

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

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs**

**Question No: SQ16-000371**

**Topic: Grants**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Louise Pratt** asked:

Has the department conducted any analysis as to the impact of these cuts on the community sector and service provision? If so, what was the outcome of that analysis? What has been done to address issues raised in that analysis?

**Answer:**

Following the 2014 grants process the Department undertook an analysis to identify where service gaps had emerged as a result of withdrawal of funding to a particular geographic location, or where there were no like services to refer existing clients.

Through this analysis the Department identified service gaps which resulted from key service providers in particular regions being unsuccessful in the 2014 grants process. Those service providers either:

- operated in a location not ranked high enough on a priority list of locational need,
- had a service model which was not well aligned with the new policy settings,
- had a service model that did not provide the best value for money when compared with other services within the same activity, or
- did not apply for funding through the 2014 grants rounds.

In 2015, the Department offered around \$48 million over two years (until 30 June 2017) to around 150 frontline organisations to address service gaps that emerged due to a withdrawal of funding to a geographic location, or where there were no like services to refer existing clients.