

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ16-000300**

**Topic: Multicultural & Settlement Policy**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Jacinta Collins asked:**

1. What is the budget for multicultural policy and programs?
2. What is the breakdown of programs?
3. Is the budget for these programs increasing or decreasing? By how much? Can the department provide a budget for programs for the previous 5 years and the forward estimates?
4. How much has been spent in current programs and how much is remaining in programs and in the overall budget?
5. Who are grants targeted towards?
  - a. How many are targeted to individuals
  - b. How many are targeted to groups
  - c. How many are targeted to activities.
6. How many communities (ethnicities) are engaged in government programs.
7. Can the Minister provide the Committee with information on all current grant programs including:
  - a. When it (the program) was initiated
  - b. How it was designed
  - c. What consultation has occurred regarding the program development
  - d. What it replaced (if anything)
  - e. How many applications and inquiries it receives
  - f. How many grants are provided
  - g. How grants are assessed
  - h. How the programs are reviewed
8. What administration of programs is required? What contractual arrangements are made?
9. How many staff are involved in grants management?
10. Is this number increasing or decreasing?

**Answer:**

1. Over the next four years, the Government will allocate about \$935 million through the *Civil Society, Settlement Services* and *Strengthening Communities* programs which will support multicultural affairs, assisting migrants to settle, improving social cohesion, countering extremism and assisting young people at risk.

This includes around \$8 million in Diversity and Social Cohesion and Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants over four years.

The Department of Social Services administers a number of programs which support communities, families, children and vulnerable people that are also open to people from multicultural backgrounds.

For multicultural specific programs (listed in question 2. below) the administered Budget is for \$2.371 million in 2016-17.

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2. A breakdown of programs is in the following table.

| <b>Program</b>  | <b>2016-17 Funding<br/>(\$ m)</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Diversity and Social Cohesion (DSC)                           | 1.810                             |
| Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants (MAFG)                | 0.125                             |
| Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) | 0.436                             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>2.371</b>                      |

3. The summary table below indicates that the budget for the programs remains constant.

| <b>Program</b> | <b>2014-15<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>2015-16<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>2016-17<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>2017-18<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>2018-19<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>2019-20<br/>(\$ m)</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>DSC</b>     | 1.824                     | 1.828                     | 1.810                     | 1.770                     | 1.770                     | 1.806                     |
| <b>MAFG</b>    | 0.125                     | 0.125                     | 0.125                     | 0.125                     | 0.125                     | 0.125                     |
| <b>FECCA</b>   | 0.442                     | 0.442                     | 0.436                     | 0.426                     | 0.427                     | 0.436                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | 2.391                     | 2.395                     | 2.371                     | 2.321                     | 2.322                     | 2.367                     |

4. A Multicultural Affairs 2016-17 Funding Summary as at 20 October 2016 is below.

| <b>Program</b> | <b>Budget<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>Committed<br/>(\$ m)</b> | <b>Unallocated<br/>(\$ m)</b> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>DSC</b>     | 1.810                    | 1.430                       | 0.380                         |
| <b>MAFG</b>    | 0.125                    | 0.125                       | 0                             |
| <b>FECCA</b>   | 0.436                    | 0.436                       | 0                             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | 2.371                    | 1.991                       | 0.380                         |

5. (a-c) In line with the Government's emphasis on achieving outcomes, these grants are targeted towards activities rather than individuals or groups.

6. While there are a broad range of ethnic communities participating in these programs, the Department does not collect data on the ethnicity of program participants. However, the Government prioritises communities considered to be higher need / at-risk, and with lower levels of social cohesion.

7. (a-d) DSC was moved to DSS as part of Machinery of Government changes following the 2013 election.

MAFG was moved to DSS as part of Machinery of Government changes following the 2013 election.

As the programs were part of a separate suite of programs administered by other agencies up until 2013, the Department is not able to provide information on the design process and consultations undertaken in relation to the implementation of the programs.

e. In the most recent DSC funding round (2014-15), 350 applications were received. In the most recent MAFG funding round (2016-17), 190 applications were received.

f. In the most recent DSC funding round (2014-15), 23 grants were provided. In the most recent MAFG funding round (2016-17), 33 grants were provided.

g. DSC and MAFG grants are assessed through a competitive open selection process.

h. Service providers provide specific performance information which is used by the department to ensure services are delivered in accordance with the funding agreement.

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8. Organisations receiving multicultural affairs grants are funded under the Department's suite of funding agreements which include:

- the DSS Streamlined agreement. This is the standard agreement used by the Department to minimise red tape on providers and provide necessary accountability for the Government; and
- the letter of offer. The Letter of Offer is used for low risk, one-off, single year grants such as MAFG.

9. DSS does not attribute departmental appropriations, nor Average Staffing Levels, to programs or program components.

10. See answer to question 9.