

**Community Affairs
Legislation Committee**

Examination of Additional Estimates 2004-2005

Additional Information Received

VOLUME 2

**FaCS Output Groups: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4,
2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

MAY 2005

Note: Where published reports, etc. have been provided in response to questions, they have not been included in the Additional Information volume in order to conserve resources.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2004-2005

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on 16 February 2005

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Payments

Question No: T1

Topic: FTB Reconciliation Outcomes

Hansard Page:

Senator Evans asked:

Answer:

FTB Reconciliation Outcomes

2003-04	Quarter data at end of:	1st Sep-04	2nd Dec-04			
Top-Up	Number	996,639	1,512,203			
	%	91%	88%			
	Total Amount	\$1,245m	\$2,022m			
	Average Amount	\$1,249	\$1,337			
Overpayment	Number	67,800	144,066			
	%	6%	8%			
	Total Amount	\$65m	\$151m			
	Average Amount	\$966	\$1,045			
Nil Change	Number	25,634	69,477			
	%	2%	4%			
Total	Number	1,090,073	1,725,746			

2002-03	Quarter data at end of:	1st Sep-03	2nd Dec-03	3rd Mar-04	4th Jun-04	6th Dec-04
Top-Up	Number	267,849	435,448	478,366	552,912	601,617
	%	29	28	28	28	28
	Total Amount	\$171m	\$342m	\$406m	\$500m	\$568m
	Average Amount	\$638	\$785	\$848	\$905	\$943
Overpayment	Number	231,222	424,593	469,904	560,633	610,831
	%	25	28	28	28	28
	Total Amount	\$154m	\$327m	\$382m	\$483m	\$541m
	Average Amount	\$668	\$770	\$814	\$861	\$885
Nil Change	Number	423,008	672,829	748,364	854,498	939,085
	%	46	44	44	43	44
Total	Number	922,079	1,532,870	1,696,634	1,968,043	2,151,533

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2001-02		Quarter	2nd	4th	6th	8th	10th
		data at end of:	Dec-02	Jun-03	Dec-03	Jun-04	Dec-04
Top-Up	Number		390,582	509,283	532,689	559,498	562,804
	%		25	26	26	26	26
	Total Amount		\$289m	\$439m	\$472m	\$508m	\$514m
	Average Amount		\$740	\$860	\$886	\$908	\$913
Overpayment	Number		492,966	643,524	679,221	698,452	703,891
	%		32	33	33	32	33
	Total Amount		\$396m	\$573m	\$620m	\$639m	\$647m
	Average Amount		\$803	\$890	\$913	\$915	\$920
Nil Change	Number		658,582	819,679	875,533	934,700	866,254
	%		43	42	42	43	41
Total	Number		1,542,130	1,972,486	2,087,443	2,192,650	2,132,949

2000-01		Quarter	2nd	4th	6th	8th	10th	12th
		data at end of:	Dec-01	Jun-02	Dec-02	Jun-03	Dec-03	Jun-04
Top-Up	Number		333,487	451,436	477,034	477,912	486,686	489,014
	%		23	24	22	22	22	22
	Total Amount		\$249m	\$403m	\$436m	\$438m	\$445m	\$447m
	Average Amount		\$746	\$892	\$915	\$917	\$913	\$914
Overpayment	Number		514,929	666,772	722,037	732,577	737,463	740,050
	%		36	35	33	34	33	33
	Total Amount		\$403m	\$577m	\$638m	\$650m	\$653m	\$657m
	Average Amount		\$782	\$865	\$884	\$887	\$886	\$887
Nil Change	Number		600,411	795,438	966,487	965,272	982,435	991,746
	%		41	42	45	44	45	45
Total	Number		1,448,827	1,913,646	2,165,558	2,175,761	2,206,584	2,220,810

Note that for data in financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 there is a break in the series after June 2004 as a result of improvements to systems integrity. Care should be exercised in drawing comparisons.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: T17

Topic: FTB Families And The Extended Medicare Safety Net Provisions

Senator Moore asked:

FTB A eligibility for Medicare \$300 rebate can the Department reconcile?

Answer:

A family that receives an FTB Part A fortnightly payment at any time in the calendar year is covered by the lower (more generous) safety net threshold for the year, from the fortnight they receive FTB(A). The lower Medicare Safety Net threshold for FTB(A) families increased from \$300 to \$306.90 from 1 January 2005 in line with CPI increases.

If a family loses entitlement to FTB(A) during the calendar year, they are still covered under the lower safety net threshold for the whole calendar year – there will be no recovery of safety net benefits.

If FTB(A) is received as a lump sum through the tax system after the financial year, that family is eligible for safety net benefits above the lower threshold in the immediately following calendar year. Families who regularly claim FTB(A) through the tax system as a lump sum will continue to be eligible for the lower safety net threshold year after year.

Customers who elected to defer all their fortnightly FTB(A) payment in anticipation of a lump sum payment from Centrelink and did not receive a fortnightly payment in 2004 have received access to the value of the lower Medicare Safety Net threshold in that year as a result of an Act of Grace decision from the Parliamentary Secretary for Finance.

From 2005, customers who elect to defer all their fortnightly FTB(A) payment will receive access to the lower safety net threshold because the Minister for Health and Ageing has made a determination under the Health Insurance Act to ensure that these families are eligible.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: T18

Topic: FTB Child Income Cut-out

Senator Evans asked:

Answers to questions relating to the Family Tax Benefit child income cut-out amount

Family Tax Benefit child income cut-out amount:

2000-01	\$7,663
2001-02	\$8,079
2002-03	\$8,347
2003-04	\$8,614
2004-05	\$10,948

In 2003-04, the most recent completed year, Centrelink records show 5429 families who had child income above the \$8614 cut out.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: T19

Topic: Underlying Cash for FTB Supplement

Senator Evans asked:

Total Resourcing and Underlying Cash for FTB B Supplement

The Committee asked for a breakup of the FTB B supplement expenditure into the underlying cash for the current and forward years. The figures below are the fiscal impact and underlying cash for each of the years. The fiscal impact shows the estimated total change to entitlements for each year. The impact on underlying cash shows the estimated change in net cash balances for each year.

Impact	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Fiscal Impact	212.4	430.9	439.4	450.5	1533.2
Impact on Underlying Cash	6.4	176.7	384.8	427.7	995.6

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: T20

Topic: Communication of Family Tax Benefit reconciliation results to customers

Senator Evens asked

How will people know when they receive their tax return how it is split into FTB A and B?

Answer:

Centrelink Letter

Centrelink have advised that the reconciliation letter will inform customers of how much FTB, in total, they **received** during the financial year and also how much FTB they are **entitled** to. The letter will show an amount that was included for the FTB Part A Supplement and the FTB Part B Supplement and of the overall reconciliation amount (ie top up or overpayment).

Tax Notice of Assessment

Tax notices of assessment show net FTB outcome (nil, lump sum payment, top-up or overpayment) and indicate if any offset against tax debit or credit. They do not show any distinction between Part A and Part B, or the Supplement as this detail is provided in the Centrelink advice.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 53

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part B

Hansard Page: CA31

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) How many families will get the maximum rate for the \$150/\$300 FTB (B) payment; the number who will get it and the cost for each financial year (2004/2005 and 2005/2006)?
- (b) How many families will get part payment of the \$150/\$300 FTB (B)?

Answer:

(a) In 2004-05:

Approximately 1,361,900 FTB Part B recipients will be entitled to receive the maximum rate for the \$150 FTB (B) payment. The payment will have a total fiscal impact of \$212.4 million in 2004-05.

In 2005-06:

Approximately 1,362,000 FTB Part B recipients will be entitled to receive the maximum rate for the \$300 FTB (B) payment. The payment will have a total fiscal impact of \$430.9 million in 2005-06.

(b) In 2004-05:

Approximately 44,500 FTB Part B recipients will be entitled to receive part payment of the \$150 FTB (B) payment.

In 2005-06:

Approximately 44,500 FTB Part B recipients will be entitled to receive part payment of the \$300 FTB (B) payment.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 54

Topic: Family Tax Benefit B

Hansard Page: CA36-40

Senator Evans asked: What is the distribution of the amount of the supplement paid post tax reconciliation, as an indicator of the impact of the supplement (possibly a bell chart)?

Answer: The table below shows the distribution of the amounts of supplement paid to families that had been reconciled up to 31 December 2004. The supplement amount has been ranged on a value of \$603 rather than \$600 as families receiving a full year entitlement received slightly over \$600.

\$0	115,445
More than \$0 to \$603	663,593
More than \$603 to \$1,206	604,657
More than \$1,206 to \$1,809	245,114
More than \$1,809 to \$2,412	70,949
More than \$2,412 to \$3,015	17,866
More than \$3,015 to \$3,618	5,518
More than \$3,618 to \$4,221	1,720
More than \$4,221 to \$4,824	588
More than \$4,824 to \$5,427	198
More than \$5,427 to \$6,030	61
More than \$6,030	37
Total	1,725,746

Note: There are several reasons why customers will show as having received \$0 supplement. First, some reconciled customers receive FTB B only; second, some customers are found to have no entitlement to the supplement once they have been through reconciliation; and third, a supplement is only paid when both partners in a couple have been reconciled.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 114

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- (1) Please provide updated Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year.
- (2) Can the Department confirm that the 2003-04 overpayment figures do not include those families whose FTB debt is now being offset by the per child supplement?
- (3) What was the average supplementary payment to families in 2003-04 (ie the average amount that was paid in June)?
- (4) Can the Department indicate how many families incurred an FTB debt in 2003-04 before the effect of the per child supplement was taken into account?
- (5) Does FACS maintain these figures? If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) The table below lists Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year as at 31 December 2004.

Top-ups	
Customer Number	1,512,203
% of Total Customer Number	88%
Total Amount	\$2,022m
Average Amount	\$1,337
Nil Change	
Customer Number	69,477
% of Total Customer Number	4%
Overpayments	
Customer Number	144,066
% of Total Customer Number	8%
Total Amount	\$151m
Average Amount	\$1,045
TOTAL	
Customer Number	1,725,746

- (2) Reconciliation of 2003-04 entitlement takes into account the FTB(A) per-child supplement.
- (3) The average amount of the one-off payment that was paid before or on 30 June 2004 was \$1135.

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- (4) As at 31 December 2004, only 144,066 families incurred an FTB debt in 2003-04, taking into account the per-child supplement, as that is an integral part of the FTB (A) system. With respect to your hypothetical question, as at 31 December 2004, 442,217 families would have incurred an FTB debt for 2003-04 if the Government had not introduced the per-child supplement.
- (5) FaCS is able to extract this information, but we do not see the need to maintain these figures on an ongoing basis, as the FTB (A) supplement is an integral part of FTB (A) and the reconciliation results.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 115

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

For each year of the family tax benefit system's operation (please provide this information for each state and territory):

- a) How many families and/or individuals (in total) have an outstanding debt to the Commonwealth due to the overpayment of family tax benefit?
- b) What is the total amount of family tax benefit debt?
- c) What is the average amount of debt per family?
- d) What is the average income of the families and/or individuals that have incurred a debt?
- e) How many families and/or individuals who have incurred a family tax benefit debt have had all or part of their tax return withheld to satisfy the debt?

Answer:

Data in the following responses are as at 31 December 2004.

a)

Families with outstanding debt				
State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
ACT	345	1,353	2,518	1,504
NSW	7,979	29,482	56,269	32,856
NT	302	943	1,718	1,230
QLD	4,026	16,523	33,950	19,372
SA	1,148	5,409	11,840	6,689
TAS	375	1,629	3,664	2,095
VIC	5,211	20,873	41,331	22,935
WA	2,252	8,603	17,987	10,476

b)

Outstanding Reconciliation Debt				
State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
ACT	\$ 370,221	\$ 1,672,395	\$ 2,872,811	\$ 1,750,336
NSW	\$10,939,926	\$42,152,278	\$71,152,144	\$39,554,272
NT	\$ 316,266	\$ 1,207,574	\$ 1,805,445	\$ 1,395,362
QLD	\$ 5,035,859	\$21,550,542	\$39,782,664	\$22,272,066
SA	\$ 1,315,793	\$ 6,682,423	\$13,089,825	\$ 7,171,268
TAS	\$ 385,136	\$ 1,972,143	\$ 3,699,990	\$ 2,141,596
VIC	\$ 7,059,625	\$29,069,139	\$49,957,874	\$26,027,319
WA	\$ 2,853,824	\$11,398,248	\$21,699,457	\$12,127,600

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c)

State	Average Outstanding overpayments			
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
ACT	1,073	1,236	1,141	1,164
NSW	1,371	1,430	1,264	1,204
NT	1,047	1,281	1,051	1,134
QLD	1,251	1,304	1,172	1,150
SA	1,146	1,235	1,106	1,072
TAS	1,027	1,211	1,010	1,022
VIC	1,355	1,393	1,209	1,135
WA	1,267	1,325	1,206	1,158

This average is based on all families with outstanding debts.

d)

	Average Adjusted Taxable Income for Families with an overpayment (Customer + Primary Partner)			
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Australian Capital Territory	\$ 51,467	\$ 56,309	\$ 59,736	\$ 78,846
New South Wales	\$ 45,967	\$ 50,127	\$ 52,845	\$ 72,446
Northern Territory	\$ 38,296	\$ 43,483	\$ 46,386	\$ 68,569
Queensland	\$ 40,766	\$ 45,594	\$ 48,692	\$ 66,927
South Australia	\$ 41,042	\$ 46,957	\$ 49,659	\$ 65,528
Tasmania	\$ 38,094	\$ 42,433	\$ 44,524	\$ 61,367
Victoria	\$ 46,278	\$ 51,121	\$ 53,278	\$ 70,656
Western Australia	\$ 43,958	\$ 48,401	\$ 52,055	\$ 70,573

e) Questions in relation to the operations of the ATO should be addressed to the Minister for Revenue.

Note: The Government announced a number of new policies designed to help reduce the number of Family Tax Benefit overpayments in the 2005-06 Budget, including:

Improvements to the process of income estimation to help families start the income year with a more accurate income estimate for their family assistance payments.

When the Family Assistance Office contacts a family prior to the start of each income year, the family will be advised of a default estimate that will be used to calculate their fortnightly payments. This default estimate will be calculated by increasing the family's existing estimate in line with movements in Average Weekly Earnings (AWE). Families will be invited to provide an alternative estimate if they think the default estimate does not reflect their circumstances.

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Increased assistance to support those families who have the most difficulty estimating their income.

As part of this measure, FaCS and Centrelink will work closely together to identify families most at risk of overpayment. The Family Assistance Office will contact these families and provide them with additional assistance with income estimation as well as providing information sessions at local community venues about the family assistance system. By improving understanding of entitlements and obligations this measure will benefit family assistance customers by reducing their risk of incurring an overpayment.

Introduction of a Maintenance Income Credit.

This measure will allow families to access their unused maintenance income free area from previous years to offset late child support payments. This measure will increase the FTB entitlement for those families that receive late child support payments, as it will ensure that FTB recipients who receive child support payments on an irregular basis receive the same level of FTB over time as those receiving child support payments on a regular basis. This will reduce the number of families receiving maintenance income who currently have FTB overpayments as a result of the receipt of large child support arrears.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 116

Topic: Debt analysis

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Has FACS undertaken any analysis to determine common characteristics of people who are still attracting FTB debts? If not, why not?
- b) Has any internal analysis of the socio-economic status of families who are overpaid FTB been conducted?
- c) If so, is any of this analysis publicly available? If not, why not?
- d) Does FACS accept that such an analysis would be a useful starting point for developing strategies to help these people eliminate their debts/overpayments?
- e) Is it fair to say that those families in greatest need of FTB are the most likely to be overpaid (and therefore receive an FTB debt at the end of the year)?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) Yes.
- c) We provide advice to the Minister, and this advice is not publicly available.
- d) Yes.
- e) No. Most low income and income support customers are receiving the maximum rate of FTB and up to 31 December 2004 only a very small number (around 1%) of these customers have received an overpayment

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 117

Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Can FACS confirm that 1,974 families were overpaid the June 2004 payment of the \$600 per child supplement.
- b) What was the average overpayment to these families that were overpaid?
- c) What was the total amount of overpayments to families that were overpaid?
- d) How many families that were overpaid repaid the overpayments in full?
- e) How many families that were overpaid partially repaid the overpayments?
- f) What is the total amount that has been recovered through this process?

Answer:

- a) 1,974 customers received a dual payment.
- b) The average amount of the dual payment was \$1044.07.
- c) The total amount dual paid was \$2,061,000.
- d) 51 returned payments have been recorded. It is not possible to determine whether they were all or part of a dual payment.
- e) See (d)
- f) \$35,951.36

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 118

Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Why did FaCS not raise a debt against those families who were overpaid the \$600 supplement?

Answer:

All families were paid in line with the legislation.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 119

Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Why did FaCS adopt a different approach to the \$600 payment to that which it would normally adopt if a family is overpaid FTB?

Answer:

All families were paid in line with the legislation therefore there was no legislative basis for recovery.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 120

Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Who made the decision to not pursue those families who were overpaid the \$600 supplement? Why was this decision taken?

Answer: There was no legislative basis for recovery.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 121

Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

How many families were overpaid the second instalment of the \$600 supplement when that was made later in 2004?

What was the average overpayment to these families that were overpaid? What was the total amount of overpayments to families that were overpaid?

Did FACS seek to recover these overpayments, or did it adopt the same approach as for the first \$600 payment in June 2004 (and not pursue the overpayment)?

Answer:

The relevant grounds for entitlement to the one-off \$600 per child payment in 2003-04 did not apply to the FTB A Supplement payable at reconciliation. Hence, there were no similar dual payments of the Supplement.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 122

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

For each occasion on which the \$600 family tax benefit part A supplement has now been paid, please indicate:

- 1) The total number of families that received the payment;
- 2) The total amount paid out to families under the supplement;
- 3) The average payment to families under the supplement;
- 4) The number of families paid the supplement in each federal electorate;
- 5) The total amount paid out to families under the supplement in each electorate; and
- 6) The average payment to families under the supplement in each electorate.

Answer:

Family tax benefit part A supplement paid as at 31 December 2004 is shown in the table below.

Electorate	Number of families	Total amount of supplement	Average amount of supplement
Adelaide	6,722	\$ 6,138,268	\$ 913
Aston	10,216	\$ 10,869,378	\$ 1,064
Ballarat	12,025	\$ 12,981,188	\$ 1,080
Banks	7,994	\$ 8,265,118	\$ 1,034
Barker	13,059	\$ 13,867,890	\$ 1,062
Barton	7,803	\$ 7,501,220	\$ 961
Bass	9,377	\$ 9,531,911	\$ 1,017
Batman	8,150	\$ 7,898,295	\$ 969
Bendigo	12,515	\$ 13,386,148	\$ 1,070
Bennelong	5,571	\$ 5,241,109	\$ 941
Berowra	5,562	\$ 5,521,511	\$ 993
Blair	14,459	\$ 16,043,503	\$ 1,110
Blaxland	12,114	\$ 13,526,186	\$ 1,117
Bonner	9,665	\$ 9,747,068	\$ 1,008
Boothby	7,657	\$ 7,320,969	\$ 956
Bowman	11,420	\$ 12,025,430	\$ 1,053
Braddon	10,043	\$ 10,446,991	\$ 1,040
Bradfield	2,471	\$ 2,375,103	\$ 961
Brand	13,168	\$ 14,151,000	\$ 1,075
Brisbane	5,962	\$ 5,634,947	\$ 945
Bruce	9,443	\$ 9,277,259	\$ 982
Calare	11,235	\$ 12,202,871	\$ 1,086
Calwell	15,510	\$ 17,208,244	\$ 1,109
Canberra	10,803	\$ 11,038,601	\$ 1,022
Canning	13,449	\$ 14,695,462	\$ 1,093

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Capricornia	13,021	\$ 14,213,092	\$ 1,092
Casey	11,144	\$ 11,925,282	\$ 1,070
Charlton	10,764	\$ 11,096,732	\$ 1,031
Chifley	17,626	\$ 19,812,350	\$ 1,124
Chisholm	6,295	\$ 5,936,381	\$ 943
Cook	5,428	\$ 5,357,292	\$ 987
Corangamite	10,161	\$ 11,082,501	\$ 1,091
Corio	11,849	\$ 12,335,491	\$ 1,041
Cowan	12,414	\$ 13,273,351	\$ 1,069
Cowper	11,005	\$ 11,528,166	\$ 1,048
Cunningham	8,106	\$ 8,145,626	\$ 1,005
Curtin	3,663	\$ 3,346,108	\$ 913
Dawson	12,537	\$ 13,264,804	\$ 1,058
Deakin	7,815	\$ 7,642,821	\$ 978
Denison	7,862	\$ 7,510,955	\$ 955
Dickson	12,072	\$ 12,765,194	\$ 1,057
Dobell	12,250	\$ 12,948,677	\$ 1,057
Dunkley	11,092	\$ 11,208,288	\$ 1,010
Eden-Monaro	9,840	\$ 10,362,569	\$ 1,053
Fadden	11,248	\$ 11,004,053	\$ 978
Fairfax	11,459	\$ 11,545,004	\$ 1,008
Farrer	10,570	\$ 11,646,348	\$ 1,102
Fisher	10,263	\$ 10,254,052	\$ 999
Flinders	10,592	\$ 11,328,504	\$ 1,070
Forde	16,243	\$ 17,693,226	\$ 1,089
Forrest	12,371	\$ 13,038,088	\$ 1,054
Fowler	14,862	\$ 15,341,701	\$ 1,032
Franklin	10,059	\$ 10,367,863	\$ 1,031
Fraser	9,707	\$ 9,628,008	\$ 992
Fremantle	10,016	\$ 9,938,508	\$ 992
Gellibrand	9,882	\$ 9,748,182	\$ 986
Gilmore	10,608	\$ 11,401,193	\$ 1,075
Gippsland	12,408	\$ 13,322,615	\$ 1,074
Goldstein	4,242	\$ 3,996,894	\$ 942
Gorton	15,350	\$ 15,925,820	\$ 1,038
Grayndler	5,893	\$ 5,194,733	\$ 882
Greenway	13,128	\$ 13,504,508	\$ 1,029
Grey	12,960	\$ 13,670,140	\$ 1,055
Griffith	6,745	\$ 6,222,220	\$ 922
Groom	11,899	\$ 12,891,476	\$ 1,083
Gwydir	11,417	\$ 12,706,705	\$ 1,113
Hasluck	11,985	\$ 12,470,722	\$ 1,041
Herbert	12,263	\$ 12,641,879	\$ 1,031
Higgins	2,802	\$ 2,445,074	\$ 873
Hindmarsh	7,853	\$ 7,336,814	\$ 934
Hinkler	13,943	\$ 15,125,518	\$ 1,085
Holt	17,618	\$ 18,994,376	\$ 1,078
Hotham	8,728	\$ 8,505,783	\$ 975

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Hughes	7,819	\$ 8,227,238	\$ 1,052
Hume	11,719	\$ 13,003,159	\$ 1,110
Hunter	12,337	\$ 13,269,461	\$ 1,076
Indi	11,033	\$ 11,929,302	\$ 1,081
Isaacs	11,855	\$ 11,979,519	\$ 1,011
Jagajaga	8,173	\$ 8,255,889	\$ 1,010
Kalgoorlie	13,100	\$ 14,392,732	\$ 1,099
Kennedy	14,715	\$ 16,698,359	\$ 1,135
Kingsford Smith	6,417	\$ 5,866,162	\$ 914
Kingston	15,608	\$ 15,634,421	\$ 1,002
Kooyong	2,920	\$ 2,713,294	\$ 929
La Trobe	11,158	\$ 11,878,010	\$ 1,065
Lalor	15,550	\$ 16,528,292	\$ 1,063
Leichhardt	15,695	\$ 16,677,649	\$ 1,063
Lilley	9,053	\$ 8,664,397	\$ 957
Lindsay	11,610	\$ 12,224,687	\$ 1,053
Lingiari	12,286	\$ 13,412,293	\$ 1,092
Longman	14,638	\$ 15,992,073	\$ 1,093
Lowe	5,183	\$ 4,826,930	\$ 931
Lyne	12,986	\$ 13,957,798	\$ 1,075
Lyons	10,263	\$ 10,808,641	\$ 1,053
Macarthur	13,403	\$ 14,762,003	\$ 1,101
Mackellar	5,011	\$ 4,843,661	\$ 967
Macquarie	10,475	\$ 11,163,066	\$ 1,066
Makin	13,000	\$ 13,041,758	\$ 1,003
Mallee	11,632	\$ 13,118,564	\$ 1,128
Maranoa	12,221	\$ 13,888,956	\$ 1,136
Maribyrnong	8,526	\$ 8,424,007	\$ 988
Mayo	10,836	\$ 11,213,773	\$ 1,035
Mcewen	12,577	\$ 13,836,644	\$ 1,100
Mcmillan	10,942	\$ 12,273,721	\$ 1,122
Mcpherson	10,810	\$ 10,594,278	\$ 980
Melbourne	5,102	\$ 4,533,503	\$ 889
Melbourne Ports	3,380	\$ 2,981,709	\$ 882
Menzies	5,832	\$ 5,905,841	\$ 1,013
Mitchell	6,157	\$ 6,350,259	\$ 1,031
Moncrieff	7,759	\$ 7,292,057	\$ 940
Moore	9,327	\$ 9,412,622	\$ 1,009
Moreton	9,550	\$ 9,662,102	\$ 1,012
Murray	11,630	\$ 12,886,398	\$ 1,108
New England	11,493	\$ 12,420,394	\$ 1,081
Newcastle	9,980	\$ 9,668,712	\$ 969
North Sydney	2,537	\$ 2,146,231	\$ 846
O'Connor	11,355	\$ 12,512,455	\$ 1,102
Oxley	16,613	\$ 17,866,510	\$ 1,075
Page	13,519	\$ 14,245,086	\$ 1,054
Parkes	11,808	\$ 13,054,603	\$ 1,106
Parramatta	10,154	\$ 9,847,166	\$ 970

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Paterson	11,053	\$ 11,802,352	\$ 1,068
Pearce	13,789	\$ 15,230,186	\$ 1,105
Perth	8,830	\$ 8,494,092	\$ 962
Petrie	11,115	\$ 11,389,152	\$ 1,025
Port Adelaide	15,178	\$ 15,100,777	\$ 995
Prospect	12,852	\$ 13,823,565	\$ 1,076
Rankin	17,732	\$ 19,142,277	\$ 1,080
Reid	11,971	\$ 13,165,371	\$ 1,100
Richmond	10,954	\$ 11,083,054	\$ 1,012
Riverina	12,112	\$ 13,483,410	\$ 1,113
Robertson	9,931	\$ 10,342,597	\$ 1,041
Ryan	5,431	\$ 5,444,276	\$ 1,002
Scullin	12,184	\$ 12,811,850	\$ 1,052
Shortland	10,877	\$ 11,289,542	\$ 1,038
Solomon	8,154	\$ 8,189,604	\$ 1,004
Stirling	8,859	\$ 8,486,565	\$ 958
Sturt	8,385	\$ 8,067,726	\$ 962
Swan	8,089	\$ 7,641,640	\$ 945
Sydney	3,777	\$ 3,072,628	\$ 814
Tangney	7,142	\$ 7,175,623	\$ 1,005
Throsby	12,908	\$ 13,646,363	\$ 1,057
Wakefield	16,185	\$ 16,893,166	\$ 1,044
Wannon	10,613	\$ 11,795,957	\$ 1,111
Warringah	3,758	\$ 3,375,911	\$ 898
Watson	9,354	\$ 9,299,859	\$ 994
Wentworth	2,587	\$ 2,192,971	\$ 848
Werriwa	14,646	\$ 15,838,430	\$ 1,081
Wide Bay	13,085	\$ 14,087,880	\$ 1,077
Wills	8,810	\$ 8,983,886	\$ 1,020
Unknown	51,742	\$ 50,409,749	\$ 974
Total	1,610,301	\$ 1,675,188,202	\$ 1,040

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Output Group: 1.1 Family assistance

Question No: 158

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Is it the case that for non-custodial parents who are paying child support, the payments they make are not taken out of their taxable income when calculating their entitlement to family tax benefit?

Answer:

Maintenance expenditure is 100% deductible from a non-custodial parent's adjusted taxable income when assessing entitlement to Family Tax Benefit.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family assistance

Question No: 159

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Is it the case that for custodial parents in receipt of child support, the payments they receive are not factored into their taxable income when calculating their entitlement to family tax benefit?

Answer:

Yes, child support received is not included in the calculation of Actual Taxable Income used to assess Family Tax Benefit. However, child support is assessed under the maintenance income test (MIT) when calculating a resident parent's Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 164

Topic: Family Tax Benefit and child support

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Is it the case that for non-custodial parents who are paying child support, the payments they make are not taken out of their taxable income when calculating their entitlement to family tax benefit (thus increasing their entitlement, if any)?

Is it the case that for custodial parents in receipt of child support, the payments they receive are not factored into their taxable income when calculating their entitlement to family tax benefit (thus reducing their entitlement, if any)?

Does the CSA agree that this means that non-custodial parents paying child support are relatively disadvantaged for other purposes (such as family tax benefit)?

Has this issue been raised with the CSA before? Who has raised this issue? On how many occasions?

What steps has the CSA taken to investigate this issue?

What other agencies have been consulted about this?

Is any work underway to rectify these apparent anomalies?

Please outline the nature of the work that is underway.

Answer: The first two parts of this question have been answered as Questions on Notice numbers 158 and 159.

Advice from the Child Support Agency is that they are not aware of this issue having been raised previously, and this is an issue for the Family and Community Services portfolio, as it has responsibility for the Family Tax Benefit.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 160

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part A overpayments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

For the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial years, please indicate in tabular form:

- (a) the number of families who were overpaid family tax benefit part A (and the total amount of that was overpaid);
- (b) the number of families that have totally repaid the debt raised for that year (and the total amount fully repaid);
- (c) the number of families that have partially repaid the debt raised for that year (and the total amount partially repaid); and
- (d) the number of families that have not repaid any of the debt raised for that year (and the total amount not repaid).

Answer:

a)

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Customers	438,740	422,670	435,749	303,999
Amount overpaid (\$)	\$464,170,039	\$473,388,245	\$525,211,169	\$235,746,922

b)

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2003/2003	2003/2004
Customers	330,691	364,849	319,282	228,226
Amount repaid (\$)	\$353,185,083.52	\$334,603,239.20	\$319,384,506.80	\$108,414,012.01

c)

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2003/2003	2003/2004
Customers	107,775	50,856	92,237	43,210
Amount repaid (\$)	\$102,116,509.31	\$66,245,819.59	\$69,194,809.50	\$11,412,189.32

d)

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Customers	271	6,976	24,018	32,226
Amount repaid (\$)	\$392,472.64	\$15,030,596.70	\$43,610,859.80	\$59,613,301.50

Note: The customer count includes customers who might not necessarily be FTB debtors but who have been overpaid FTB Part A. For example, a customer could have a FTB Part B top up that is greater or equal to the amount of FTB Part A that was overpaid resulting in a Nil or Top up outcome.

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This means that the results shown above do not reflect the outcome for families. The customer count overstates the number of families with overpayments when compared with the net result of both FTB A and B.

In addition, some customers have overpayments that cannot be split into FTB A and B. These include customers who were previously non lodgers and those who have had manual adjustments on their accounts. The customer count is understated by the customers whose overpayment could not be split into FTB A and B.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 161

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part A overpayments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Can Centrelink provide updated FTB part A reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year?

Answer:

As at 31 December 2004, the hypothetical FTB Part A impact is:

	Hypothetical overpayment	Hypothetical nil change	Hypothetical top up
Customers	111,067	75,935	1,450,587
Total Amount (\$c)	\$108,856,381	\$0.00	\$1,831,359,553
Average Amount	\$980		\$1,262

Note: We usually report FTB outcomes in total, including the impact of reconciliation of both FTB Part A and Part B, as this reflects the outcomes that families experience. For instance, a family may receive an overpayment of FTB A that is more than offset by a top-up of FTB B. The above table should not be taken to represent actual customer outcomes.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 162

Topic: Family tax benefit part A overpayments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Can Centrelink provide FTB part A overpayment figures for the 2003-04 financial year before the effect of the \$600 supplement is taken into account? If not, why not?

Answer:

The FTB A per-child supplement is an integral part of the FTB A system and therefore it is not appropriate to talk about reconciliation results that do not include the impact of the supplement. With respect to a hypothetical question that excludes the effect of the supplement, the following estimates are provided, using data up to 31 December 2004.

	Hypothetical overpayment	Hypothetical nil change	Hypothetical top up
Customers	303,999	863,150	470,440
Total Amount (\$)	\$235,746,922	\$0.00	\$37,349,301
Average Amount	\$775		\$794

Note: We usually report FTB outcomes in total, including the impact of reconciliation of both FTB Part A and Part B, as this reflects the outcomes that families experience. For instance, a family may receive an overpayment of FTB A that is more than offset by a top-up of FTB B. The above table should not be taken to represent actual customer outcomes.

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Output Group: 1.1 – Family Assistance

Question No: 123

Topic: New booklet about family assistance

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

The Minister for Family and Community Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2004 – New booklet about family assistance

(1) Please explain the need for this new publication

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

Answer:

The booklet was developed to provide information on all payments and services available from the Family Assistance Office. It replaced a number of publications, enabling families to find the information from one source.

The booklet helps families to understand Family Assistance payments and eligibility, as well as helping families meet their requirements. The booklet also helps families to estimate their income more accurately and provides information on other forms of assistance that is available.

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Output Group: 1.1 – Family Assistance

Question No: 124

Topic: New booklet about family assistance

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

The Minister for Family and Community Services, upon notice, on 16 February 2004 - New booklet about family assistance

- (1) What is the distribution of the publication.
- (2) Will it be sent out to families or just made available through the Family Assistance Offices around the country and via the internet.
- (3) What was the Department's role in the development of the new booklet.
- (4) How many staff were involved.
- (5) Who determined the content.
- (6) What was the cost of the new booklet.
- (7) Who has borne the cost.

Answer:

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

- (1) The initial publication was distributed to the Family Assistance Office network i.e. Health Insurance Commission, Centrelink Customer Centres and Australian Taxation Office shopfronts. There was also further distribution to peak groups such as the child-care centres, MPs, senators, state and territory contacts, community health services, state welfare departments, employer organisations, community service groups, other welfare groups and Government departments. The booklet is also included in 'Bounty Bags' which are provided to new mothers in hospital, when they give birth.
- (2) The booklet has not been sent to families. It is available from the Family Assistance Office and can be obtained over the phone, in person or by visiting the website.
- (3) FaCS was responsible for the content and the printing of the booklet.
- (4) It is not possible to accurately determine the number of staff involved. Staff from Centrelink, FaCS as well as representatives from Health Insurance Commission and the Tax Office were involved.

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(5) The content was mainly determined by FaCS although consultation with all Family Assistance Office partners occurred. The booklet was cleared through the Minister for Family and Community Services and the Ministerial Committee for Government Communications (MCGC).

(6) The cost of the new booklet was approximately \$680,000 and distribution costs totalled around \$30,000. After the recent changes announced by the Government in the Budget, an Insert was developed. A further \$67,794 has been spent on developing, printing and gluing an Insert for the booklet with a further \$50,762 to distribute the booklet.

(7) FaCS has paid for the booklet out of funds allocated for communications in relation to More Help for Families.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 140

Topic: National Illicit Drug Strategy

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Has the funding allocation for the strategy remained at \$20.3 million in total?
- (b) Have there been any additions or subtractions to this amount?

Answer:

(a) \$20.3 million was not allocated to the National Illicit Drugs Strategy – Strengthening and Supporting Families Coping with Illicit Drugs measure. The funding allocations for the Strengthening Families measure are listed below:

YEAR	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
TOTAL FUNDING	\$110,000	\$1,322,000	\$4,847,000	\$5,058,000	\$3,246,000

Please note that a further \$13.6 million over four years was allocated in the 2004 Budget.

- (b) There have been no additions or subtractions to the original funding allocations.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 141

Topic: National Illicit Drug Strategy

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline what community organisations and programs have been funded through this program through State administration.

Answer:

Please refer to attached table of organisations funded through the states and territories from 1999 and 2003 budget funding.

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Western Australia

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
South Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team	South Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team
North Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team	North Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team
Southeast Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team	Southeast Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team
Northeast Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team	Northeast Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team
Perth Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team	Perth Metropolitan Community Drug Service Team
Midwest Community Drug Service Team	Midwest Community Drug Service Team
Southwest Community Drug Service Team	Southwest Community Drug Service Team
Goldfields Community Drug Service Team	Goldfields Community Drug Service Team
Great Southern Community Drug Service Team	Great Southern Community Drug Service Team
Kimberley Community Drug Service Team	Kimberley Community Drug Service Team
Pilbara Community Drug Service Team	Pilbara Community Drug Service Team
Wheatbelt Community Drug Service Team	Wheatbelt Community Drug Service Team
Parent Drug Information service of the Drug and Alcohol office – Printed Resource	Parent Drug Information service of the Drug and Alcohol office – Printed Resource

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Victoria

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Uniting Care Moreland Hall in Consortium with the Victorian Parenting Centre	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) in consortium with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

Tasmania

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Anglicare Tas Inc.	Anglicare Tas Inc. – Lead agency Other family support organisations yet to be identified.
Drug Education Network for the Tasmanian Family Drug Support Group.	
Salvation Army	
Colony 47	
Holyoake	
Drug Education Network	
Tasmanian Deaf Society	
Anglicare in partnership with a network of other North West Services	
Allies for Families (Family Support Services Association)	

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South Australia

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Noarlunga Health Service	Noarlunga Health Service
Adelaide Central Community Health Service	Adelaide Central Community Health Service
Northern Metro Health Service: Muna Paiendi	Northern Metro Health Service: Muna Paiendi
Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA
Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services	Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services
Aboriginal Kinship Program and Health Services	Aboriginal Kinship Program and Health Services
Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services	Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services
Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA
Department of Correctional Services	Department of Correctional Services
Kinship Program	Kinship Program
Community Development Employment Program	Community Development Employment Program
Department of Recreation and Sport	Department of Recreation and Sport
Kaurna Eagles Sports Club	Kaurna Eagles Sports Club
The Otherway Catholic Community Centre	The Otherway Catholic Community Centre

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Queensland Department of Communities

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Biala City Community Health Centre	Biala City Community Health Centre
Kuringbui Youth Development Association	
Combined Housing Organisation Ltd	
Ganyjuu Family Support Service	

Queensland Department of Health

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Gold Coast Drug Council	Queensland Health Service Districts
Child and Youth Mental Health Service	Zonal Health Management Units
Oz Care	Griffith University
Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Mater Misericordiae Health Services
Centacare Catholic Family Services Townsville	Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Service
Gympie Community Health Services	
Health Pathways Pty Ltd	
Goldbridge	
Anglicare Central Queensland	
Sandgate and Bracken Bridge Action Group	
Behaviour Support Management, Keppel Coast Schools Cluster, Education Queensland and Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Service, Capricorn Coast Community Health Services (4 programs)	
Change Corp	
Rockhampton District Primary and Community Health Services	
Bayside Health Service District	

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Northern Territory

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Centacare NT Department of Health and Community Services	Centacare NT Department of Health and Community Services Alcohol & Other Drug Worker - Royal Darwin Hospital.

Australian Capital Territory

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
Directions ACT – Primary Health Care Team	ACT Community Health
Toora Women Inc	Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc
Ted Noffs Foundation Inc	Youth Coalition of the ACT
ACT Community Health	Child, Youth & Women Health Programs

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New South Wales

<i>1999 Budget Funding</i>	<i>2003 Budget Funding</i>
The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)	Drug & Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)
Family Drug Support - Service	Manning Family Support Service (Taree)
Centacare	Hunter Volunteer Centre
NSW Centre for Parenting & Research	Oolong House
	Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Services
The Centre for Community Welfare	South Coast Aboriginal Medical Services
Westlake Macquarie Family Support Services	Illawarra Area Health
MacKillop Rural Community Services	South Coast Barnardos
Community Connections North Coast	
North Illawarra Family Support	Macquarie Area Health Service
South Coast Barnardos	
Pacific Islands Women's Advice and Support Service Inc.	
(PIWASS)	
Drug & Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)	
Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC)	
New South Wales Family Services Inc	
Streetwise Communications	

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 142

Topic: National Illicit Drug Strategy

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Does the government plan to use this program in coordination with an education campaign about drug abuse and young people at a later stage?

If not, why not?

Answer:

FaCS will continue to ensure that the “Strengthening Families” measure is closely aligned with other National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS) initiatives. FaCS works closely with the Department of Health and Ageing and the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs and any relevant aspects of the planned drug and alcohol campaign targeting youth will be disseminated to “Strengthening Families” providers.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 126

Topic: Transfer of functions to other Departments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Does the Department retain any responsibilities under output 1.2? What functions exactly does FACS retain under this output?

Answer:

Yes. FaCS retains responsibility for the following functions under output group 1.2:

- Reconnect;
- Targetted Youth Assistance Program;
- Mentor Marketplace;
- Transition to Independent Living Allowance; and
- Youth Activity Services.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 127

Topic: Restructure of youth portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please state why the youth portfolio has shifted from being governed by a minister to a parliamentary secretary.

Please outline if this downgrading is because of a philosophical shift in the Government's priority of youth issues.

Please outline if there are any policy implications from the change.

Answer:

The Minister for Family and Community Services has overall responsibility for youth affairs, however the Parliamentary Secretary (Children and Youth Affairs), has a role in assisting the Minister with those responsibilities. Ministerial arrangements are a matter for the Prime Minister and on 22 October 2004, following the announcement of the Fourth Howard Ministry, the Prime Minister held a press conference at which he took questions on the changes to the ministry, including the changes to the Family and Community Services portfolio. The following transcript was taken from this press conference:

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, I don't think it's downgrading it because the overall responsibilities of that Department are going to be significantly less and, therefore, I see no, there's no case for having both a Cabinet Minister, a Junior Minister and a Parliamentary Secretary. So the responsibility won't be downgraded. I mean, the Senior Minister will have a greater focus on children and youth services and the Parliamentary Secretary will have a specific responsibility of assisting her but in a way, because many of the working age programmes have been shifted out of that Department and put into employment and industrial relations she will have a greater opportunity to focus herself as the Cabinet Minister on those roles and responsibilities.

A transcript of the full interview is available on the Prime Minister's website.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 128

Topic: Restructure of youth portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Can the parliamentary secretary still brief the Cabinet?

If not, how will the parliamentary secretary for youth consult the Cabinet on issues that affect youth?

Please outline a guideline to the processes that a parliamentary secretary has to undertake to be able to brief the Cabinet on issues.

Answer:

Matters affecting youth requiring Cabinet consideration would be brought forward by the Minister for Family and Community Services. Parliamentary secretaries may be co-opted to Cabinet for matters of particular relevance to their responsibilities.

The following transcript taken from the Cabinet Handbook, provides more detail on Cabinet arrangements and attendance:

Cabinet Handbook,
2.15 ... Where parliamentary secretaries have been given responsibility for a particular area within a portfolio and Cabinet consideration of an issue falling within that area of responsibility is required, the parliamentary secretary may be directly associated with proposals being submitted to Cabinet, but only in conjunction with a minister in the portfolio and with the agreement of the portfolio minister. With the Prime Minister's prior approval, parliamentary secretaries co-sponsoring proposals may attend the discussion of the item in the Cabinet.

A copy of the Cabinet Handbook is available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 129

Topic: Restructure of youth portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline programs that have been removed from the youth portfolio due to its restructure.

Answer:

The youth programs that have been transferred from FaCS to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) or the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) are:

DEST

- Austudy;
- Ex-gratia payments to former Youth Allowance recipients affected by the increase in school leaving age in South Australia;
- Fares Allowance;
- Student Financial Supplement Scheme; and
- Youth Allowance – student entitlements.

DEWR

- Green Corps;
- Job Placement, Employment and Training; and
- Youth Allowance – other than students.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 130

Topic: Restructure of Youth Portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Please outline the number of staff that have been recruited to the Bureau due to the restructure.
- (b) Please outline staff that have been made redundant due to the move, voluntary and/or forced.

Answer:

- (a) There have been no staff recruited to the Youth Bureau as a result of the recent Machinery of Government changes.
- (b) No staff have been made redundant, voluntary and/or forced, from the Youth Bureau due to the recent Machinery of Government (MOG) changes. Staff undertaking functions that were transferred under the MOG changes followed those functions and transferred to the new agency.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 131

Topic: Restructure of Youth Portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline the number of staff which are employed by the Bureau, and provide position descriptions for each current employee. Please also detail their position descriptions and what role they play in the hierarchy of FaCS.

Answer:

There is currently 49 staff in total employed by the Youth Bureau. Of this staff, 7 work part-time hours and 3 are currently on long-term leave.

The structure of the Youth Bureau is as follows:

Branch Manager Admin Unit (4 staff)	
Section	Section Staff
Youth Services	1 x Section Manager 6 x Assistant Section Managers 9 x Project Officers (including one Graduate)
Policy and Co-ordination	1 x Section Manager 3 x Assistant Section Managers 4 x Project Officers (including one trainee and one contractor)
Youth Consultation	1 x Section Manager 4 x Assistant Section Managers 4 x Project Officers
Research and Analysis	1 x Section Manager 2 x Assistant Section Managers 4 x Project Officers
Special Projects	1 x Section Manager
	3 x Long term leave

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 132

Topic: Restructure of Youth Portfolio

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please list all new youth initiatives that will be undertaken in 2005-2006.

Answer:

Any new initiatives for 2005-06 will be considered in the 2005-06 Budget context.

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Output Group: 1.2 **Question No: 133**

Topic: Youth Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

What youth organisations are members of the Australian Forum of Youth Organisations?
Please indicate:

- how often this forum has met; and
- how many representatives from each organisation have attended at each meeting.

Answer:

The Australian Forum of Youth Organisations (AFOYO) has 14 member organisations. They are:

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia;
- Police and Community Youth Clubs;
- The Scout Association of Australia;
- YWCA of Australia;
- The Boys' Brigade Australia;
- The Girls' Brigade Australia;
- Guides Australia;
- YMCA of Australia;
- Australian Rural Youth;
- Australian Red Cross;
- St John Ambulance Australia;
- The Lions Club of Australia;
- Surf Life Saving Australia; and
- Foundation for Young Australians.

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Since AFOYO became the responsibility of FaCS it has met on five occasions.

The following table shows the number of members who have attended AFOYO meetings since the Forum became the responsibility of FaCS.

Organisation	April 2002	Sept 2002	April 2003	Sept 2003	April 2004
Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia	2	1	1	2	2
Police and Community Youth Clubs	2	2	2	2	2
The Scout Association of Australia	1	2	2	2	2
YWCA of Australia	2	2	2	1	2
The Boys' Brigade Australia	2	2	2	2	2
The Girls' Brigade Australia	2	2	2	2	2
Guides Australia	2	2	2	2	2
YMCA of Australia	2	1	2	2	2
Australian Rural Youth	1	2	1	1	1
Australian Red Cross	2	1	2	2	2
St John Ambulance Australia	2	2	2	2	2
The Lions Club of Australia		2	2	1	1
Surf Life Saving Australia	*	*	2	2	2
Foundation for Young Australians	*	*	2	2	2

** These two organisations were not original members but were invited to join AFOYO in 2003.*

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Output Group: 1.2 Question No: 134

Topic: Youth Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please supply copies of the minutes of each of these meetings.

Answer:

Copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Australian Forum of Youth Organisations (AFOYO) are not available publicly. Members have participated in the Forum on the basis that the information and discussions were confidential. Failing to protect this confidentiality may restrict members' confidence in providing free and frank advice.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No:136

Topic: Youth Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline how often the National Youth Roundtable (NYR) has met in the last 12 months, and how many members attend each meeting.

Answer:

The National Youth Roundtable (NYR) consists of fifty young people aged between 15-24.

The NYR has met twice in 2004.

The first meeting was held in Canberra from 26 March – 1 April 2004. All fifty members were present and participated at this meeting.

The second and final meeting of the National Youth Roundtable 2004 was held in Canberra from 7-9 December 2004. Thirty-five members attended and participated. The reduced number of members was a direct result of a meeting date change from September to December 2004 due to the Federal Election. Fifteen members had prior commitments in December and were unable to attend.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No:137

Topic: Youth Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide minutes of each of those meetings.

Answer:

Formal minutes are not recorded from the National Youth Roundtable (NYR) or the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group (NIYLG) meetings.

An executive summary of community projects undertaken by members of the NYR is published for distribution at the final meeting of each programme. The executive summaries from both the NYR and the NIYLG are available on request from the Youth Bureau and also available online at www.thesource.gov.au

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Output Group: 1.2 **Question No: 135**

Topic: National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group 2004-05

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline the structure of the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group. Please also indicate:

- (a) How many members are there of this Group?
- (b) What is the selection criteria?
- (c) How often has the Leadership Group met in the past 12 months?
- (d) How many members have attended the meetings?
- (e) Please provide a copy of the minutes from these meetings.

Answer:

- (a) There are 15 members of the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group 2004-05.
- (b) Members are selected based on their:
 - Interest in youth issues;
 - Ability to consult with young people and the community;
 - Demonstrated leadership skills; and
 - Life experiences.
- (c) The Leadership Group have met twice in the past twelve months. The first formal meeting was held in Canberra from 9-12 August 2004. The second meeting was held in Melbourne from the 7-9 February 2005.
- (d) 15 members attended the first formal meeting in Canberra. 12 members attended the second meeting in Melbourne. Three of the 15 members could not attend the February 2005 meeting due to family commitments, illness and overseas travel.
- (e) No formal minutes are taken at the meetings. An Executive Summary of Community Projects is published for distribution at the final meeting. These are available online at www.thesource.gov.au.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 138

Topic: Operation of the FaCS youth portal www.youth.gov.au

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please outline why the Government's Youth website www.youth.gov.au has not functioned since the federal election 2004?

Answer:

In 2003, visitors to the Youth Portal, www.youth.gov.au, began to be automatically redirected to *the source* website in preparation for the amalgamation of the two websites.

the source website now exists as a 'one-stop-shop' of information for young Australians and provides access to information on a wide range of topics, including careers, education, health, government allowances, legal issues, finances, recreation, government services and government programs.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 139

Topic: Operation of the Australian Government's youth website, *the source*

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please outline why the appearance of The Source website www.thesource.gov.au looks amateur and would be unlikely to attract young people to it?
- b) Please outline all costs spent on The Source website in the last 12 months.

Answer:

a) A technical and design revision of *the source* website was undertaken during 2004, with a new design for the site implemented in August 2004. To ensure that the site would be appropriate to the needs of young Australians, the new site design was focus tested in March 2004 with a range of young people.

Since the new design was implemented, the majority of email feedback from users of the site has been overwhelmingly positive. The most recent available statistics on usage of *the source* show that the site was receiving an average of approximately 30,000 visitors a month in the last three months of 2004.

b) The departmental budget for technical development, design and marketing of *the source* website was \$125,00 in the 2003-04 financial year, and is \$120,000 for the 2004-05 financial year.

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Output Group: 1.3 Child Support

Question No: 143

Topic: Transfer of Function to Department of Human Services

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Does the Department retain any responsibilities under output 1.3?
- b) What functions exactly does FACS retain under this output?

Answer:

- a) As a result of machinery of government changes on 26 October 2004, responsibility for, and staff of, the Child Support Agency (CSA) transferred from the Family and Community Services (FaCS) portfolio to the Human Services portfolio. FaCS retains responsibility for child support policy.

- b) Under the Governor-General's Administrative Arrangements Order signed on 16 December 2004, the Minister for Family and Community Services has responsibility for the Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989 and the Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988, except to the extent that the Acts are administered by the Minister for Human Services.

The Minister for Human Services has responsibility for the Acts insofar as they relate to the appointment of the Registrar and the exercise of the powers and functions conferred on the Registrar under the Acts.

The broader policy responsibility for child support policy lies with the Minister for Family and Community Services, primarily under the broad heading of income security policies for families with children. By contrast, the relevant responsibilities of the Minister for Human Services relate to the development, delivery and coordination of Government Services and the monitoring and management of service delivery by the CSA, but include no policy responsibilities.

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: T11

Topic: CCB RECONCILIATION METHODOLOGY

Senator Collins asked:

REVISED CCB RECONCILIATION METHODOLOGY

Outcome: 1 Families are Strong

Output group: 1.4 Child Care Support

The new CCB reconciliation methodology:

- Reflects the overall net outcome rather than last reconciliation result;
- Takes account of multiple reconciliation processes; and
- Excludes customers who have not used any child care during the financial year from the reconciliation process for that year.

Some families who are in Centrelink's system no longer use child care. The old method continued to reconcile those families' records. The revised CCB method only reconciles families who used approved child care in the respective taxation (reconciliation) year.

The old method only took into account the most recent reconciliation result. The new method takes into account the combined effect of all of the reconciliation outcomes. For example:

- A parent lodges a tax return based on which the family received a \$1,500 top up.
- A service subsequently sends in supplementary usage records that result in the family having been paid \$500 too much. A debt for \$500 is raised and a revised notice will be sent to them.

The old method viewed the above family as incurring a \$500 debt, since that was the last reconciliation outcome. The new method views the family as having received a \$1,000 top up.

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: T12

Topic: Child Care Benefit Expenditure

Hansard Page:

Senator Collins/Moore asked:

- a) Number and percentage of families and children under each CCB rate
- b) Number and proportion of families under each CCB rate for FDC and LDC
- c) Amount and percentage of CCB expenditure under each CCB rate
- d) Amount of CCB expenditure under each CCB rate for children aged under the age of two
- e) Amount of CCB expenditure for children by age of child up to the age of six
- f) Amount and percentage of CCB for each of the different types of care

Answer:

- a) The **number and percentage of families and children under each CCB rate**, for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Rate	Customers		Children	
	No.	%	No.	%
Max	250,160	36.7	360,668	36.4
Min	109,071	16.0	151,967	15.3
Partial	321,968	47.3	478,434	48.3
Total (a)	681,400	100.0	991,323	100.0

(a) Includes customers with undetermined rate type.

Notes:

1. Excludes CCB received as a lump sum payment.
2. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid to families during the financial year.
3. Nationally weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

- b) The **number and proportion of families under each CCB rate for Family Day Care and Long Day Care** for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Rate	Family day care		Long day care	
	No.	%	No.	%
Max	40,104	37.0	166,338	36.9
Min	13,957	12.9	71,540	15.9
Partial	54,209	50.1	213,267	47.3
Total (a)	108,287	100.0	451,291	100.0

(a) Includes customers with undetermined rate type.

Notes:

1. Family day care numbers include in-home-care.
2. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid to families during the financial year.
3. Service type weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

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- c) The **amount and percentage of Child Care Benefit expenditure under each CCB rate** for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Rate	CCB (\$)	%
Max	722,961,780	51.9
Min	64,763,467	4.6
Partial	606,477,714	43.5
Total (a)	1,394,219,091	100.0

- (a) Includes expenditure where a customer's rate type could not be determined.

Notes:

1. Excludes CCB received as a lump sum payment. Total includes customers/children where rate type could not be included.
2. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid to families during the financial year.
3. Nationally weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

- d) The **amount of Child Care Benefit expenditure under each CCB rate for children under the age of two** for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Rate	CCB (\$)
Maximum	103,950,805
Minimum	13,065,161
Partial	112,567,869
Total (a)	229,590,618

- (a) Includes expenditure where a customer's rate type could not be determined.

Notes:

1. Excludes CCB received as a lump sum payment.
2. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid to families during the financial year.
3. Information is based on CCB paid to services on behalf of families for children who were under 2 years of age at any time during any quarter of the financial year and using care.
4. Nationally weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

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e) The amount of Child Care Benefit expenditure for children by age of child up to the age of six for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Age of child	CCB (\$)
Less than 1 Year	29,775,182
1 Year	146,449,440
2 Years	258,412,871
3 Years	335,406,672
4 Years	318,576,311
5 Years	132,049,794
6 Years	37,186,424
Total < 6 years	1,257,856,694

Notes:

1. Excludes CCB received as a lump sum payment.
2. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid families during the financial year.
3. Information is based on CCB paid to services on behalf of families for children under 7 years of age at the end date of any quarter of the financial year.
4. Nationally weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

f) The amount and percentage of Child Care Benefit expenditure for each of the different types of care for the 2003-2004 financial year is as follows:

Service type	CCB (\$)	%
Outside School Hours Care	74,325,870	5.3%
Family Day Care	248,199,442	17.8%
Long Day Care	1,019,008,930	73.1%
<i>Community LDC</i>	256,038,854	18.4%
<i>Private LDC</i>	762,970,076	54.7%
Occasional Care	5,880,662	0.4%
Vacation Care	46,804,186	3.4%
TOTAL	1,394,219,091	100.0%

Notes:

1. Excludes CCB received as a lump sum payment.
2. In-home-care expenditure is included in the Family Day Care amount.
3. The information in this table is based on pre-reconciliation amounts paid to families during the financial year.
4. Service type weighted data proportionally re-adjusted to nationally weighted total amount.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04.

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: T13

Topic: Child care services, places, utilisation, and staff

Senator Collins/Moore asked:

- a) Approved and registered services by type and State/Territory
- b) Places allocated by service type and State/Territory
- c) Utilisation by service type and State/Territory
- d) Children using approved care services by service type and State/Territory
- e) Families using approved care services by service type and State/Territory
- f) Staff and carers by service type and State/Territory

Answer:

a) Approved and registered services by service type and State/Territory, September 2004

Service type ^c	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
FDC ^a	124	93	112	18	30	14	10	8	409
LDC	1,805	830	1,043	208	390	68	50	90	4,484
OCC	45	23	16	3	12	4	1	4	108
OSHC ^b	889	1,032	638	353	158	82	49	96	3,297
VAC	507	352	453	211	140	53	37	41	1,794
MAC	11	6	3	5	5	1	3	0	34
TOTAL ^d	3,381	2,336	2,265	798	735	222	150	239	10,126
RCP ^e	1,963	1,490	1,205	327	268	115	54	106	5,713

FDC: Family day care, LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes After school hours care and Before school hours care), VAC: Vacation care, MAC: Multifunctional aboriginal children's service, RCP: Registered care provider.

- a) Includes in home care.
- b) Services offering after and before school care are counted as one combined outside school hours care service.
- c) Multifunctional services are included in the relevant service type categories.
- d) Includes approved services only as registered care providers are not counted as approved child care services.
- e) Refers to registered care providers, utilised during the 2003-04 financial year, for whom at least one successful claim for payment of Child Care Benefit was made. There were 185 registered care providers whose home State/Territory could not be determined.

Source: For approved service providers: Centrelink administrative data at 27-09-04.

For registered care providers: Centrelink administrative data at 07-01-05.

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b) Places allocated by service type and State/Territory, September 2004

Service type ^a	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
FDC ^b	24,734	16,306	15,884	5,889	5,348	2,732	1,085	2,530	74,508
LDC	74,276	45,698	68,693	11,710	18,426	3,309	2,672	4,819	229,603
OCC	1,192	605	471	83	361	77	10	102	2,901
OSHC	46,003	48,014	36,755	17,560	6,973	2,938	2,379	5,185	165,807
VAC	22,382	17,598	24,055	10,529	7,136	2,301	1,964	1,948	87,913
MAC	420	145	164	125	151	29	110	0	1,144
TOTAL	169,007	128,366	146,022	45,896	38,395	11,386	8,220	14,584	561,876
RCP ^c	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

FDC: Family day care, LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes After school hours care and Before school hours care), VAC: Vacation care, MAC: Multifunctional aboriginal children's service, RCP: Registered care provider.

- a) Multifunctional service places are included in the relevant service type categories.
b) Includes in home care.
c) Approved places are not allocated to registered care providers.

Source: Centrelink administrative data at 27-09-04.

c) Utilisation rate by service type (%) and State/Territory, March 2004

Service type	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
FDC	67.0	65.7	73.0	80.8	59.0	73.4	67.0	39.0	68.2
LDC	86.8	82.6	83.7	87.0	82.4	77.7	81.4	83.4	84.7

FDC: Family Day care, LDC: Long Day Care.

Note: Utilisation is only available for FDC and LDC services.

Source: 2004 Census of Child Care Services (unweighted)

d) Children using approved care services by service type and State/Territory^a during the 2003-2004 financial year

Service type	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST ^b
FDC	52,214	40,281	34,086	16,136	12,795	8,541	1,797	3,105	167,984
LDC	196,136	112,829	175,322	35,565	56,091	10,811	4,987	10,033	596,178
OCC	7,444	5,711	3,328	588	2,287	475	6	429	20,189
OSHC	59,348	70,962	68,161	33,569	12,106	5,942	2,850	7,027	259,625
VAC	47,794	46,694	56,399	25,777	16,151	6,851	3,054	3,666	204,803
TOTAL ^c	307,228	232,435	266,562	83,756	84,097	25,876	9,841	20,000	1,020,239

FDC: Family day care (including in-home-care), LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes after and before hours care), VAC: Vacation care.

- (a) Based on location of child care service.
(b) Australian total does not represent an aggregation of State and Territory data as children may have used services in more than one State/Territory during the financial year.
(c) Total count does not represent an aggregation of service type data as children may have used more than one type of service during the financial year.

Note: Weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04

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e) Families using approved care services by service type and State/Territory^a during the 2003-2004 financial year.

Service type	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST ^b
FDC	36,367	25,899	22,341	9,746	8,650	5,553	1,281	2,147	111,310
LDC	159,242	88,751	127,711	27,864	42,737	8,453	3,996	8,125	462,138
OCC	6,087	4,528	2,634	471	1,822	413	6	345	16,242
OSHC	42,772	49,481	45,495	22,500	8,468	4,162	1,999	5,136	179,728
VAC	32,538	31,147	36,636	16,616	10,813	4,627	2,070	2,574	135,914
TOTAL^c	223,881	158,353	177,326	54,482	59,321	17,277	6,692	13,981	703,975

FDC: Family day care (including in-home-care), LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes after and before hours care), VAC: Vacation care.

(a) Based on location of child care service.

(b) Australian total does not represent an aggregation of State and Territory data as some families used services in more than one State/Territory during the financial year

(c) Total count does not represent an aggregation of service type data as families may have used more than one type of service during the financial year

Note: Weighted data.

Source: Centrelink administrative data as at 01-10-04

f) Staff and carers by service type and State/Territory, March 2004

Service type	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
FDC									
STAFF	631	337	397	145	114	75	27	44	1,770
CARERS	3,793	2,872	2,639	937	710	461	154	327	11,893
IHC									
STAFF	39	38	55	4	20	23	0	5	184
CARERS	221	106	263	34	80	94	0	13	811
LDC	15,510	10,250	11,654	2,853	3,489	910	535	1,270	46,471
OCC	362	215	161	12	100	44	10	22	926
OSHC	3,103	2,955	2,647	1,209	543	259	161	654	11,531
VAC	3,155	2,094	2,788	1,397	754	295	183	332	10,998
MULTI	12	35	43	33	27	0	29	0	179
MAC	124	54	30	44	62	15	22	0	351
MOB	44	65	12	20	21	0	12	0	174
APG	28	9	55	21	22	0	28	0	163
TOTAL	27,022	19,030	20,744	6,709	5,942	2,176	1,161	2,667	85,451

FDC: Family Day Care, IHC: In Home Care, LDC: Long Day Care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside School Hours Care, VAC: Vacation care, Multi: Multifunctional children's service, MAC: Multifunctional aboriginal children's service, MOB: Mobile toy libraries, APG: Aboriginal Play Groups

Notes:

5. Child Care Census staff and carer data cannot be reliably split into BSC and ASC.

6. FDC and IHC staff counts paid administrative staff. FDC and IHC carers count actual carers only.

Source: 2004 Census of Child Care Services (unweighted)

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: T14

Topic: Planning Advisory Committee Minutes

Senator Collins/Moore asked:

Tasmanian Planning Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Answer:

Note: No other PACs meetings have been held since previous Estimates.

Tasmanian Child Care State Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Monday 8 November 2004
Minutes

Present:

John Hargrave	Chair, Department of Family and Community Services
Robyn Watts	Tasmanian Family Day Care Coordinator
Kaye van Nieuwkuyk	Early Childhood Association – CBLDC
Sue Reid	Early Childhood Association - OSHC
Viv Mitchell	Tasmanian Department of Education
Kathy Westlake	Tasmanian Department of Education
Tracey Bradley	Local Government Association of Tasmania
Mart Kruup	Department of Family and Community Services
Therese Bourke	Department of Family and Community Services

Apologies:

Fiona Dempster	State Manager, Department of Family and Community Services
Ros Cornish	Early Childhood Association
Pat Reid	Child Care Association of Tasmania
Danielle O'Neill	Early Childhood Association - OSHC

Item 1 Introduction and objectives of the meeting

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and advised new members of the role of the Advisory Committee:

- Identify areas where new family day care or outside school hours care services are required. This may include areas where existing unfunded family day care or outside school hours care services are seeking access to child care benefit.
- Provide advice on areas that already have an appropriate range of child care services, but which need additional family day care or outside school hours care places.
- Provide advice, if requested, on areas where additional long day care centre places, or other kinds of child care places, are required.
- Provide advice on areas where further research is needed in order to identify whether more child care places are required.

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One member advised the Chair of their involvement with two of the applications received. To avoid a conflict of interest, they will not participate in discussion on priority status for Launceston and Hobart.

Item 2. Confirmation of minutes of the April 2004 meeting, and recap of outcomes

Decision:

Minutes were agreed without amendment.

Item 3. State Government – reporting on potential growth

The State government representatives reported on the number and location of new applications for long day care service licences in Tasmania, and progress with licensing of Outside School Hours Care services.

Decision:

The Advisory Committee noted the State government representatives' report.

Item 4. Consideration of need areas for Outside School Hours Care

Decision:

The Advisory Committee recommended that the Department consider allocating the following outside school hours care places:

Hobart	Allocation of up to 101 OSHC places supported.
Launceston	Allocation of up to 36 OSHC places supported.
Waratah Wynyard	Allocation of up to 20 OSHC places supported.
Kingborough	No applications have been received for this SLA, however the Committee recommended that a needs analysis be undertaken by the Department.
Glenorchy	Allocation of up to 78 OSHC places supported, following further analysis of the level of demand.
Tasman	No applications have been received for this SLA, however the Committee recommended that a needs analysis be undertaken by the Department.
Meander Valley	No applications have been received for this SLA, however the Committee recommended that a needs analysis be undertaken by the Department.

Action:

The Department agreed to undertake needs analysis for Kingborough, Tasman and Meander Valley, and further analyse demand for Glenorchy.

Item 5 OSHC utilisation survey

Decision:

The draft survey was noted.

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Item 6 Other business

No other business was raised.

The Chair closed the meeting, and thanked members for their contributions.

Therese Bourke
Tasmanian State Office
16 November 2004

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: T15

Topic: Corporate Child Care Providers

Senator Collins/Moore asked:

- a) Breakdown of service type by ownership ie. Community, private
- b) Number of places and services run by Corporate providers listed on the stock exchange
- c) Amount of CCB budget paid to Corporate providers that are listed on the Stock Exchange

Answer:

- a) Breakdown by **service type by ownership** (i.e. community based, private, multi-owned private) as at January 2005.

Service type	Operator (No.)
Community Long Day Care	918
Private Long Day Care –sponsors of 1 or 2 services	2,037
Private Long Day Care –sponsors of 3 or more services	54

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data at 07-01-05.

- b) **Number of places and services run by child-care providers that are listed on the Stock Exchange.**

The number of approved places in services operated by child-care providers listed on the Australian Stock Exchange at 7 January 2005 was 53,764. The number of services was 788.

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data at 07-01-05.

- c) **The amount of the child care budget paid to corporate child care providers that are listed on the Stock Exchange.**

The amount of Child Care Benefit (CCB) claimed as fee relief by families using Long Day Care services operated by companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange for the 2003-04 financial year is estimated to be around \$159 million.

Note: This figure excludes CCB received as lump sum payment.

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data at 07-01-05.

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Question No: T16

Topic: Openings and closures of child care services

Senator Collins/Moore asked:

- a) By Commonwealth electoral division and service type
- b) By Local Government Area and service type
- c) By State/Territory and service type

Answer:

The tables below show openings and closures of Commonwealth funded child care centres by service type, electorate and local government area for the 2003-2004 financial year. Note that current openings and closures information does not take into account transfers of service ownership. When the ownership of a service is transferred Centrelink is required to close the service on the Child Care Operator system and to create a new service record to affect the transfer. This means that any transfer of ownership will be recorded as both an opening and a closure.

Openings and closures by Commonwealth electoral division and service type (2003-2004).

Commonwealth electoral division (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Adelaide	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Aston	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
Ballarat	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banks	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Barker	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Barton	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Bass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Batman	0	0	6	6	0	0	2	1	0	0
Bendigo	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bennelong	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Berowra	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Blair	0	0	10	7	0	0	1	0	1	0
Blaxland	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Bonner	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Boothby	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bowman	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Braddon	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
Bradfield	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	1
Brand	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brisbane	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	1
Bruce	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Calare	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calwell	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	3	0	0
Canberra	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	0	5	0
Canning	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	2	2	2

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Commonwealth electoral division (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Capricornia	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casey	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlton	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chifley	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chisholm	0	0	4	4	0	0	3	2	0	0
Cook	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corangamite	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Corio	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	1
Cowan	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cowper	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Cunningham	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Curtin	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dawson	1	1	9	6	1	1	1	1	0	0
Deakin	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Denison	0	0	6	5	0	0	5	9	5	5
Dickson	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dobell	0	0	5	3	0	0	2	1	1	1
Dunkley	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden-Monaro	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	3
Fadden	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fairfax	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farrer	0	0	7	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flinders	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	1	3	0
Forde	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
Forrest	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fowler	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	7	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
Fraser	0	0	4	2	0	0	4	2	1	0
Fremantle	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gellibrand	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
Gilmore	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gippsland	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldstein	1	0	2	2	0	0	6	6	1	1
Gorton	0	0	4	4	0	0	2	1	1	0
Grayndler	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenway	0	0	8	5	0	0	2	1	1	0
Grey	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
Griffith	0	0	7	2	0	0	1	1	2	0
Groom	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwydir	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hasluck	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herbert	0	0	8	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Higgins	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	5	1	1
Hindmarsh	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Hinkler	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	3	0	0

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Commonwealth electoral division (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Holt	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	2	2	2
Hotham	0	0	4	4	0	0	2	2	1	1
Hughes	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0
Hume	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hunter	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Indi	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Isaacs	0	0	5	4	0	0	2	2	1	1
Jagajaga	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0
Kalgoorlie	0	0	7	6	1	1	2	2	2	2
Kennedy	0	0	8	4	0	0	1	2	1	1
Kingsford Smith	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0
Kingston	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
Kooyong	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0
La Trobe	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Lalor	0	0	6	3	0	0	3	2	1	0
Leichhardt	1	1	15	11	0	0	1	1	0	0
Lilley	0	0	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lindsay	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
Lingiari	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5	1	1
Longman	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lowe	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lyne	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyons	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macarthur	0	0	6	5	0	0	1	1	1	1
Mackellar	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	1
Macquarie	0	0	7	5	0	0	1	0	1	0
Makin	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mallee	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Maranoa	1	1	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Maribyrnong	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	5	0	0
Mayo	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	3	5	0
Mcewen	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
Mcmillan	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mcperson	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Melbourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0
Melbourne Ports	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	0	0
Menzies	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	2	3	2
Mitchell	0	0	6	2	0	0	1	0	2	0
Moncrieff	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Moore	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	3	1
Moreton	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murray	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
New England	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
North Sydney	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	1	2	0
O'Connor	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Oxley	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Page	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkes	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Parramatta	0	0	6	7	0	0	1	0	3	0
Paterson	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pearce	0	0	9	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Perth	0	0	6	6	0	0	2	1	1	1
Petrie	0	0	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Adelaide	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Prospect	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	2
Rankin	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Reid	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	0
Richmond	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Riverina	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Robertson	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	3	1
Ryan	0	0	6	6	0	0	2	2	1	0
Scullin	0	0	3	2	0	0	4	5	1	0
Shortland	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	0
Solomon	0	1	7	4	0	0	3	4	1	0
Stirling	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sturt	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Swan	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sydney	0	1	1	1	0	0	4	1	2	0
Tangney	0	0	5	3	0	0	1	2	1	1
Throsby	0	0	6	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wannon	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Warringah	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watson	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wentworth	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Werriwa	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Wide Bay	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wills	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0

FDC: Family day care (includes In-home care), LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes after school hours and before school hours care), VAC: Vacation care.

Note: This table excludes Commonwealth Electoral Divisions where no openings or closures occurred during the financial year.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

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Openings and closures by Local Government Area (LGA) and service type (2003-2004).

Local Government Area (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Adelaide (C)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adelaide Hills (DC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Albany (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albury (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Alice Springs (T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
Ararat (RC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Armadale (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	2	2
Armidale Dumaresq (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auburn (A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ballarat (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballina (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balonne (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bankstown (C)	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	0
Banyule (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bass Coast (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bassendean (T)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bathurst (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baulkham Hills (A)	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Baw Baw (S)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bayside (C)	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0
Bayswater (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaulesert (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bellingen (A)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benalla (RC)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blacktown (C)	0	0	11	8	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bland (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Mountains (C)	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bombala (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boroondara (C)	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0
Bourke (A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brighton (M)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brimbank (C)	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brisbane (C)	0	0	35	20	0	0	6	0	6	2
Broken Hill (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broome (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bunbury (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bundaberg (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Burnett (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burnside (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Burwood (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Busselton (S)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Local Government Area (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Byron (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caboorture (S)	0	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cairns (C)	0	1	14	11	0	0	1	0	0	0
Calliope (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caloundra (C)	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridge (T)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden (A)	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Campaspe (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbelltown (C) (NSW)	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Campbelltown (C) (SA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Canada Bay (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canning (C)	0	0	5	2	0	0	3	0	1	2
Canterbury (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capel (S)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardinia (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cardwell (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casey (C)	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	0	3	3
Central Coast (M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Claremont (T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clarence (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarence Valley (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleve (DC)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloncurry (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cockburn (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coffs Harbour (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colac-Otway (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooper Pedy (DC)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cook (S)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coolamon (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dardanup (S)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darebin (C)	0	0	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	0
Darwin (C)	0	1	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Deniliquin (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devonport (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dubbo (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eacham (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Capital City Regional (A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Emerald (S)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esperance (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Eurobodalla (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairfield (C)	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	3	2
Fitzroy (S)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Forbes (A)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Frankston (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fremantle (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gannawarra (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gatton (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geraldton (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gladstone (C)	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Glen Eira (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	5	0	1	1
Glen Innes (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glenorchy (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gold Coast (C)	0	0	22	18	0	0	2	0	0	1
Gosford (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	1
Gosnells (C)	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Argyle (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Bendigo (C)	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Dandenong (C)	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Greater Geelong (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
Greater Queanbeyan (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Greater Taree (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Griffith (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Harvey (S)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hastings (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkesbury (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hervey Bay (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hobart (C)	0	0	6	5	0	0	8	0	4	5
Hobsons Bay (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Holroyd (C)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hornsby (A)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Hume (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hume (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	0
Huon Valley (M)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hurstville (C)	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Inverell (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ipswich (C)	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnstone (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jondaryan (S)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joondalup (C)	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	3	2
Junea (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalamunda (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kangaroo Island (DC)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Katherine (T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kempsey (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Kiama (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingborough (M)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kingston (C)	0	0	8	7	0	0	4	0	2	2
Knox (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Ku-ring-gai (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1
Kyogle (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laidley (S)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Macquarie (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lane Cove (A)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Latrobe (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Launceston (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Leichhardt (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lismore (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Litchfield (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Liverpool (C)	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Livingstone (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lockhart (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan (C)	0	0	12	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lower Eyre Peninsula (DC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Macedon Ranges (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mackay (C)	1	1	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Maitland (C)	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mandurah (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manningham (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	3	1
Maribyrnong (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Marion (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Maroochy (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maroondah (C)	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
McKinlay (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Melton (S)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Melville (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mildura (RC)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mitcham (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Moira (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Monash (C)	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Moonee Valley (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0
Moorabool (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morawa (S)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moreland (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
Mornington Peninsula (S)	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	0
Mosman (A)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mosman Park (T)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Alexander (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

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	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Mount Barker (DC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Murilla (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murray (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murrindindi (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Muswellbrook (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nambucca (A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nanango (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Naracoorte and Lucindale (DC)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Narrabri (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nillumbik (S)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noosa (S)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Sydney (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Grampians (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Northern Midlands (M)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onkaparinga (C)	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Orange (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmerston (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Parkes (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paroo (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parramatta (C)	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	3	0
Penrith (C)	0	0	5	3	0	0	1	0	2	0
Pine Rivers (S)	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittwater (A)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Playford (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Port Adelaide Enfield (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Port Hedland (T)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Lincoln (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Port Phillip (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Port Stephens (A)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queenscliffe (B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Randwick (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Redcliffe (C)	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redland (S)	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Richmond (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robe (DC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rockdale (C)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Rockhampton (C)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockingham (C)	0	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roebourne (S)	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	1
Roxby Downs (M)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryde (C)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Salisbury (C)	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarina (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shellharbour (C)	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoalhaven (C)	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Stirling (C)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stonnington (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Strathbogie (S)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathfield (A)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surf Coast (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutherland Shire (A)	0	0	5	4	0	0	1	0	1	0
Swan (C)	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney (C)	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Tamworth (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tea Tree Gully (C)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Thuringowa (C)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Toodyay (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toowoomba (C)	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torres (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Townsville (C)	0	0	6	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Towong (S)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tumut (A)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tweed (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unincorp. Other Territories	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unincorporated ACT	0	0	5	4	0	0	2	0	6	0
Unley (C)	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria Park (T)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vincent (T)	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wagga Wagga (C)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wangaratta (RC)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wanneroo (C)	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Warringah (A)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Warrnambool (C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwick (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Waverley (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington (S)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wentworth (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Torrens (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Whitehorse (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Whitsunday (S)	0	0	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Whittlesea (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	0	1	0
Willoughby (C)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wiluna (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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Local Government Area (2004)	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Wingecarribee (A)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wodonga (RC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wollondilly (A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wollongong (C)	0	0	8	6	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wyndham (C)	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wyong (A)	0	0	8	6	0	0	1	0	1	1
Yarra (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yarra Ranges (S)	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yass Valley (A)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young (A)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

FDC: Family day care (includes In-home care), LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes after school hours and before school hours care), VAC: Vacation care.

A: Area, C: City, CGC: Community Government Council, DC: District Councils, M: municipality, RC: Rural Cities, S: Shires, T: Towns.

Note: This table excludes Local Government Areas where no openings or closures occurred during the financial year.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

Openings and closures by State/Territory and service type (2003-2004).

State/Territory	Service Type									
	FDC		LDC		OCC		OSHC		VAC	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
NSW	0	3	177	108	0	0	36	22	42	17
VIC	1	2	98	64	0	0	76	64	23	14
QLD	3	4	182	100	1	1	12	17	13	5
SA	1	2	22	14	0	0	6	6	18	1
WA	0	0	85	51	1	1	8	10	12	11
TAS	0	0	14	9	0	0	9	12	7	7
NT	0	1	7	4	0	0	5	9	2	1
ACT	0	0	5	4	0	0	8	2	6	0

FDC: Family day care (includes In-home care), LDC: Long day care, OCC: Occasional care, OSHC: Outside school hours care (includes after school hours and before school hours care), VAC: Vacation care.

Source: Centrelink administrative data.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 55

Topic: In Home Care

Hansard Page: CA53

Senator Moore asked:

Could you please provide a history of the Review of In Home Care Services?

Answer:

The Minister announced a review of In Home Care in January 2005 through a media release and letters to service providers. This followed additional allocations of places and representations from the sector to provide clarity around service delivery aspects of the program.

The Review has commenced and is expected to be completed before mid-year. The Review comprises two projects: client feedback and a broader program evaluation, including consultation with the sector.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 56

Topic: In Home Care

Hansard Page: CA53

Senator McLucas asked:

When was the In Home Care established?

Answer:

The In Home Care (IHC) Program was implemented as a national program in January 2001.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 59

Topic: In Home Care

Hansard Page: CA62

Senator McLucas asked:

How many children with disabilities are being cared for at any point in time for that \$1million spent on DSUPS for In Home Care?

Answer:

Reference Hansard CA79

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 57

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA59

Senator Collins asked:

Could you please provide the level of expressions of interest for demand for Outside School Hours Care?

Answer:

At 1 February 2005 the Department held applications and expressions of interest from service providers for a total of 5,621 Outside School Hours Care places. This figure is likely to be an overestimate of the real level of demand as these applications and expressions of interest have not been assessed or validated.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 58

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA59/60

Senator Collins asked:

What are the areas of unmet demand in long day care?

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services does not collect data to answer this question. There is no limit or control on the allocation of long day care centre places.

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: 60

Topic: Demand for Child Care

Hansard Page: CA64

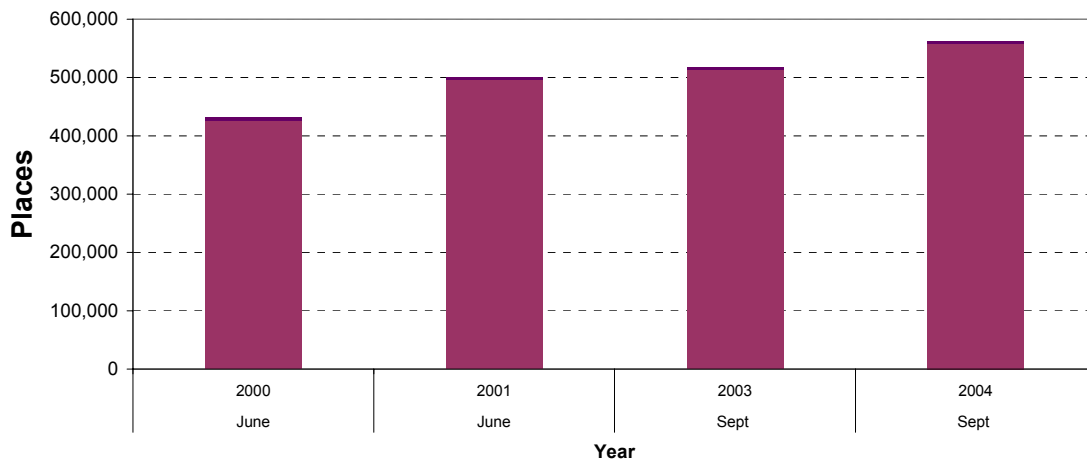
Senator Collins asked:

Is demand for child care growing (over past 3 years)? Can we provide a graph of validated places from 2000?

Answer:

The demand for child care has been growing over past 3 years. The graph below shows the number of Australian Government approved child care places since June 2000.

Number of Child Care Places Since 2000



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Output Group: 1.4

Question No:152

Topic: Demand for Child Care

Hansard Page: CA71-72

Senator Moore asked:

How many CCB funded childcare places are currently being used by parents who do not fit the priority groups of working, studying, or training?

Answer:

It is not possible to determine how many places are used for non-work related reasons as a single place can be used by multiple children in care.

Data from the 2002 Australian Government Census of Child Care Services reports that 97 per cent of children's paid for hours in before and after school care, 88 per cent of children's paid for hours in private long day care, 90 per cent of children's paid for hours in community long day care and 89 per cent of children's paid for hours in family day care were for work-related reasons.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 61

Topic: Long Day Care Incentive Scheme

Hansard Page: CA67/68

Senator Collins asked:

Could you please explain the nature of the “privates” in the eight services approved for the Long Day Care Incentive Scheme?

Answer:

Of the eight successful applicants from the last funding round five are private operators. The nature of these privates are:

- Two partnerships
- Three Private companies that are Proprietary Limited

There were no corporate providers approved for funding.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No:62

Topic: Long Day Care Incentive Scheme

Hansard Page: CA68

Senator Collins asked:

How does FaCS identify demand for the Long Day Care Incentive Scheme? What is the criteria?

Answer:

a) FaCS identified demand for the 2004 funding round for Long Day Care Incentive Scheme by requiring applicants to demonstrate high, unmet demand in their selected region. Applicants demonstrated high, unmet demand by meeting the criteria detailed below:

- No access to long day care services in the selected region; and
- No access to child care in surrounding regions due to:
 - There not being a child care service in that region; or
 - Fully populated waiting list at child care services in that region; or
 - Distance (ie distance to travel is unreasonable); or
 - Transport restrictions (ie, no public transport between regions).

In the funding round announced on Saturday, 19 February 2005 the Department has provided a list of '*potential areas*' that applicants may select and demonstrate there is high, unmet demand. Applicants may also select areas not on the Department's list as long as they can substantiate high, unmet demand.

The Department identified the list of '*potential areas*' based on the following:

- they are a rural or urban fringe area;
- their total population is greater than 1000; and
- there is currently no existing Long Day Care Centre within 10kms.

The Department has not determined the level of unmet demand for centre-based long day care in these areas. Organisations considering the establishment of services in these areas are expected to undertake this research.

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b) The criteria for Long Day Care Incentive are:

- Criterion 1 Demonstrated high, unmet demand for a long day care service in the selected region.
- Criterion 2 Demonstrated ability of the service to best meet the identified needs of the community.
- Criterion 3 Demonstrated knowledge, understanding and ability to establish and operate a viable child care centre within the required timeframe.
- Criterion 4 Demonstrated experience and qualification of personnel, including administrative staff and carers.
- Criterion 5 Demonstrated financial management expertise including a detailed understanding of establishing and operating a viable service and an exit strategy for transition from Long Day Care Incentive Scheme funding.
- Criterion 6 Demonstrated ability to meet relevant legislative and industry requirements, including Quality Improvement and Accreditation System standards of service.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No:63

Topic: Long Day Care Incentive Scheme

Hansard Page: CA69

Senator Collins asked:

- a) What assessment method is used to ascertain where centres will be established?
- b) What consultation is done with State and Local Government?

Answer:

a) Applications for the Long Day Care Incentive Scheme are selected based on an open and competitive national funding round. Applications are assessed against the selection criteria, and the information provided by the applicant that is contained in the *Application for approval under the Family Assistance Law for the purpose of Child Care Benefit: Centre Based Long Day Care Service form* (application form) and required supporting documentation.

The selection process for the first funding round occurred in two stages. Firstly, all applications are checked to determine the applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of application. All compliant applications are then assessed against the selection criteria.

In assessing against the selection criteria the Department firstly assessed that there was high, unmet demand within the selected region. The Department assesses high, unmet demand based on the following criteria:

- No access to long day care services in the selected region; and
- No access to child care in surrounding regions due to:
 - There not being a child care service in that region, or
 - Fully populated waiting list at child care services in that region, or
 - Distance (ie distance to travel is unreasonable), or
 - Transport restrictions (ie, no public transport between regions)

The second stage of the selection process comprised a quality assurance check and a comparative assessment of recommended applicants.

b) The Department currently has no processes for consulting with State and Local governments.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 64

Topic: Priority of Access

Hansard Page: CA70

Senator Collins asked:

What steps are taken in assessing asking a child to leave a day care centre who has priority access?

Answer:

Under the Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000, services are required to allocate places for children in accordance with the Priority of Access Guidelines. The Guidelines state that priority must be given in the following order:

Priority 1 – a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect

Priority 2 – a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy, the work/training/study test under section 14 of the Family Assistance Act.

Priority 3 – any other child.

A child care service with vacant places must apply these guidelines. Where a child care service has no vacant places the service may require a lower priority child to leave, to provide a place for a higher priority child.

Services are required to advise parents of the Priority of Access Guidelines at the time of accepting their child.

The service is required to ensure that:

- (a) The person who is liable to pay fees in respect of the (priority 3) child was notified when the child first occupied the child care place that the service followed this policy, and
- (b) The service gives that person at least 14 days notice of the requirement for the child to leave the child care service.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 66

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA74

Senator Collins asked: Is there a project with the states addressing the nought to two issues?

Answer:

No.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 67

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA75

Senator Collins asked:

Child care workers

- (a) Has the department looked at the issues of closed rooms in child care centres, because it can't find suitable staff to operate them?
- (b) Are there any initiatives to attract child care staff?

Answer:

- (a) No. The issues of centres choosing to offer a reduced number of places may be due to a range of operational or financial reasons, or state and territory licensing issues with which the Australian Government is not involved.
- (b) The National Children's Services Workforce Project, involving all jurisdictions including the Department of Family and Community Services, is developing strategies to address recruitment and retention issues.

A range of other strategies and programs are currently being implemented at a State and Territory level to attract and retain staff in early childhood education and care services. Many of these strategies are supported by Australian Government funding.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 68

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA75-76.

Senator Collins asked: Did Minister Anthony commit to looking at the under 2 year old issue last July.

Answer:

Yes. Further work is being done to look at child care usage patterns for children aged 0-2 between 1999 and 2002, in light of available data sources.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 151

Topic: Child Care

Hansard Page: CA 78

Senator Moore asked:

Does FaCS engage in regular liaison with government employer sponsored child care providers, such as Defence Child Care?

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services does not liaise on a regular or formal basis with government agencies that provide employer sponsored child care.

Approved employer sponsored child care providers receive information and advice from the Department on the same basis as all other child care services.

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Output Group: 1.4 – Child Care Support

Question No: 69

Topic: 30% of Child Care Tax Rebate

Hansard Page: CA78

Senator Collins asked:

- a. What is the methodology of the CCB costing on the 30% child care tax rebate measure?
- b. What is the current level of non-claimers of CCB?
- c. What is the proportion of those non-claimers who will claim (after introduction of 30% rebate)?

Answer:

- a. The methodology for estimating the impact on CCB of the child care tax rebate was based on 2002-03 CCB reconciliation data.

It was estimated that around **10,000** out of the 12,471 families who did not claim CCB would be eligible for at least the minimum rate of CCB in 02-03. It was estimated that this would increase to 13,000 for 05-06.

In 2002-03 another 14,500 families only claimed **part** of the approved child care used through fee reduction. It is assumed that these families would claim CCB for **all** the care used as a result of 30% child care rebate measure. It is estimated that this group would rise to 18,000 for 05-06.

It is estimated that the average lump sum for both groups would be around \$362 per year in 05-06. Therefore it is estimated that the total CCB cost in 05-06 for child care tax rebate measure is \$11.228 million: $(13,000+18,000) \times \$362 = \11.228 million.

- b. Based on 2002-03 reconciliation data, the number of non-claimers of CCB who are eligible for CCB is estimated to be around 10,000 families.
- c. It is estimated that **all** of the 10,000 non-claimers of CCB would start claiming CCB as a result of the Child Care Tax Rebate Measure.

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 70

Topic: Long Day Care and Pre-School

Hansard Page: CA82

Senator Allison asked:

Can the department confirm that state by state, that 80% of children attending long day care facilities do not attend formal pre-school?

Answer:

The department does not collect information on individual children's pre-school attendance.

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: 153

Topic: Graph on number of children using child care

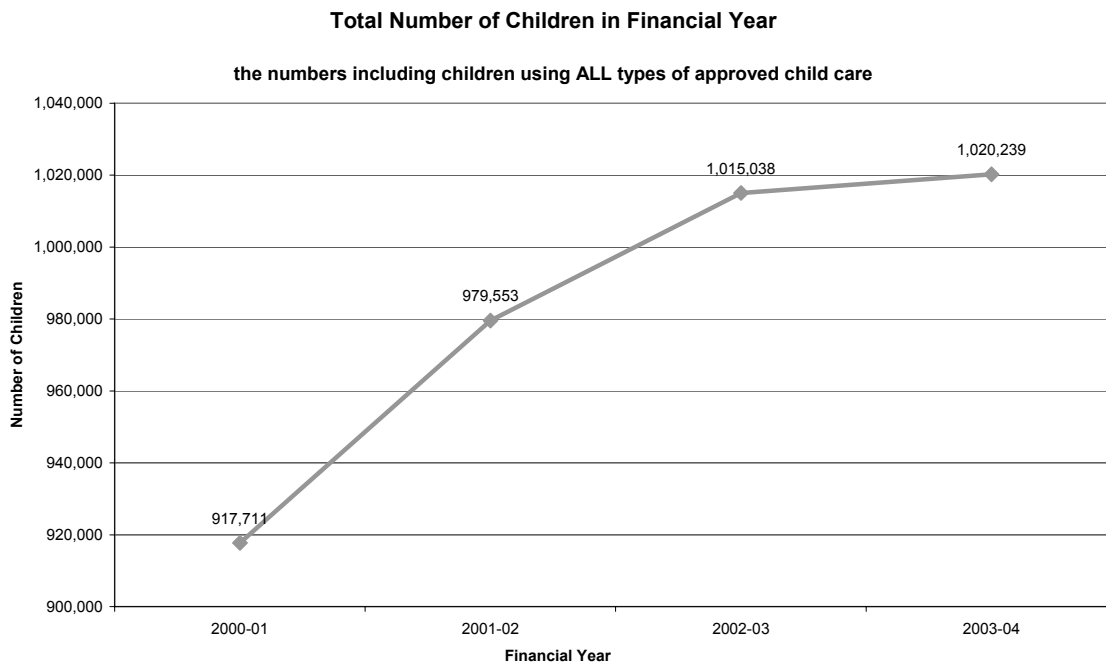
Hansard Page: CA64

Senator Moore asked:

Do you have a graph that would indicate that (the number of children using child care has been increasing) over a period of time? (Agreed to from 2000)

Answer:

The graph below is based on the total number of children in care in each **financial year** (from 2000-01 to 2003-04).



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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: 144

Topic: Child Care Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Child care benefit debts/overpayments

Please supply updated information on CCB reconciliations for the 2003-04 financial year.

Answer:

The reconciliation process for the 2003-04 financial year can only commence after customers have lodged their tax returns.

As at **28 January 2005**, **over 80% of CCB families** had had their 2003-04 CCB entitlements reconciled.

- Total number of families reconciled – 570,489
- Total number of top ups – 201,039 (\$49.66 million in total)
 - Average top up - \$247.03
- Total number of overpayments – 129,184 (\$36.72 million in total)
Average overpayment - \$284.28

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 145

Topic: Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please Provide figures on the number of children, parents and services receiving JET child care assistance by state/territory for the last five financial years (including 2004-05 to date).

Answer:

See attached table. Note data was not collected prior to 2003.

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JET Child Care Data

The figures below indicate the number of children, parents and services receiving JET child care assistance by state/territory for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD Nth	QLD Sth	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
0304									
Services	111	737	104	230	596	318	141	1042	544
Parents	234	1557	567	602	1395	1033	422	2667	1822
Children	304	2013	688	783	1814	1397	549	3467	2389
*Services	96	699	73	233	633	292	130	935	524
**Parents	202	926	185	702	1525	758	473	2710	1655
**Children	263	1175	718	913	2038	1573	615	3523	2299

* count of services data correct at 14/2/2005

** count of parents & children until early March 2005

In NSW data has been collect since 2001 as follows

	NSW
0102	
Services	total 452
Parents	total 677
Children	total 798
0203	
*Services	total 739
**Parents	total 1037
**Children	total 1281

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Output Group: 1.4

Question No: 146

Topic: Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please indicate the funding allocation for the JET Child Care program in each of the next four financial years.

Answer:

JET funding for 2004/05 is estimated to be \$15.264m. Figures for the years after 2004/05 are not available.

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Output Group: 2.1

Questions No: 7

Topic: Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: Written questions on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

Can the Government confirm data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) that the main reason for homeless people seeking crisis accommodation is because of domestic violence.

Answer:

Data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2002-03 shows that in 22 per cent of the periods of support provided by Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), domestic violence was given as the main presenting reason.

Other reasons cited as main presenting reasons for seeking SAAP support in 2002-03 were:

. Eviction/previous accommodation ended	11.2%
. Usual accommodation unavailable	10.9%;
. Relationship breakdown	10.5%
. Financial difficulty	8.9%

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Output Group: 2.1

Questions No: 8

Topic: Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

If so, can the Government also confirm reports that 25 per cent of all people registered with the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) did so because of domestic violence?

Answer:

No, data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2002-03 shows that in 22 per cent of the periods of support provided by SAAP, domestic violence was given as the main presenting reason.

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Output Group: 2.1

Questions No: 9

Topic: Crisis Accommodation

Hansard Page: Written questions on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

If not, what according to the Government is the main reason for people to seek crisis accommodation?

Answer:

This matter was covered in answer to question No. 7.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 71

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator McLucas asked:

What were the outlays for FaCS Indigenous Housing Programs in 2003/04? (Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) and the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP)?

Answer:

The Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) was administered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) in 2003/04. Total expenditure in 2003/04 was \$244,540,933 and comprised two outputs:

Community Housing and Infrastructure	\$ 201,251,415
Municipal Services	\$ 43,289,518

The Department of Family and Community Services administers the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP). Total expenditure in 2003/04 was \$100,655,000.

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Output Group: 2.1

Questions No: 72

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator Crossin asked:

Is it possible to have a copy of correspondence to State and Territory Government's concerning reviewing distribution of funds for Indigenous Housing – Clause 14.4?

Answer:

Yes, copies of the correspondence are attached. The Minister signed all the letters on 25 June 2004.

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Mr Bill Wood MLA
Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) arrangements for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for participating in the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. This funding will help alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan.

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I am aware that the ACT is not in receipt of any ARHP funds. However, I am seeking your agreement, as a signatory to the CSHA to amend clause 4(31), to enable payment of ARHP funding for the first three months of the second Grant Year be made to other jurisdictions. I am proposing that Clause 4(31) be amended to read as follows:

“In the second Grant Year, notwithstanding subclause 4(31), the Minister agrees to commence ARHP funding to a State for a period of up to three months, irrespective of whether an annual Indigenous Housing plan has yet to be agreed.”
at the end of subclause 4(29).”

The proposed amendment will enable jurisdictions that receive ARHP funds to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I recognise the effort being made by the ACT to improve housing options for Indigenous people and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

The Hon Carl Scully MP
Minister for Housing
Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2004 regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) arrangements for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to acknowledge your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP program funds for New South Wales will be \$17.777 million plus indexation.

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. This funding will help alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan. I am seeking your agreement to amend clause 4(31) to enable payment of ARHP funding for the first three months of the second Grant Year. I am proposing that Clause 4(31) be amended to read as follows:

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“In the second Grant Year, notwithstanding subclause 4(31), the Minister agrees to commence ARHP funding to a State for a period of up to three months, irrespective of whether an annual Indigenous Housing plan has yet to be agreed.”
at the end of subclause 4(29).”

The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

The Hon John Ah Kit MLA
Minister for Housing
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2004 regarding the Aboriginal Housing Rental Program (ARHP) arrangements for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to acknowledge your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP base funding for the Northern Territory will be \$19.458 million (plus indexation), with an additional ARHP component of \$4.73 million.

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. From this amount, seven million dollars will be made available to the Northern Territory to alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in

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The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

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2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

The Hon Robert Swarten MLA
Minister for Housing
PO Box 2457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP base funding for Queensland will be \$25.227 million (plus indexation), with an additional ARHP component of \$2.371 million.

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. From this amount, three million dollars will be made available to Queensland to alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan. I am seeking your agreement to amend clause

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The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

The Hon Jay Wilson Weatherill MP
Minister for Housing
GPO Box 2269
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP base funding for South Australia will be \$8.342 million (plus indexation), with an additional ARHP component of \$0.584 million.

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. This funding will help alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan. I am seeking your agreement to amend clause

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at the end of subclause 4(29).”

The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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The Hon David Llewellyn MHA
Minister for Health and Human Services
First Floor Franklin Square Offices
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP program funds for Tasmania will be \$0.696 million plus indexation

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. This funding will help alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan. I am seeking your agreement to amend clause 4(31) to enable payment of ARHP funding for the first three months of the second Grant Year. I am proposing that Clause 4(31) be amended to read as follows:

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at the end of subclause 4(29).”

The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

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The Hon Candy Broad MLC
Minister for Housing
Level 21, Nauru House
80 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP program funds for Victoria will be \$3.638 million plus indexation

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. This funding will help alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in 2004/05 prior to the receipt of the annual plan. I am seeking your agreement to amend clause 4(31) to enable payment of ARHP funding for the first three months of the second Grant Year. I am proposing that Clause 4(31) be amended to read as follows:

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The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

The Hon Nick D Griffiths LLB MLC
Minister for Housing
10th Floor
216 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds for 2004-05.

I would firstly like to thank you for your submission to the recent review of ARHP and to let you know that the review has highlighted the complexity and extent of Indigenous housing need in this country. As you are aware, the greatest housing need is in rural and remote regions, which have the highest rates of overcrowding, homelessness, people living in improvised dwellings and houses in poor condition.

The review highlights the need for the Australian Government to ensure that the total pool of Indigenous housing funds is allocated in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness in addressing this need. I will therefore be exploring options over the next twelve months, as to how best to use the total pool of Indigenous housing funds provided by the Australian Government to address Indigenous housing need. During this period, the distribution of ARHP funds will remain unchanged from 2003-04, although indexation will apply, as agreed under the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

In 2004-05, the ARHP base funding for Western Australia will be \$15.862 million (plus indexation), with an additional ARHP component of \$2.315 million.

I do, however, continue to be concerned about the high level of rural and remote need that is evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Whilst ARHP funding will remain unchanged for 2004-05, the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has made \$13 million of additional funds immediately available to the governments of the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia to accelerate the provision of housing and infrastructure for remote Indigenous communities. From this amount, three million dollars will be made available to Western Australia to alleviate some of the pressure felt by those communities in the short term.

In recognition of the changes resulting from the proposed dissolution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and to allow time for jurisdictions to develop robust annual Indigenous housing plans for 2004-05, I am proposing that an amendment be made to the CSHA to allow for payment of the first three months of the ARHP funding in

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at the end of subclause 4(29).”

The proposed amendment will enable all jurisdictions to meet their ongoing Indigenous housing commitments and targets in early 2004/05. It will also provide an opportunity for the Australian Government and states and territories to work together to improve the planning, coordination and delivery of Indigenous housing programs over the coming months.

I look forward to your early written agreement to the proposed amendment so that payments can be activated.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed dissolution of ATSIC will also necessitate some changes to Indigenous Housing Agreements. I will shortly be writing separately to you on this issue, proposing interim arrangements for these agreements for 2004-05.

I wish you every success in improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kay Patterson

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 74

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator Crossin asked:

What is the estimated cost (departmental) to administer each of the Indigenous housing assistance programs?

Answer:

The estimated total Departmental cost in 2004-05 to administer the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP), Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) and the Healthy Housing initiative from the 2001 Commonwealth budget is \$3,053,078.

These estimates do not include the Departmental overhead costs incurred in supporting these programs.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 73

Topic: Indigenous access to Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator Crossin asked:

Productivity Commission Report on Government Services: Table 16.23 – proportion of Indigenous people accessing Rent Assistance in the Northern Territory. Do you agree with table's findings? Why is this the case?

Answer:

Yes. FaCS provided the data for Table 16.23.

The low rate of Rent Assistance received by Indigenous customers may be attributed partly to the amount of rent paid by Indigenous people relative to the non Indigenous population. Over 80 per cent of Indigenous income support recipients are recorded as either paying no rent, paying rent too low to attract Rent Assistance, or not providing evidence of the rent that they pay.

This may be because many Indigenous income support recipients in the NT are in community managed housing and paying rents below the level needed to attract Rent Assistance. Also for those Indigenous households with a greater than average number of people in a dwelling, there is an increased likelihood that the amount of rent attributed to a customer will fall below the minimum threshold.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 75

Topic: SAAP Services

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

Can the Government confirm that the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) funds the majority of the specialised services to which the *National Domestic Violence Hotline* refers callers?

Answer:

No, the National Domestic Violence Hotline refers callers to a range of services, including a number of supported accommodation services, some of which may be funded under SAAP.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 76

Topic: SAAP Services

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

Can the Government also confirm that women, children and young people trying to get shelter and assistance from family violence make up the majority of clients of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services?

Answer:

No, people seeking SAAP assistance because of family violence made up some 22per cent of all occasions of support provided by SAAP in 2002-03. SAAP also provided assistance to a large number of people with other different reasons for seeking help such as eviction, ending of previous accommodation, relationship breakdown, financial difficulty and substance abuse.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 77

Topic: SAAP Funding

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

- a) Can the Government confirm that changes to Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) funding arrangements, announced by the Minister in December, will result in significant cuts to SAAP funding? Please include details of the new funding arrangements (including a breakdown by program).
- b) If so, why was this decision made - especially given the increased demand on SAAP services as a result of the referrals from the *National Domestic Violence Hotline*?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government offer to all state and territory ministers for SAAP V funding was announced on 17 December 2004. New funding arrangements are currently subject to negotiation with the states and territories and have not yet been finalised.

For SAAP V the Australian Government is offering \$931.7 million compared to \$833 million in SAAP IV. This is an increase of around \$100 million in ongoing funding. Furthermore, the \$75 million one-off GST compensation added to SAAP IV base funding in 2000, which was not matched by the states was due to expire on 30 June of this year. This is now being included in the base funding for the next agreement.

We are also including in our offer \$106.7 million for an investment fund to address issues that arose in the SAAP IV National Evaluation, including unmet demand, better service system linkages and post-crisis transition.

Further details of the Australian Government's offer to states and territories can be found in the Minister's media release of 17 December 2004.

- b) As noted in part a) there is no reduction in Australian Government funding to SAAP, and SAAP demand levels are being addressed through the Australian Government's SAAP V funding offer.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 78

Topic: SAAP Services

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

What other accommodation options are available for victims of violence who are at risk of homelessness, if Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is unable to assist them?

Answer:

Victims of violence who are at risk of homelessness seek housing assistance from a wide range of sources. These include SAAP services, public and community housing, State and Territory government funded homelessness refuges, the private rental market, community organisations and friends and family.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 154

Topic: Commonwealth States Housing Agreement (CSHA)

Hansard Page: CA56

Senator Bartlett asked:

If and when the Queensland Government publishes a copy of the CSHA report on their web site, can you provide a copy to this committee when it is released?

Answer:

The 2003 Commonwealth States Housing Agreement (CSHA) requires each state and territory to provide a report to the Commonwealth, within six months of the end of each grant year, demonstrating progress achieved in their respective bilateral agreements including performance information. In respect of the 2003-04 grant year Queensland provided such a report within the timeframe. There is no obligation under the CSHA for a state or territory to publish their reports.

If Queensland publishes a copy of their report FaCS will provide it to the committee.

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 79

Topic: Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

Hansard Page: CA101

Senator Moore asked:

[In regards to the grants available under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy],
did anyone ring and request a paper form of the tender application?

Answer:

As at 16 February 2005, 392 people have requested and have been sent a paper Local
Answers application form from the hotline.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 80

Topic: Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

Hansard Page: CA102

Senator Moore asked:

How many people sought debriefings after failing the first round of tender process [under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy]?

Answer:

A general debriefing report for Local Answers applicants was placed on the FaCS website. 114 applicants sought and received an individual debriefing.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

Output Group: 2.2

Question No:81

Topic: Problem Gambling

Hansard Page: CA104

Senator Allison. asked:

Research into data collection priorities on problem gambling. What are the current priorities?

Answer:

The priority research areas for the National Gambling Research Program are the following seven areas:

1. National approach to definitions of problem gambling and consistent data collection;
2. Feasibility and consequences of changes to gaming machine operation such as pre-commitment of loss limits, phasing out note-acceptors, imposition of mandatory breaks in play and the impact of linked jackpots;
3. Best approaches to early intervention and prevention to avoid problem gambling;
4. Major study of problem gamblers, including their profile, attitudes, gambling behaviour and the impact of proposed policy measures on them;
5. Benchmarks and on-going monitoring studies to measure the impact and effectiveness of strategies introduced to reduce the extent and impact of problem gambling, including studies of services that exist to assist problem gamblers and how effective these services are;
6. To research patterns of gambling, the impacts of gambling and consider strategies for harm reduction among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ATSI communities; and
7. To research patterns of gambling, the impacts of gambling and consider strategies for harm reduction among rural and remote communities.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 82

Topic: Gambling revenue

Hansard Page: CA108

Senator Allison asked:

How much money is expended by State and Territory governments on a state by state basis as a percentage of total gambling revenue?

Answer:

The Australian Government has sought advice from states and territories regarding their expenditure on problem gambling. States and Territories have agreed to consider providing some information about expenditure on problem gambling when developing the reporting framework for the National Framework on Problem Gambling. Ministerial Council on Gambling Officials are currently developing this reporting approach.

The information about expenditure on problem gambling provided below is based on a review by the Department of Family and Community Services of publicly available information. The figures are an estimate of direct expenditure on measures to address problem gambling.

This information has not been provided or cleared by state or territory governments.

From publicly available information it is estimated that New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory spend less than 0.5 per cent of gambling revenue on directly addressing problem gambling.

From publicly available information it is estimated that Tasmania and the Northern Territory spend more than 0.5 per cent but less than 3 per cent of gambling revenue on directly addressing problem gambling.

From publicly available information South Australia has recently implemented a significant increase in the level of spending on measures to address problem gambling, with the result that its expenditure is estimated to total approximately 3 per cent of revenue generated from gambling.

Branches/Offices/Consulted: Nil

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: Cross Outcomes

Question No: T22

Topic: Details of Government Payments

Senator Murray asked:

Please provide annual data on the numbers of recipients, and expenditure on, workforce age income support payments, from 1995 to the present (for example, this would include the Carer Payment, Widow Allowance (now closed), Widow B Pension (now closed), Partner Allowance (closed), Wife Pension (closed), Mature Age Allowance (closed), and Special Benefit).

Note – Similar questions have been asked to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Education, Science and Training in respect of their support payments.

Answer:

As a result of the Machinery of Government changes of 26 October 2004, all workforce age income support payments have moved to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations with the exception of Carer Payment, Special Benefit, Wife Pension and Widow B Pension.

The Department of Family and Community Services will provide data on Carer Payment, Special Benefit, Wife Pension and Widow B Pension as soon as possible. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations holds data on the other workforce age income support payments and is best placed to provide information on those payments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 1

Topic: Workforce Age Income Support Payments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Murray asked:

Please provide annual data on the numbers of recipients, and expenditure on, workforce age income support payments, from 1995 to the present (for example, this would include the Carer Payment, Widow Allowance (now closed), Widow B Pension (now closed), Partner Allowance (closed), Wife Pension (closed), Mature Age Allowance (closed), and Special Benefit).

Answer:

Table A contains actual expenditure for the financial periods 1995-96 to 2003-04 while Table B contains the annual average numbers of recipients for the same periods.

Workforce Age Income Support Payments
1995-96 to 2003-04

Table A – Expenditure (\$'000)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Carer Payment	182,134	225,876	258,474	313,883	368,046	480,944	595,810	702,649	921,008
Special Benefit	157,088	132,289	95,867	117,038	106,112	114,778	119,811	116,286	113,141
Widow Class 'B' Pension	464,952	296,905	147,187	107,362	77,716	84,296	59,787	39,804	26,275
Wife Pension DSP	800,306	686,074	599,136	534,069	486,740	446,564	401,969	351,491	326,083
Total Expenditure	1,604,480	1,341,144	1,100,664	1,072,352	1,038,614	1,126,582	1,177,377	1,210,230	1,386,507

Table B – Annual Average Number of Recipients

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Carer Payment	22,559	27,534	31,933	37,495	44,143	53,183	63,172	71,995	80,363
Special Benefit	20,592	16,496	11,793	11,136	11,511	12,207	13,125	12,442	11,819
Widow Class 'B' Pension	53,140	34,271	16,838	11,822	9,796	7,420	5,909	3,909	2,527
Wife Pension DSP	116,105	98,503	85,672	73,703	63,854	54,688	47,355	40,596	35,402

Table Notes

- Expenditure Source - Agency Annual Reports.
- Customer Source - Centrelink Customer Numbers database.
- 1995-96 to 1997-98 figures reflect actual cash expenditure.
- 1998-99 to 2003-04 figures reflect actual accrual expenditure.
- Special Benefit payment includes an element of non-workforce age customers.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 88

Topic: Temporary Protection Visa

Hansard Page: CA117

Senator McLucas asked:

Could you please clarify what “Temporary protection visa – caseload resolution” means and its impact on Outcome 3. Page 59 of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES).

Answer:

“Temporary protection visa – caseload resolution” refers to the introduction of a new visa class for temporary protection visa holders who are found not to be in need of further protection and are required to depart Australia. The new visa (return pending (temporary) (Class VA) subclass 695) was implemented on 27 August 2004 and allows holders a further 18 months of lawful stay with continued access to Special Benefit.

Entitlement to Special Benefit will cease when the visa expires and the holder leaves the country, thereby reducing Special Benefit outlays.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3

Question No:147

Topic: Australians Working Together

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Does FACS retain responsibility for any matters under the Australians Working Together program, and, if so, what responsibilities?

Answer:

Following the October 2004 Administrative Arrangements Order changes the Department of Family and Community Services retains responsibility for the following areas under the Australians Working Together package:

- The JET Child Care component of the AWT measure ‘More Child Care Places’ which broadens the availability and accessibility of child-care assistance for jobless parents who wish to improve their employment prospects remains with the Department of Family and Community Services. The Department has ongoing program responsibility for the additional outside school hours places implemented under AWT;
- Under the ‘Better Deal for People with Disabilities’ measure responsibility for business services which access additional AWT disability employment assistance places remains with FACS; and
- Some community and business engagement initiatives under AWT to encourage businesses and employers to generate opportunities, for example, for people with disabilities and mature age workers.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 148

Topic: Transfer of functions to other Departments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Given the transfer of many ex-FaCS functions formerly in output 3.1 to DEWR and DEST, can the Department please indicate what programs/functions it retains under this output group?

Answer:

Under output group 3.1 the Department retains responsibility for Bereavement Allowance, Special Benefit and Ex-Gratia Payments to Former Temporary Protection Visa Holders ineligible for Special Benefit.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005



SENATOR THE HON KAY PATTERSON
Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues

15 March 2005

Senator S. Knowles
Chair
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Knowles

ESTIMATES HEARING 16 FEBRUARY 2005

I ask the committee to incorporate in its estimates material and present to the Senate the following correction of a statement concerning evidence given before your committee.

On 16 February 2005, Senator McLucas issued a media statement including the following:

The Government today confirmed that children with disabilities who are looked after at home with financial assistance from the Commonwealth may not receive this assistance after July 1 2006.

The media statement goes on to cite the evidence that I and departmental officers gave at the estimates hearing on that day as the source for this claim.

The media statement clearly conveys that, in the course of my evidence, I indicated that the government may abolish assistance for in-home care for children with disabilities.

In fact, neither I nor departmental officers said anything of the sort. We indicated that in-home care would be examined to understand how it fits into the provisions for care for children with disabilities, and the level of disability which attracts in-home care.

As you are aware I made a statement at the hearing that addressed this gross and egregious misrepresentation of what was said, however I ask that the committee publish this correction in addition to that statement. I have also written to the President of the Senate requesting this matter be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Yours sincerely


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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities

Question No: 84

Topic: Open Employment Services

Hansard Page: CA110

Senator Wong asked:

Please provide the number of people using employment services, up until the time it was transferred to DEWR.

Answer:

See Table below. Data for clients in outlets that provide both open and supported employment assistance can not be disaggregated.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Open employment	42,035	45,168	45,717
Open & Supported employment	4,986	3,769	3,466
Supported Employment	17,790	19,443	19,690

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 85

Topic: AAO Changes – Transfer of programs to DEWR

Hansard Page: CA114

Senator Wong asked:

The date at which the last of the resources transferring to DEWR will be finalised.

Answer:

It is anticipated that the last resources will be transferred to DEWR by 30 June 2005.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 86

Topic: National Disability Administrators' Research and Development Program

Hansard Page: CA117

Senator McLucas asked:

Could you please provide a list of research and development projects to be undertaken including timeframes and scope of the work?

Answer:

Under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement, each jurisdiction contributes annually to the national research and development fund, from which the National Disability Administrators (NDA) Research and Development Program is administered. The Australian Government contributes 50 per cent of the funding and the States and Territories contribute the other 50 per cent.

Projects in progress:

Project Name	Project Funding Allocation	Purpose	Projected Completion Date
National Assessment and Resource Allocation Framework (NARAF)	\$150,000	The aim of this research is to develop a flexible, nationally consistent system that ensures a fair, transparent, consistent and rationale-based allocation of resources that will also assist in understanding and managing demand for disability services.	Stage 1 – April 2005 Stage 2-4 – ~June 2007
Disability and Ageing	\$80,000	The aim of this research project is to provide advice to all jurisdictions in respect to appropriate, best practice, service and funding models for the range of services provided to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities who are ageing.	February 2006
Younger People with	\$125,000	The aim of this research project is	March 2006

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High Clinical Care Needs		to progress discussions by the NDA and to inform initiatives under the bilateral agreements with regard to young people in nursing homes and people with disabilities with high clinical care needs.	
Workforce Capacity	\$45,000	The aim of this research is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the extent and nature of the workplace capacity issues in the disability sector.	April 2006
NDA Website	\$20,000	To develop a website for the dissemination of NDA and other relevant reports and as a way to foster research discussion of the NDA policy priorities.	March 2005
Children and Young People with a Disability (incorporating Challenging Behaviours)	\$40,000	The aim of this project is to undertake research into service models that support a shift towards family-centred approaches to providing services for children and young people with a disability and their families.	~August 2006
Effectiveness of Supported Living in Relation to Shared Accommodation (Incorporating Cost-Benefit Analysis)	\$40,000	The aim of this research project is to undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of supported living in relation to shared accommodation. Considerable research has been carried out on the value of moving people from large residential institutions to smaller, community based options. These options often involve group home residential services. Australian jurisdictions how have sufficient history of funding group homes to consider the efficacy and value of this type of service.	August 2006
Indigenous Advocacy	\$40,000	The aim of the research is to identify current and alternative	~ August 2006

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		approaches to advocacy which meet the specific needs of Indigenous Australians.	
Indigenous Cross-Cultural Competency and Indigenous Workforce Development	\$80,000	The aim of this project is to address the major barrier for Indigenous Australians with a disability to access supports and services; the lack of cultural competence of many disability service providers.	~August 2006

Projects which will be undertaken in the near future:

Project Name	Project Funding Allocation	Purpose	Comment
Maintaining Informal Care (Incorporating Ageing Carers)	\$75,000	This proposal is to undertake research into informal carers, with a particular focus on carers of people with a disability aged below 20 years and over 60 years.	Steering Committee – yet to be established
Employment Innovation for High Support Needs Clients	\$150,000	The aim of this research is to identify successful employment models and strategies for people with disabilities, particularly those with high support needs. The need for this project was identified in the executive summary of the NDA research project “To Take Part: Economic and Social Participation for Australians with High Support Needs”.	Steering Committee – yet to be established

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 87

Topic: Support for People with Disabilities

Hansard Page: CA117

Senator McLucas asked: Why does “ More help for families: departmental expenses”, sit in Outcome 3. page 45 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES)..

Answer: The Outcome 3 elements relate to the One-Off Carer Bonus Payment announced with the More Help for Families measures in the 2004-05 Budget.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.2

Question No:149

Topic: Transfer of Functions to other Departments

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Transfer of functions to other Departments

Does the Department retain any responsibilities under output 3.2? What functions exactly does FaCS retain under this output?

Answer: Yes, FaCS will continue to retain significant responsibilities under output 3.2 – Support for People with a Disability. They are:

- **Employment Assistance and Other Services** appropriation. Under the recent Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) changes of 26 October 2004, FaCS retains responsibility for business services, advocacy, respite, print disability and information and captioning services and other related assistance. Open employment services and related employer incentive programs such as workplace modifications, have been transferred to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).
- **Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement** appropriation, which provides funding to state and territory governments for accommodation support, respite care, community support and other similar programs.
- **Auslan Interpreting Services** appropriation, which provides accredited Auslan Interpreter services to deaf people attending Medicare related consultations and certain specified private health consultations.
- **Income support programs** – The **Wife Pension (DSP - Disability Support Pension)** appropriation remains with FaCS. The **Disability Support Pension** appropriation and **Mobility Allowance** appropriation have been transferred to DEWR. The **Sickness Allowance** appropriation has also been transferred DEWR with the exception of Sickness Allowance for students, which has been transferred to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

The **Rehabilitation Services** appropriation has also been transferred to DEWR.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: Revised 89

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: CA124

Senator McLucas asked:

From 2003/04 annual report (page 201) carers payments increased by 11 per cent while in 2002/03 annual report it increased by 13 per cent. Why is the increasing decreasing?

Answer:

The rate of growth of customers receiving Carer Payment has steadily decreased since 2000-01. From 1996-97 to 2000-01 Carer Payment recipient numbers increased steadily due to a number of Budget measures that were introduced between 1996 and 1999. The annual rate of growth in Carer Payment peaked at 20 per cent in 2001-01 and has steadily decreased in each subsequent financial year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: 89

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: CA124

Senator McLucas asked:

From 2003-04 annual report (page 201) carers payments increased by 11 per cent while in 2002-03 annual report it increased by 13 per cent. Why is the increasing decreasing?

Answer:

The number of customers eligible for Carer Payment has steadily decreased since 2000-01. From 1996-97 to 2000-01 Carer Payment recipient numbers increased steadily due to a number of Budget measures that were introduced between 1996 and 1999. The annual rate of growth in Carer Payment peaked at 20 per cent in 2000-01 and has steadily decreased in each subsequent financial year.

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: 90

Topic: Carer Payment

Hansard Page: CA124

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide details of the FaCS research into reasons for changing takeup rates for the carers payment.

Answer:

FaCS has not undertaken and specific research into the reasons for the changing takeup rates for Carer Payment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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2004-05 Additional Budget Estimates, 16 February 2005

Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: 91

Topic: Carers

Hansard Page: CA124

Senator McLucas asked:

How many disabled people are being cared for at home as a total in the population?

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers reported that there were 3,678,800 people with a disability living in a private dwelling. Of these 427,500 people had a profound core-activity (communication, mobility, self care) limitation.

The survey also reported that there were 2,557,000 carers. Of these 474,600 were primary carers. The survey defines a primary carer as a person who provides the most informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to a person with one or more disabilities.

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Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 92

Topic: Compliance Reviews

Hansard Page: CA128

Senator McLucas asked:

What has been the cost of undertaking compliance reviews in the last financial year?

Answer:

The cost of these compliance reviews cannot be separately identified from the available data.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: 93

Topic: Support for carers

Hansard Page: CA129

Senator McLucas asked:

Why did the percentage of changes to carer payment as a result of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal go from 30 per cent in the 2002-03 annual report to 9 per cent in the 2003-04 annual report? (Refer to annual report 2002-03, page 204)

Answer:

Centrelink advise the percentage of Administrative Appeals Tribunal changes for Carer Payment was lower in 2003-04 than in 2002-03 because of the type of appeals lodged. In 2003-04 there were a higher number of appeals that related to rate payable and debt recovery and a decrease in the number of appeals that related to grant rejections and cancellations compared to 2002-03. This resulted in a higher rate of withdrawn and dismissed cases and a lower rate of set aside and varied rate decisions in 2003-04.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 94

Topic: Disability and Carers

Hansard Page: CA130

Senator McLucas asked:

Why did the cost to Centrelink for reviews go from \$15M in the 2002-03 financial years to \$27M in the 2003-04 annual report. (Refer to annual report 03/04, page 204)

Answer:

The figures are the price paid to Centrelink for administering the Carer Allowance and Carer Payment programs, including the reviews and appeals process. The increase in the price of the service delivery output for output group 3.3 is due, in part, to an apportionment of outcome-level service delivery costs equally across the four output groups which comprise Outcome 3. Moreover, during 2003-04 there were significant increases in activity due to growth in customer numbers as well as the completion of some 67,657 reviews of Carer Allowance customers whose eligibility had been protected from medical reviews for five years.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: 3.4

Question No: 150

Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please update the response provided to Senate Estimates Question on Notice 74 from the 2004-05 Budget Estimates regarding the Pension Bonus Scheme.

Answer:

The latest available data for the 2004-2005 financial year is as follows:

Number of new Age Pension Claims (as at 25/2/05)	78,067
Number of new grants of Age Pension (as at 25/2/05)	66,678
Average Rate of Age Pension for new grants (\$ per Fortnight as at 29/10/04)	\$334.30
Number of Pension Bonuses paid (as at 31/12/04)	4,472