description / Comment
Door Frame			
Door & Hinges			
Lock & Handle			
Wall			
Ceiling			
Floor			
Light switch			
Light Fitting			
Ceiling / wall fan			
Fan switch			
Power points			
Smoke alarm			
TV Aerial / outlet			
Windows			
Fly screens			
Security Screen			
Ablution Area 1	Response Category		Description / Comment
Shower / bath			
Shower			
Shower rose			
Bath tub			
Faucet / sport			
Tap cold			

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Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water temp			
Drain			
Soap holder			
Ablution Area 2	Response Category		Description / Comment
Shower / bath			
Shower			
Shower rose			
Bath tub			
Faucet / sport			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water temp			
Drain			
Soap holder			
Ablution Area 3	Response Category		Description / Comment
Shower / bath			
Shower			
Shower rose			
Bath tub			
Faucet / sport			
Tap cold			
Tap hot			
Cold water			
Hot water temp			
Drain			
Soap holder			

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 158

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA29

Senator Adams asked:

Can you tell me if the 12 houses that have already been completed at Warmun, Balgo and Fitzroy Crossing have been connected yet?

Answer:

On 17 March 2010, the Western Australian Government advised that all 12 houses in Warmun, Balgo and Fitzroy Crossing were connected to services.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 162

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA38

Senator Humphries asked:

Are there any benchmarks for involvement by community housing providers in any State or Territory agreements, in terms of number of dwellings delivered through this particular medium?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, jurisdictions are required to implement a robust, standardised tenancy management framework for all remote Indigenous housing, which ensures rent collection, asset protection, tenant support and governance arrangements consistent with public housing standards are in place. Under these arrangements, housing is generally either managed directly by the state or territory government, local government or a community housing provider.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 247

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in Cross-portfolio Indigenous Matters since November 2007?

Answer:

In total, thirty three reports have been commissioned by the Government in Cross-portfolio Indigenous Matters since November 2007.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs response

FaHCSIA has identified ten reports on Cross-portfolio Indigenous Matters since November 2007.⁸

Office of Evaluation and Audit response

The number of reports commissioned by the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) since November 2007 is 22.

Department of Health and Ageing

DoHA has identified one report on Cross-portfolio Indigenous matters since November 2007.⁹

⁸ The definition of a 'report' used in providing an answer to these Questions on Notice focuses on any report authorised by government, finalised, handed to government and subsequently made public. Reports produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, the Council of Australian Governments working groups and internal committees are explicitly excluded.

⁹ The term 'reports' is fairly broad and ambiguous. In answering these questions the Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted them to refer to major policy reports under the current Government. This answer excludes internal reports which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are routinely undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes report publications which are produced as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health and Ageing Portfolio.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 248-249

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

(a) How much did each report cost? (b) How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?

Answer:

Part (a)

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs response

The date commissioned, date report handed to Government, the date of public release for each report and cost is listed below. Where available, a link is provided to the Report's internet site for information on Terms of Reference and Committee members.

Title: 2009: Our Future in Our Hands: Creating a Sustainable National Representative Body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Commissioned: December 2008

Handed to Government: August 2009

Publicly Released: August 2009

Cost: \$0.092m

Additional Information:

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/Social_Justice/rebody/report2009/index.html

Title: Petrol Sniffing Strategy – Review of First Phase

Commissioned: November 2007

Handed to Government: July 2008

Publicly Released: September 2008

Cost: \$0.083m

Additional Information:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/evaluation/petrolsniffing/Pages/default.aspx>

Title: Report of the NTER Review Board

Commissioned: June 2008

Handed to Government: October 2008

Publicly Released: October 2008

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<p>Cost: \$2.600m Additional Information: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/final_report_2008/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: Voices from the Campfires: Establishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Commissioned: February 2008 Handed to Government: September 2008 Publicly Released: September 2008 Cost: \$0.358m Additional Information: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/healing/voices_campfire/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: Cape York Welfare Reform Trial Framework and Program Theory For The Evaluation Commissioned: 2nd Half 2008 Handed to Government: March 2009 Publicly Released: May 2009 Cost: \$80,848 Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/evaluation/cape_york_welfare_reform_trial/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: NTER June 2008 Monitoring Report Commissioned: N/A Handed to Government: N/A Publicly Released: 10 February 2009 Cost: \$N/A Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: NTER December 2008 Monitoring report Commissioned: N/A Handed to Government: N/A Publicly Released: 10 June 2009 Cost: \$N/A Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: NTER June 2009 Monitoring Report Commissioned: N/A Handed to Government: N/A Publicly Released: 2 November 2009 Cost: \$N/A Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Title: NTER Government Business Manager's Survey 2008 Commissioned: August 2008 Handed to Government: N/A Publicly Released: October 2009 Cost: \$35,000 Additional Information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/Pages/default.aspx</p>

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<p>Title: MCATSIA: Indigenous Participation in Regional Labour Markets, 2001-06. Biddle, N. , Taylor, J. , Yap, M. Commissioned: 16 August 2007 Handed to Government: 2008 Publicly Released: 22 February 2009 Cost: \$1,332,870 (GST incl.) over three year term. 50% of this cost is borne by the Commonwealth, 50% by the States and Territories. Additional Information: http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/publications.php</p>
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Office of Evaluation and Audit response

Following the transfer of the functions of the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), the Office of Evaluation and Audit's reports are now available on the ANAO website.

The objective of each completed Evaluation and Audit can be found on the Australian National Audit Office internet site:

<http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/Indigenousprogramsreports.cfm>

<p>Title: English as a Second Language - Indigenous Language Speaking Students Commissioned: 4 December 2007 Handed to Government: 15 October 2008 Publicly Released: 27 February 2009 Cost: \$44,508</p>
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<p>Title: Audit of the Northern Land Council Commissioned: 1 April 2008 Handed to Government: 18 December 2008 Publicly Released: 24 June 2009 Cost: \$68,983</p>
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<p>Title: Performance Audit of Residential Aged Care for Indigenous Australians Commissioned: 16 April 2008 Handed to Government: 25 September 2009 Publicly Released: 27 November 2009 Cost: \$89,741</p>

<p>Title: Evaluation of the Capacity Development Program of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) Commissioned: 5 May 2008 Handed to Government: 21 August 2009 Publicly Released: 18 November 2009 Cost: \$124,319</p>
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<p>Title: Evaluation of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program Commissioned: 20 May 2008 Handed to Government: 30 November 2009 Publicly Released: 11 March 2010 Cost: \$316,364</p>
<p>Title: Evaluation of Primary Health Care Funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Commissioned: 28 May 2008 Handed to Government: 21 August 2009 Publicly Released: 27 November 2009 Cost: \$310,672</p>
<p>Title: Performance Audit of Money Management Service Strategies Commissioned: 8 June 2008 Handed to Government: 16 July 2009 Publicly Released: 11 November 2009 Cost: \$51,785</p>
<p>Title: Performance Audit of Indigenous Community Volunteers Commissioned: 16 June 2008 Handed to Government: 11 May 2009 Publicly Released: 18 November 2009 Cost: \$63,028</p>
<p>Title: Performance Audit of Indigenous Professional Support Units Commissioned: 25 June 2008 Handed to Government: 9 April 2009 Publicly Released: 26 August 2009 Cost: \$50,700</p>
<p>Title: Performance Audit of the Sporting Chance Program Commissioned: 26 June 2008 Handed to Government: 31 July 2009 Publicly Released: 16 October 2009 Cost: \$56,016</p>
<p>Title: Evaluation of the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program Commissioned: 17 July 2008 Handed to Government: 12 May 2009 Publicly Released: 26 August 2009 Cost: \$70,812</p>
<p>Title: Performance Audit of the School Nutrition Program Commissioned: 22 August 2008 Handed to Government: 25 June 2009 Publicly Released: 25 September 2009</p>

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Cost: \$58,018
Title: Performance Audit of the Indigenous Heritage Program Commissioned: 28 January 2009 Handed to Government: 14 December 2009 Publicly Released: 11 March 2010 Cost: \$47,144
Title: Evaluation of the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program Commissioned: 24 Feb 2009 Handed to Government: 11 Dec 2009 Publicly Released: 11 Mar 2010 Cost: \$16,049
Title: Performance Audit of the International Repatriation Program Commissioned: 24 March 2009 Handed to Government: 27 November 2009 Publicly Released: 19 March 2009 Cost: \$68,681
Title: Performance Audit of the Indigenous Leadership Program Commissioned: 1 May 2009 Handed to Government: 11 December 2009 Publicly Released: 19 March 2009 Cost: \$73,070
Title: Performance Audit of the Government Business Managers Initiative (NTER) Commissioned: 11 June 2009 Handed to Government: In progress Publicly Released: N/A Cost: In progress
Title: Performance Audit of the Fixing Houses for Better Health Program Commissioned: 1 September 2009 Handed to Government: In progress Publicly Released: N/A Cost: In progress
Title: Performance Audit of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Management Commissioned: 22 September 2009 Handed to Government: 14 December 2009 Publicly Released: 11 March 2010 Cost: Nil
Title: Performance Audit of Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services and Crèches Commissioned: 20 October 2009 Handed to Government: In progress Publicly Released: N/A

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Cost: In progress

Title: Performance Audit of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program
Commissioned: 18 November 2009
Handed to Government: In progress
Publicly Released: N/A
Cost: In progress

Department of Health and Ageing response

Title: The Pathways into the health workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: A Blueprint for Action
Commissioned: N/A
Handed to Government: 2008
Publicly Released: 10 July 2008
Cost: \$198,267
Additional information: A copy of the report is available at the following web address:
www.aida.org.au/pdf/pathways.pdf
Terms of Reference: See www.aida.org.au/pdf/pathways.pdf
Committee members: Working Group members:
Dr Mark Wenitong (Chair), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council (NATSIHC)
Ms Clare Anderson, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Mr Peter Boyce, Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
Associate Professor Jacinta Elston, NATSIHC
Associate Professor Gail Garvey, NATSIHC
Dr Sally Goold, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses
Ms Jill Milroy, Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Committee
Dr Caroline Perkins, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Mr Graeme Rossiter, Department of Health and Ageing

Part (b)

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs response

FaHCSIA does not separately identify the costs and number of staff supporting reports in its finance system. A significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and calculate the total number and level of departmental staff involved in each of these reports. Consequently, FaHCSIA is unable to provide a response to this question.

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Office of Evaluation and Audit response

The Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) did not maintain data on staff costs or the number and level of staff involved in each report at the level of individual reports.

Department of Health and Ageing response

1.5 ASL

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 250

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs response

All reports listed in Questions on Notice 248-249 are complete. The Government will respond in accordance with its responsibilities in relation to all completed reports.

Office of Evaluation and Audit response

With exception to the four reports in progress at 22 March 2010, the reports listed in the answer to question 248 are finalised. Agency responses to draft reports were incorporated into the final reports prior to public release.

Department of Health and Ageing response

The Pathways into the health workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: A Blueprint for Action was completed on 10 July 2008 and is currently being implemented by the National Indigenous Health Equity Council. The Government responded to this report on 10 July 2008.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 269

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Answer:

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing
Notional 10 Year Funding Allocation by Jurisdiction

NSW \$m	QLD \$m	VIC \$m	WA \$m	SA \$m	TAS \$m	NT \$m	Total \$m
396.828	1,155.997	30.350	1,181.386	291.494	27.966	1,701.890	4,785.911¹

- 1 Plus Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditure amount of \$698.51 million brings the total appropriation to \$5.5 billion

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 130

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

What are the target numbers and target periods for each state and territory for the construction of new houses under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing?

Answer:

By 30 June 2010, jurisdictions are required to deliver the following targets under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

State	New Construction by 30 June 2010
NSW	50
Queensland	65
South Australia	44
Western Australia	75
Tasmania	2
Northern Territory	69
Total	305*

* As outlined in the 2009-10 Portfolio Budget Statement the total number of new houses to be delivered by 30 June 2010 is 320, which includes a further 15 houses that are being delivered in addition to the National Partnership Agreement targets.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 132

Topic: SIHIP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

The Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program – Review of Program Performance released by the minister on 31 Aug 2009 described the revised SIHIP funding and scope of work. P14 of the report states:

The announcement listed 16 high need communities in which major works would occur. An additional 57 communities were identified to receive refurbishment work. Additional funding was allocated for construction work in a number of town camps.

Are the 16 high need communities and the additional 57 communities as listed at attachment A of the report the location for all SIHIP activities?

Answer:

Works under SIHIP will be carried out in all the communities listed at Attachment A of the SIHIP Review of Program Performance, as well as in targeted town camps in locations including Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Borroloola.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 135

Topic: SIHIP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

If the \$100 million as specified for housing in the Alice Springs town camps is has been funded from the SIHIP budget of \$672 million, how many less houses will be constructed in the 16 high need communities as a result?

Answer:

See answer to question on notice number 132.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 148

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is there funding or other support available for non priority Indigenous communities to undertake strategic/business planning to assist them in managing the change process from the old arrangements to the new arrangements?

Answer:

There is support available to communities identified as priority communities or locations to assist them to manage the change process to the new arrangements under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery (RSD NPA).

The new arrangements apply initially to the locations outlined in the RSD NP, signed by the Council of Australian Government in January 2008, and which were then specifically identified by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous, the Hon Jenny Macklin, in her speech to the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy in Perth on 21 April 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 163

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA38

Senator Humphries asked:

How many community housing providers are being utilized in these partnership programs?

Answer:

There are 59 community housing providers currently delivering property and tenancy management services in remote locations as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 215

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the Department aware of serious concerns by local people and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council of overstayers from Papua-New Guinea? What specific concerns have been raised in this regard with the Department?

Answer:

While this is not a matter for this portfolio, the Department is aware of concerns about this matter being raised by Torres Strait Islanders. This awareness has come from reports in the local media as well as from submissions to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry into matters relating to the Torres Strait. The Department is in regular contact with senior staff of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and the issue has been mentioned from time to time.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), which is the lead policy agency on the Torres Strait Treaty advises it is aware there have been overstayer problems in the past but understands that, as a result of effective outreach by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) with island communities and traditional visitors and changes to record keeping procedures, the number of traditional visitors overstaying the duration of their approved stay period has significantly reduced .

The TSRA advises that DIAC presented to the TSRA Board on 11 December 2009 and explained that improvements to record keeping procedures were implemented in July 2009. These improvements have provided DIAC with the ability to capture detailed information about Traditional Visitors including; their reasons for travel, approved duration of stay and reasons for refusal of immigration clearance. Further inquiries should be directed to DIAC.

DFAT advises that key Federal and Queensland Government agencies have been working closely with the Papua New Guinea Government to address cross-border health concerns in the Torres Strait including the spread of disease. The 2008 Australia – Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum mandated the development of a joint package of health measures aimed at measures that will strengthen health services in the Torres Strait and Western Province of Papua New Guinea and reduce the incidence and transmission of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. The Torres Strait Health Protection Strategy, to which the Australian Government has committed \$13.8 million in the 2009-10 Budget over four years, will fund the Australian components of the joint package of measures, whereas the Papua New Guinea Government has committed 5 million Kina (A\$2.5 million) in 2010 for initial work with the possibility of further funding in subsequent years. In time, this investment is expected to see a reduction in the need for Papua New Guinea nationals to access health services in the Torres Strait.

Further enquiries should be directed to the Department of Health and Ageing.

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Question No: 217

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department specifically ever spoken to the Immigration Department about the problems of overstayers and, if so, when were these discussions, and what resulted from them?

Answer:

No, but we understand that there has been communication between the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and the Department of Immigration and Customs on the issues. DIAC, TSRA and the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is the lead policy agency on the Torres Strait Treaty, would be able to provide further information.

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Question No: 220

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is there on-going liaison with the Queensland Government on Torres Strait Island issues and could you please explain?

Answer:

Staff from the Cairns Indigenous Coordination Centre, along with representatives from the TSRA, Queensland Government agencies and the three local councils, participate in all seven of the newly formed Regional Plan Working Groups, established to deliver on the Regional Plan and achieve integrated service delivery. The TSRA and the Queensland Department of Communities' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) are working closely to support and coordinate the Regional Plan Working Groups.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises that Queensland is represented on the Torres Strait Treaty Inter Departmental Committee and its associated health issues and environmental management committees as well as the Joint Advisory Committee.

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Question No: 222

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How much Commonwealth money has been allocated by financial year over the past ten years to both infrastructure and services?

Answer:

In terms of this portfolio, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has provided advice on the level of expenditure for its global budget and the specific allocations to the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) over this period (refer table below). Note that the MIP figures represent half of the MIP total as the program is jointly funded with Queensland. Further, the 'Ex-MIP' figures cover a range of items, including grants made to local organisations (Councils, non-government/community groups) to deliver services; other TSRA programs and TSRA activities (including advocacy, representation); TSRA ongoing operational costs etc.

A number of other Commonwealth Departments have a presence in the region (for example, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC); Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACS); Australian Federal Police (AFP); Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS); Department of Defence (DoD); Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)). These departments and agencies may also have allocated funds to infrastructure and services.

TSRA Expenditure - Ten Years 1999/2000 -2008/2009

Year	Total Exp. \$'000	MIP \$'000	Ex-MIP \$'000
1999/2000	41,055	5,050	36,005
2000/2001	45,293	6,550	38,743
2001/2002	46,883	5,000	41,883
2002/2003	47,307	5,000	42,307
2003/2004	50,805	5,000	45,805
2004/2005	53,250	5,600	47,650
2005/2006	56,989	5,400	51,589
2006/2007	58,302	5,500	52,802
2007/2008	72,919	14,000	58,919
2008/2009	70,645	15,279	55,366
	543,448	72,379	471,069

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Question No: 267

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA41

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide information about what sorts of recommendations are actually being made through that advisory committee?

Answer:

The National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing provides advice direct to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on a range of issues, including:

- Implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, including the Northern Territory Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP);
- the need for accurate baseline data to enable achievements in the provision of housing to be measured;
- land tenure;
- property and tenancy management;
- employment outcomes;
- home ownership; and
- community housing.

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Question No: 131

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

How many houses to date have been built and finished by each state or territory through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing?

Answer:

As at 28 April 2010, 30 new houses had been completed including 3 in Queensland, 4 in South Australia, 12 in Western Australia and 7 in the Northern Territory. Four houses have been provided in NSW through acquisition activity.

In addition, there are 295 houses under construction or being acquired: 67 in Queensland, 40 in South Australia, 61 in Western Australia, 79 in the Northern Territory, 2 in Tasmania and 46 houses are being acquired in NSW.

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Question No: 133

Topic: SIHIP – Revised budget for new houses, rebuilds and refurbishments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Attachment B of the report details the revised SIHIP budget. Is it correct that \$627 million as broken down is for housing construction and maintenance in the 16 high need communities and the additional 57 communities as listed in the report?

Answer:

The Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) will deliver 750 new houses, 230 rebuilds and 2,500 refurbishments in 73 Indigenous communities and targeted town camps across the Northern Territory by 2013. The \$672 million SIHIP program was subsumed into the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Indigenous Housing when the NPA was signed in November 2008. The \$672 million included commitments to deliver SIHIP works in 73 communities and town camps. Works will be carried out in the communities listed at Attachment A of the SIHIP review, as well as in targeted town camps in locations including Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Borroloola.

Maintenance costs for housing in these communities and town camps will be funded from the allocation for property and tenancy management in the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 134

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

What additional funding allocated for construction work in a number of town camps as described on p14 of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program – Review of Program Performance?

Answer:

The description of funding arrangements for SIHIP on page 14 of the *Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program – Review of Program Performance*, lists the funding commitments that pre-date but which eventually made up the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program. These commitments included funds earmarked for the town camps. No specific additional funding was committed to the town camps other than \$6.5 million announced for Tennant Creek in October 2008.

Since its inception the \$672 million Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) has included funding for works in major communities (construction of new, rebuilt and refurbished houses), funding for works in refurbishment communities and funding for works in targeted town camps.

The program will deliver 750 new houses, 230 rebuilds and 2,500 refurbishments by 2013. The 2009 SIHIP Review of Program Performance determined that housing (and program management) costs would be met from within the \$672 million SIHIP funds and that essential services infrastructure would be sourced initially from the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing and Northern Territory Government Programs.

To date, \$137.5 million has been allocated for construction work to improve housing and infrastructure in town camps in Alice Springs (\$100 million) and Tennant Creek (\$37.5 million). In line with the SIHIP Review these funds are being sourced from both SIHIP and the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 165

Topic: Indigenous homelessness

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide information, based on the most recent set of figures, on the incidence of Indigenous homelessness in remote and very remote areas?

Answer:

The following table provides the most recent Indigenous homelessness figures, for remote and very remote classifications, from the AIHW *Counting the Homeless 2006: State and Territory* reports released in July 2009.

Distribution of Indigenous homeless people by remote/very remote classifications

State	Remote & Very Remote
NSW	186
VIC	0
QLD	615
SA	348
WA	549
NT	968
ACT	0
Tas	21
Total	2,687

The figures presented in the above table from the Counting the Homeless 2006 report, while the best available information, may have undercounted Indigenous homelessness as noted by the authors. Issues of census undercount, identification through the cultural definition of homelessness, and Indigenous mobility on census night suggest actual homelessness to be higher than that reported.

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Question No: 216

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Have law and order concerns been raised regarding the running of sly grog, drugs and other contraband, major theft and the assault and abduction of Torres Strait Islander women by PNG nationals among others?

Answer:

These issues have not been raised with the Department.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises that it is aware of reports suggesting that Papua New Guinea nationals have been running drugs, terrorising people and pursuing other undesirable activities. It also advises that these reports are overstated and the reality is that the incidence of cross-border criminality is low. Further enquiries should be directed to the Australian Federal Police.

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Question No: 218

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department been made aware of similar expressions of concern by the Torres Strait Islander people and/or the Torres Strait Regional Council to other Commonwealth Departments and agencies and, if so, what have been those concerns and what action has been taken?

Answer:

We understand that there has been communication between the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and the Department of Immigration and Customs (DIAC) on these issues. The TSRA and DIAC could provide further details.

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Question No: 219

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What Commonwealth Departments and agencies does the Department work with in addressing problems in the Torres Strait?

Answer:

Issues related to the Torres Strait Treaty are dealt with in a specific Inter Departmental Committee (IDC) convened by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Membership of the IDC covers a number of departments and agencies. The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is an independent statutory authority within the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio and funded to deliver and monitor Commonwealth Indigenous specific programs in the Torres Strait. The TSRA liaises directly with agencies with a presence in the region.

On issues requiring liaison with agencies in Canberra, this Department assists the TSRA by identifying contacts in the relevant agency, depending on the issue in question.

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Question No: 221

Topic: Torres Strait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the Torres Strait Island Regional Council included automatically in any decision making on matters affecting the area and, if not, why not?

Answer:

The following answer has been prepared in consultation with the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

This is largely a matter for the Queensland Government. However, the TSRA liaises closely with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in terms of its strategic planning and administration and delivery of the Major Infrastructure Program, as well as CDEP reform.

The Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council is a co-signatory of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029* (Regional Plan) along with the Mayors of the Torres Shire Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and the Chair of the TSRA. The Regional Plan was jointly developed by TSRA and the three councils and involved consultations with all Torres Strait communities in 2008. It is proposed that all four signatories to the Regional Plan be core members of a Regional Plan Steering Committee which would oversee Regional Plan Working Groups established to deliver on the Regional Plan and achieve integrated service delivery across all levels of government.

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Question No: 154

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA21-22

Senator Humphries asked:

Are the 'significant upgrades' of the same nature as the repairs and maintenance program under the stimulus spending package?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) 'significant upgrades' of remote Indigenous dwellings are being undertaken through the agreed 'refurbishments' program with States and the Northern Territory. The refurbishments program undertakes major repair work that would not normally be undertaken as part of cyclical repairs and maintenance. The scope of works under the program primarily addresses essential works required and restores functionality to houses in remote areas of Australia so that they become or remain tenable.

The Social Housing Initiative under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan is funding the construction of some 19,300 new dwellings and the repair and maintenance of approximately 70,000 existing social housing dwellings across Australia. The repair and maintenance element targets the entire range of works from refurbishment activity where untenable houses or houses that would soon become untenable are made tenable (returned to housing stock), to more modest work involving more basic repairs. Repairs and maintenance under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan has been targeted at those dwellings State and Territory Governments identified as the highest priority.

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Question No: 157

Topic: SIHIP – Ali Curung

Hansard Page: CA29

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide an updated report on the responses to those particular refurbishments in Ali Curung, which were subject to complaint from the Barkly Shire?

Answer:

As at 10 May 2010 all 39 refurbished houses completed by the Alliance have been handed over the Northern Territory Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS) and all are tenanted.

This occurs after Northern Territory Government Asset Management Officers confirm that all work that should have been done on the house has been completed and certify that refurbished houses meet appropriate standards. However, in some instances houses are handed over where scheduled works have not been completed because specialist trades or materials are not immediately available. This only occurs where there is no health or safety risk for tenants and where not handing houses over and moving tenants back in would halt refurbishment works in the community and result in delays and additional costs. Asset Management Officers monitor the progress with addressing this work and the Alliance Partner is required to complete any outstanding items before leaving the community.

In the case of Ali Curung, lockable stainless steel food storage cupboards will continue to be installed in all remaining houses with no existing kitchen food storage areas over the coming weeks. These robust cupboards were previously not available from any supplier and there was some delay while they were manufactured. A glazier has been working in the community since March 2010 repairing or replacing windows and/or flyscreens. There is a chronic shortage of glaziers available to work in remote communities in central Australia.

This follows directions made in March 2010 by senior members of the SIHIP team that food storage cupboards be fitted and additional work undertaken on windows in a number of houses in Ali Curung.

All faults identified in completed houses by DHLGRS Asset Management Officers, have been or will be rectified by the Alliance. This includes a number of the matters raised by the Barkly Shire.

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Question No: 273

Topic: National partnership agreement on remote indigenous housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Why is the Government renegotiating this agreement? What have been the key problems identified?

Answer:

The Council of Australian Governments agreed to the renegotiation in December last year in response to concerns about slow progress on capital works activity across jurisdictions. The new agreement has a stronger performance focus that provides incentives for jurisdictions to deliver on targets. From 1 July this year, future capital works funding will be allocated through a competitive bid process. The Commonwealth will be able to reallocate up to 25 per cent of capital works funding between jurisdictions depending on the strength of the project bids, past performance and relative demonstrated need.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 271

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many homes have been built under this program as at today's date?

Answer:

As at 20 May 2010, 73 houses had been completed under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 210

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

I refer to the dismissal after less than a month in the job of the Chief Executive of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Mr John Roe and ask:
How much of the Foundation's \$26.6 million allocation over four years has been spent and on what?

Answer:

Total budget allocation for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation for 2009-10 is \$5.71m. The funding is for community projects to prevent the cycle of trauma continuing in Indigenous communities such as violence and alcohol and drug addiction, with a particular focus on the needs of Stolen Generations members. It covers some research and evaluation of best practice programs. The allocation also covers consultations with Indigenous people on the design and functions of the Foundation, and establishment costs including incorporation, recruitment and staff.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 211

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What did Mr Roe use his corporate credit card for given that Mr Roe has confirmed to The Australian that it was nearing its \$10,000 limit after less than two weeks use?

Answer:

The Foundation is an independent body and all Government funding provided to the Foundation must be accounted for through normal and stringent acquittal processes specified in Funding Agreements.

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Question No: 212

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Why was Mr. Roe dismissed?

Was Mr. Roe given a payout, and if so, what was it?

Answer:

The Department was advised by the Chair of the Board, Ms Florence Onus, that the Board had terminated the appointment of its CEO in the best interests of the Foundation.

Payment arrangements are an internal matter for the Foundation.

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Question No: 213

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What arrangements have been made to replace Mr. Roe?

Answer:

The Department understands that the Board will be advertising the vacant CEO position in the near future.

The Foundation has appointed an Interim Executive Officer pending filling of the CEO position.

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Question No: 214

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the salary and other benefits for the CEO of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation?

Answer:

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation is an independent organisation. The salary and other benefits for the CEO are internal matters for the organisation.

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Question No: 272

Topic: National partnership agreement on remote indigenous housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many Indigenous families have benefited from this program so far?

Answer:

It is not possible to accurately answer this question as families are benefiting in many ways from this program, including through employment, local economic growth, reduction in overcrowding and associated flow on effects.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 161

Topic: SIHIP Allocations

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Scullion asked:

Would we be able to have a break down, community by community, whether it is a refurbishment, either numbers or amount of money, and a notional allocation for Borroloola?

Answer:

Packages of work are allocated progressively community by community as leases are finalised and preparatory planning is completed. The refurbishment numbers can only be finally confirmed after detailed house-by-house scoping has occurred across the package to ensure that it achieves the greatest impact on each community within the package.

In relation to Borroloola town camps, lease discussions are continuing to secure appropriate tenure to support capital works.

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Question No: 270

Topic: National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

As a figure, and as a percentage, what amounts have each of the states and territories received?

Answer:

Payments made to the states and territories under National Partnerships are detailed in the Treasurer's monthly determinations which are published on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.