

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: SQ17-000239

Topic: Strengthening Communities Redesign

Hansard page: Written

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - can you provide us with details of the key concerns and issues raised by organisations in the consultation process? How are you documenting these concerns?

Answer:

The Department will publish a formal response to the key issues raised on its website prior to the announcement of grants rounds under the Strong and Resilient Communities grants program.

A list of the key comments, including the key concerns and issues raised, are included in the table below.

No.	Key comments
1.	Organisations are generally pleased that the Strong and Resilient Communities grants program (SARC) will take a broader focus to addressing issues relating to social cohesion.
2.	Some organisations are concerned about the competitive nature of the grants process.
3.	Many organisations are pleased and are enthusiastic about the longer length of funding, and new opportunities for funding, under SARC.
4.	A number of organisations currently funded under the Volunteer Management Program are concerned about the loss of a dedicated funding pool for volunteer support services.

The Department, where possible, has used input to inform the upcoming grants processes.