

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

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: SQ17-000244

Topic: Constitutional Powers & Grants

Hansard page: Written

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

What advice or briefings in relation to the Commonwealth's power to make community grants have been provided since 1 July 2016 to the: Minister for Social Services or staff; Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs or staff; Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services?

Answer:

The Department advises Ministers on legislative authority and constitutional risk in all Ministerial briefings regarding grants spending as a matter of course. Providing this advice is in line with the requirements of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Department is unable to provide specific details of these briefings as doing so would reveal the content of legal advice.