

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000148

Topic: National Plan - Evaluation of the Second Action Plan

Hansard page: Written

Senator Larissa Waters asked:

1. In relation to the evaluation of the Second Action Plan under the National Plan. Our understanding is that an evaluation was carried out by KPMG and it's finished and sitting on someone's desk, but it hasn't been released. Is that correct?
2. An evaluation like this will only happen four times in the 12 years of the National Plan - one for each of the Action Plans. What is the justification for not releasing the evaluation?
3. The National Plan Evaluation Plan,[2] which sets out the government's approach to evaluation for the whole 12 year National Plan was adopted in June 2014. In the Executive Summary on page 2, after outlining the evaluation methods which include these reviews of the Action Plans, the Evaluation Plan says "With these evaluation activities, governments and the community will be able to measure the effectiveness of the National Plan every three years and at the end of the National Plan's 12-year lifespan." - How can the community measure the effectiveness of the Action plan if you won't release the evaluation?
4. If sensitivity is an issue, can the Department simply withhold any particularly sensitive parts?
5. When the Department commissioned KPMG to conduct the evaluation, did you tell them that you were planning to keep it secret?
6. Could that explain why there might be sensitive material in the evaluation?

Answer:

1. The Evaluation Report was published on the Department's website on Monday 3 April 2017. The delay in publication was originally due to the extended Caretaker period. Subsequently, jurisdictions requested the opportunity to provide information on activities undertaken in the second half of 2016. The collation and incorporation of this additional information has taken some time.
2. See 1.
3. See 1.
4. The Evaluation Report was published in full.
5. No. See 1.
6. See 4.