

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

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness

Question No: SQ17-000233

Topic: National Affordable Housing Agreement - Special Purpose Payment

Hansard page: Written

Senator Doug Cameron asked:

In relation to State and Territory expenditure of funds provided under the Housing special Purpose Payment:

1. What amount of each State and Territory expenditure is expended on homelessness services?
2. What amount of expenditure on homelessness services, crisis accommodation and family and domestic violence support is capital expenditure and what amount is operational expenditure?
3. What amount of each State and Territory expenditure is expended on social housing including supported accommodation?
4. What amount of social housing expenditure is capital expenditure and what amount is operational expenditure?
5. Has the Department provided advice to government on shortcomings in relation to reporting and/or accountability by the States and Territories in relation to the Housing special Purpose Payment?
6. If so, who requested the advice and when was it provided?

Answer:

1. States have full budget flexibility to allocate National Affordable Housing Specific Purpose Payment (NAHSPP) funds. There are no conditions on this funding except that it is spent on housing services. States are not required to directly report against the outcomes in the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), and therefore do not provide information on expenditure on homelessness services.
2. States have full budget flexibility to allocate NAHSPP funds. There are no conditions on this funding except that it is spent on housing services. States are not required to directly report against the outcomes in the NAHA, and therefore do not provide information on expenditure on homelessness services, crisis accommodation and family and domestic violence support including what is capital expenditure and what amount is operational expenditure.
3. States have full budget flexibility to allocate NAHSPP funds. There are no conditions on this funding except that it is spent on housing services. States are not required to directly report against the outcomes in the NAHA, and therefore do not provide information on expenditure on social housing or supported accommodation.

4. States have full budget flexibility to allocate NAHSPP funds. There are no conditions on this funding except that it is spent on housing services. States are not required to directly report against the outcomes in the NAHA, and therefore do not provide information on social housing capital or operational expenditure.

5. The Department has provided advice on shortcomings in relation to reporting and accountability of the NAHSPP.

6. This advice has been requested by various ministers on different occasions.