

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Program 1.6

Question No. 69

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Regarding the Bsafe Program funded under the National Community Crime Prevention Program and administered by the Attorney-General's Department:

- a) Do you accept that the 3 year pilot Bsafe program that was funded by a grant was a highly successful program that directly reduced the risk of DV for victims in that regional community?
- b) By not funding the continuation of the Bsafe program aren't you failing on the key objective of the national plan?
- c) Is it not the job of government to be responsive enough to continue such an effective program?
- d) Why does not Bsafe qualify as a strategic program under the 2010-2012: National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their children (COAG)?
- e) Is it being considered for the second action plan (2013-2016)?
- f) Is Bsafe being considered at any stage as part of the "Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021" as a national DV initiative?
- g) Did you make any assessment of the benefits of the Bsafe project in economic terms, for example a 2009 KPMG study estimates 750, 000 Australian women will experience and report violence in 2021-22, costing the Australian economy an estimated \$15.6 billion?
- h) When my office contacts the Attorney General's in Feb 2012 (via Jason Clare's office) we were told you would look into it. What if anything has been done to evaluate further funding to the pilot Bsafe program or expand it to other regional areas?
- i) Will you do a review of what costs were avoided via the \$125, 000 per year funding of the Bsafe pilot, in terms of the predicted costs of domestic violence in that region?
- j) Once Bsafe demonstrated success, why was it not taken up by AGs?
- k) Did you work with other jurisdictions at a state level to see if Bsafe could be jointly funded by federal and state government?
- l) Considering Bsafe is not receiving ongoing funding, what other programs have taken priority to address the domestic violence risk in regional areas?
- m) Have you looked into the savings for women who were able to stay in their homes as a result of the Bsafe program?
- n) What assessment have you done of the program?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) – n)

Women's Health Goulburn North East received non-recurrent funding of \$230,420 for the B Safe project under the National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP) in 2007 to undertake a pilot program. The project was successfully completed in accordance with its Funding Agreement in early 2011.

It was a requirement of the NCCPP that all projects were evaluated. The B-Safe NCCPP project was internally evaluated by Women's Health Goulburn North East. The Department does not undertake evaluations of individual projects.

In its application for the non-recurrent NCCPP funding, Women's Health Goulburn North East was required to demonstrate that the project had an appropriate exit strategy. The application stated that on-going funding would be sought from the Victorian Government.

The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2012-2022 creates the basis for how governments will work together at national level. It identifies a range of actions which governments will implement, taking account of priorities and circumstances within their jurisdiction, as well as a number of actions that will benefit from a national focus. Under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2012-2022, states and territories are responsible for service delivery at the local level.

The "Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021" was a report to Government which informed the development of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.