

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: SQ17-000243

Topic: Strengthening Communities Redesign

Hansard page: Written

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - can you please outline the steps of the consultation process?

Answer:

- In January 2017, the Department:
 - established a dedicated phone line and email box.
 - wrote to all currently funded organisations under the Strengthening Communities Activity (excluding Volunteer Grants providers) in relation to the redesign.
 - invited organisations who received a six-month funding extension to face to face consultation sessions.
- In February 2017, the Department:
 - provided a copy of the Strong and Resilient Communities grants program information paper to all currently funded organisations under the Strengthening Communities Activity.
 - commenced face to face and teleconference information sessions across six Australian capital cities.
- In March 2017, the Department:
 - published information on its website about the redesign.
 - reminded all organisations currently funded under the Strengthening Communities Activity of the deadline to provide input.
 - completed face to face and teleconference information sessions across six Australian capital cities.

Consultation with currently funded organisations, including the window for formal input, formally concluded at the close of business on Friday 17 March 2017.

The input provided both verbally and in writing by the organisations who took part in the consultation process is currently under consideration by the Department.