

**Community Affairs
Legislation Committee**

Examination of Additional Estimates 2005-2006

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2

**FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

FaCSIA Outcomes: Cross Outcome, Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

MAY 2006

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 BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2005-2006

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on 15 February 2006

* Please note that the tabling date of 13 June 2006 is the proposed tabling date

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
Evans	1	Indigenous Land Fund	1	11.05.06
Evans	2	Staffing issues – breakdown of staffing levels (update of QON 170)	2	11.05.06
Evans	3	Performance bonuses	3	11.05.06
Evans	4	Motor vehicles	4	11.05.06
Evans	5	Mobile phones	5-6	11.05.06
Evans	6	Domestic travel	7	11.05.06
Evans	7	Advertising, market research and consultants	8	11.05.06
Evans	8	Media monitoring	9	11.05.06
Evans	9	Suspected fraud of FaCS	10-11	11.05.06
Evans	10	Indexation of payments	12	11.05.06
Evans	11	Departmental executives	13-14	11.05.06
Ludwig	12	Briefs forwarded to the DPP	15-16	11.05.06
Evans	13	Compliance reviews	17	11.05.06
Evans	81	Overseas travel	18-21	11.05.06
Evans	82	Management retreats/conferences	22-23	11.05.06
Evans	79	Discretionary grants	24-25	13.06.06*
Outcome 1: Output group 1.2 – Preparing for the Future				
Crossin	50	National Youth Week expenditure by line item	26-27	11.05.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility				
	FaCSIA letter 9 Feb 06	Clarification of evidence provided at hearing 3 Nov 05 re Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) program	28-29	11.05.06
Evans	22	SRA reviews	30	11.05.06
Carr	29	YP ⁴ homelessness project and national homeless funding	31	11.05.06
Carr	30	National Homeless Strategy/ YP ⁴	32-36	11.05.06
Carr	31	National Homeless Strategy	37-48	11.05.06
Carr	32	National Homeless Strategy – Westwood Spice	49-53	11.05.06
Carr	33	National Homeless Strategy	54	11.05.06
Carr	34	Coordination of response to homelessness	55	11.05.06
Carr	35	Social Security Act – definitions from the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> on housing	56	11.05.06
Evans	71	Western Australia power	57	11.05.06

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 3: Output group 3.1 – Support for the Aged	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
	T1 tabled at hearing	Pension bonus scheme – number registered	58	11.05.06
Evans	36	Pension bonus scheme	59	11.05.06
Evans	37	Health card	60	11.05.06
Evans	38	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card/Great Southern Rail	61	11.05.06
Evans	39	Seniors Concession Allowance	62	11.05.06
Evans	40	Utilities Allowance	63	11.05.06
Evans	41	Great Southern Railway/concessional rail travel	64-65	11.05.06
Outcome 3: Output group 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities				
McLucas	42	Young persons in residential aged care	66	11.05.06
McLucas	43	Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement	67	11.05.06
McLucas	44	Walter and Turnbull contract	68	11.05.06
McLucas	45	Population census	69	11.05.06
Bartlett	46	Supported employment services	70-72	13.06.06*
Outcome 3: Output group 3.3 – Support for Carers				
McLucas	47	Welfare to Work	73	11.05.06
McLucas	48	National Family Carers Voice	74	11.05.06
Outcome 3: Output group 3.4 – Support for Youth				
Stott Despoja	49	National Youth Week 2006	75	11.05.06
Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Support for Families				
	T2 tabled at hearing	Bringing them home report	76-77	11.05.06
Stott Despoja	51	Adoptive parents	78	11.05.06
Stott Despoja	52, 56	Maternity payment	79-81	11.05.06
Fielding	57	Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008	82	11.05.06
Evans	53	Family Tax Benefit reconciliations	83	13.06.06*
Evans	54	Average incomes of Family Tax Benefit recipients	84-86	13.06.06*
Evans	55	Family Tax Benefit debts	87	13.06.06*
Outcome 4: Output group 4.3 – Child Care Support				
	T4 tabled at hearing	Letter from Minister to parent enclosing brochure to remind families about their responsibilities when receiving CCB	88-89	11.05.06
Forshaw	58	Child care support – inclusion and professional support program	90	11.05.06
Moore	60	Ernst & Young contract	91	11.05.06
Crossin	61	Multifunctional child care services	92	11.05.06
Moore	62	Appointment of Ernest and Young to the business and financial advisor role for funded child care services	93-94	11.05.06
Moore	63	Skilled labour force	95	11.05.06
Moore	64	Child care research	96	11.05.06
Polley	65	National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)	97	11.05.06

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 4: Output group 4.3 – Child Care Support [contd]	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
Moore	66	Family day care	98	11.05.06
Moore	67	Child care policy	99	11.05.06
Moore	68	Costs incurred for the CCB compliance brochure mail-out	100	11.05.06
Evans	70	JET child care	101-102	11.05.06
Crossin	91	Financial advisor role for funded child care services	103	13.06.06*
Evans	69	Child Care Benefit reconciliations	104-107	13.06.06*
Evans	59	Unanswered Parliamentary questions on notice	108	13.06.06*
Outcome 5: Output group 5.1 – Supporting Communities and Delivering Local Solutions				
Evans	72	Volunteer equipment grants	109	11.05.06
Evans	73	Community organisations – one off grants	110	11.05.06
Ludwig	75	Hillsong Church grants	111-112	11.05.06
Evans	76	Acquittal of volunteer small equipment grants	113	11.05.06
Evans	77	Funding agreements	114-115	11.05.06
Evans	78	Discretionary grants	116	11.05.06
Evans	80	Community Business Partnership	117	11.05.06
Evans	74	COAG Indigenous community trial at Wadeye	118-119	13.06.06*
Outcome 6: Output group 6.1 – Whole of government coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians				
Evans	14	National Indigenous Council	120	11.05.06
Evans	15	Commonwealth State Agreements/Bilateral Agreements	121	11.05.06
Crossin	16, 17	Shared Responsibility Agreement – Galiwin'ku	122-123	11.05.06
Evans	18	COAG trials	124	11.05.06
Evans	19	SRA reviews and evaluations	125	11.05.06
Evans	20	Regional representation agreements	126	11.05.06
Evans	21	Advisory bodies and State representatives funding for chairpersons sitting fees	127	11.05.06
Evans	23	Native Title Act changes	128	11.05.06
Evans	24	Shared Responsibility Agreements	129-131	11.05.06
Evans	25	Transition of OIPIC into FACS	132-133	11.05.06
Evans	26	Tasmanian Council of Australian Governments COAG trial	134	11.05.06
Evans	27	Repatriation	135-138	11.05.06
Siewert	83	Indigenous disadvantage	139-141	11.05.06
Siewert	84, 85	Whole of Government coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians	142-143	11.05.06
Siewert	86	Cultural museums	144	11.05.06
Siewert	87	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)	145-147	11.05.06
Siewert	88	Panel of experts	148-152	11.05.06
Siewert	89	Multi-use list	153	11.05.06
Siewert	90	Indigenous housing	154	11.05.06
Outcome 6: Output group 6.2 – Services for Indigenous Australians				
	T3 tabled at hearing	Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs, Annual Report on Indigenous Affairs	155	11.05.06

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 001

Topic: Indigenous Land Fund

Hansard Page: CA6 and CA41

Senator Evans asked:

Why has the estimate of the funding been reduced from \$75m to \$23m? DIMIA PBS pg41 was where original estimate was.

Answer:

The original forward estimates were based on an ATSI estimate of CPI of 1.3% as the deflator. Section 193D(3) of the ATSI Act 2005 specifies that a gross non-farm product index is to be used as the deflator. The rate using gross non-farm product index is 4.1%. This revision equates to an approximate \$42m variance.

The balance of the variance relates to a difference in interpretation and hence calculation of realised real return. The revised estimate for 2005-06 includes the removal of unrealised gains and accrued interest, which accounts for approximately \$8 million of the variance.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 002

Topic: Staffing Issues – Breakdown of Staffing Levels (update of QON 170)

Hansard Page:

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide an update of the tables provided in response to Question On Notice number 170 from May 2005 estimates.

Answer:

For total staffing levels for FaCSIA (former FaCS and OIPC) as at 30 June 2005, please refer to pages 289 to 291 of the FaCS Annual Report 2004-2005, and pages 480 to 483 of the DIMIA Annual Report 2004-2005.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 003

Topic: Performance bonuses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a table indicating the total amount paid in performance bonuses to FACS SES staff during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years. Please also indicate the number of SES staff who received a performance bonus in each of the years.

Please provide a table indicating the amount paid in performance bonuses to FACS non-SES staff during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years. Please also indicate the number of non-SES staff who received a performance bonus in each of these years.

Answer:

The figures for 2004-05 are available in the Department's 2004-05 Annual Report at page 293.

For 2005-06, the figures will be reported in the Department's 2005-06 Annual Report.

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PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 004

Topic: Motor Vehicles

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. How many FACS staff were issued Commonwealth Funded vehicles in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years?
2. Please indicate how much was spent by FACS on these vehicles in each of these financial years. Please also indicate the total fuel bill for these vehicles in each of these financial years.

Answer:

1. In the 2004-05 FY, FACS had a fleet of 82 vehicles. Of this 47 vehicles were EVS vehicles and 35 vehicles were Pool vehicles.

In the 2005-06 FY, FACS had a fleet of 73 vehicles. Of this 41 vehicles were EVS vehicles and 32 vehicles were Pool vehicles.

Note: Executive Vehicle Scheme (EVS) vehicles are provided as part of the remuneration arrangements for Senior Executive Officers.

2. In the 2004-05 FY, FACS spent \$838,829.43 on vehicles expenses and fuel. Of this \$769,517.09 was spent on vehicles and \$69,312.34 was spent on fuel.

In the 2005-06 FY, FACS spent \$680,820.86 (to date) on vehicles expenses and fuel. Of this \$573,345.06 was spent on vehicles and \$107,475.80 was spent on fuel.

3. The above data does not include OIPC.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 005

Topic: Mobile Phones

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Please provide a table showing the number of FACS staff with Government-funded mobile phones in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years.
2. Please also provide a breakdown of the classifications of FACS staff who had Government-funded mobile phones in both of these financial years?
3. What was the total mobile phone bill for phones issued to FACS officials in each of these financial years?

Answer:

Note in all responses OIPC figures have been included for both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years.

1. The Department currently has 535 mobile phones issued to staff across all classifications.

Year	Number of Staff with mobile phones	Number of Departmental pool phones	Total Departmental mobile phones
2004-05	438	274	712
2005-06	535	272	807

2. A table illustrating the breakdown by classification of FaCSIA staff that had mobile phones in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years is attached below.

Staff Classification	2004-05 Financial Year	2005-06 Financial Year
Secretary	1	1
Associate Secretary	1	1
Deputy Secretary	3	3
Senior Executive Service Band 2	12	18
Senior Executive Service Band 1	41	45
Legal 2	3	3
FACSIA EL2 (A/B) - (APS Exec 2)	119	185

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Staff Classification	2004-05 Financial Year	2005-06 Financial Year
FACSIA EL1 - (APS Exec 1)	123	143
Senior Public Affairs Officer A	0	2
Public Affairs Officer Grade 3	8	7
Public Affairs Officer Grade 2	0	3
FACSIA Broadband 3 - (APS 5/6)	86	85
FACSIA Broadband 2 - (APS 3/4)	36	32
FACSIA Broadband 1 - (APS 1/2)	4	5
Principal Legal Officer	1	2
Pool Phones	274	272
Total All Services	712	807

3. The total mobile phone bill for mobile phones issued to FaCSIA officials in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years is detailed below. The amount below includes the cost of mobile telephone equipment as well as access fees and call charges.

Financial Year	Total Mobile phone bill for FaCSIA
2004-05	\$366,745.37*
2005-06 (to-date)	\$211,962.76*

**Figures are GST exclusive*

Note: 2005-06 financial data has been provided until December 05

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 006

Topic: Domestic Travel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

What was the total cost of all domestic travel by FaCS staff in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years? Please provide a breakdown of the accommodation allowances, food allowances and airflights.

Answer:

In the 2004-05 financial year, FACS spent \$8,142,574.78 on airfares, meals, incidentals and accommodation. Of this \$5,221,130.23 was spent on airfares, \$1,649,678.79 was spent on meals and incidentals and \$1,271,765.76 was spent on accommodation.

These figures include the Child Support Agency (CSA) expenditure for the 2004-05 financial year up until Machinery of Government changes as at November 2004

As at end January 2006 financial year, FACS had spent \$3,803,628.76 on airfares, meals, incidentals and accommodation. Of this \$2,459,768.77 was spent on airfares, \$672,212.21 was spent on meals and incidentals and \$671,647.78 was spent on accommodation.

No data has been provided by OIPC at this time.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 007

Topic: Advertising, market research and consultants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How much was spent on advertising by FACS in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years? How much was spent on market research by FACS in each of these years? How much was spent on external consultants by FACS in each of these financial years?

Answer:

Expenditure on advertising and market research is available on page 298 in the FaCS 2004-05 Annual Report. Information on external consultancies is available on page 305 of the FaCS 2004-05 Annual Report.

Expenditure on advertising, market research and external consultants in the current financial year will be reported on in the 2005-06 Annual Report.

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2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross Portfolio Question No: 008

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

(1) Please indicate how much was spent on media monitoring by FACS in both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years.

(2) Please break these costs down by type of media (print, television etc).

(3) Please indicate the cost of requests by FACS for transcripts in both of these financial years.

(4) Please indicate how much FACS has spent on media monitoring in response to specific requests from Ministers offices in each of these financial years (such as where a Minister's office has requested FACS staff to obtain transcripts/clips from media monitoring services)

Answer:

In 2004-05 FaCS spent a total of \$253,092 on media monitoring, while in 2005-06 (to 31/12/05) a total of \$116,524 was spent on media monitoring by FaCS.

The breakdown of these amounts by type of media are: \$183,350 was spent in 2004-05 on print monitoring; \$68,977 was spent in 2004-05 on broadcast monitoring with a further \$765 spent in 2004-05 on the AAP Wire Service, which does not fall in either of the above categories.

In 2005-06 (to 31/12/05) \$87,206 was spent on print monitoring, in 2005-06 (to 31/12/05) \$21,121 was spent on broadcast monitoring with a further \$8,197 spent in 2005-06 (to 31/12/05) on the AAP Wire Service, which does not fall in either of the above categories.

In 2004-05 the cost of requests by FaCS for transcripts was \$5,879 and in 2005-06 (to 31/12/05) the cost of requests by FaCS for transcripts was \$2,184. FaCS has not spent any money on media monitoring in response to specific requests from Ministers' offices in each of these financial years.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 009

Topic: Suspected fraud of FaCS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. How many reports of suspected fraud of FACS were made to the Department in the following years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date).

For each of those years provide a breakdown of the outcome of those reports, e.g. no action taken, investigated and found to be without merit, investigated and found to have merit, resulted in a prosecution.

Answer:

Number of reports of suspected fraud of FACS		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (to 25/01/06)
14	11	26

The increase in 05/06 (to 25.1.06) reflects increased compliance activity and training.

Outcome of the reports for 2003-04		
Number of reports	Action	Outcome
2	Referred to the Australian Federal Police	Discontinued
4	Investigated	No further action taken due to Insufficient evidence
8	No further action	No further action taken due to low value, or not cost effective to pursue, and / or perpetrator identification remote.

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Outcome of the reports for 2004-05		
Number of reports	Action	Outcome
2	Investigated by police	Police investigations continuing
1	Investigated	Further audit recommended.
2	Investigated	Unsubstantiated
1	Investigated	Joint agency investigation ongoing
1	Investigated	Subject resigned from the Australian Public Service before sanctions could be imposed
4	No further action	No further action taken due to low value, or not cost effective to pursue, and / or perpetrator identification remote.

Outcome of the reports for 2005-06 (to 25/01/06)		
Number of reports	Action	Outcome
11	Investigation	Investigations are currently ongoing
3	Investigated	Unsubstantiated
5	Investigation	Referred to State / Federal Police
7	Investigated	No further action taken due to low value, or not cost effective to pursue, and/ or perpetrator identification remote.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 010

Topic: Indexation of Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Can the department provide the following information for all pensions, allowances and payments:

- The dates on which they are indexed each year (if any)
- The basis on which they are indexed
- The actual indexation rates applied in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date)
- The actual \$ fortnightly increases applied in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date)
- The total cost associated with the increases applied in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date)

Answer:

All pensions, allowances and payments administered by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs are indexed in accordance with both the *Social Security Act 1991 Part 3.16* and *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999 Schedule 4 Part 2*. and are available online at <http://www.facs.gov.au/>.

As specified in this legislation, rates, inputs, dates and applicable rounding rules are applied in conjunction with the application of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) for each period. CPI and AWE data may be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), or directly online *via* <http://www.abs.gov.au/>.

Limited historical rates of payment are available from the Centrelink publication "A guide to Australian Government Payments", with full history available from the online Guide resource at <http://www.facs.gov.au/guide/ssguide/52.htm>, and www.facs.gov.au/faguide/toc/36histor.htm respectively. (The Family Assistance Guide is currently in the process of being updated).

Estimating the costs associated with the indexation of payments would be very resource intensive and the department cannot commit such resources at this time.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 011

Topic: Departmental Executives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Page 378 of the department's annual report shows the number of executives receiving a salary of \$100,000 or more.

Can the department confirm that the figures shown are for 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2004 respectively? If not what are the dates for 2005 and 2004?

Can the Department confirm that between 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005 the department lost policy and administrative responsibility for all working age and study related payments?

Did the department pick up policy or administrative responsibility for any areas as a result of the AAO changes in late 2004?

Why did the number of executives receiving a salary of \$100,000 or more increase from 2004 to 2005, given the reduced role of the department after the AAO changes in late 2004?

Answer:

The Department can confirm that the figures presented on page 378 of the 2004-05 Annual Report pertain to the financial years ending 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2004 respectively.

The Department can confirm that between 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005 it lost policy and administrative responsibility for all working age and study related payments.

The Department gained policy and/or administrative responsibility for the Office for Women as a result of the AAO changes in late 2004.

The overall impact of AAO changes was one of repositioning the department rather than a reduced role, and this is reflected in the limited change in overall staffing from 1885 on 30 June 2004 to 1883 on 30 June 2005. The number of Senior Executives in the core department increased from 49 to 52, reflecting the different organisational arrangements of the areas involved in the AAO changes.

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The number of executives receiving a salary of \$100,000 or more increased from 56 in 2003-2004 to 58 in 2004-2005. The increase was due to the impact of remuneration increases lifting staff not previously reflected in this table into the higher salary range.

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2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 012

Topic: Briefs forwarded to the DPP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 2004-05?
 - a. How many briefs were returned without action and how many were actioned?
2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to:
 - a. Bring charges against the accused party
 - b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
 - c. Return the brief for no further action
3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.
4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.

Answer:

The following figures represent the number of briefs forwarded to the Commonwealth DPP by the previous Department of Family and Community Services, now the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). Figures have been included for the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) as it now forms part of the FaCSIA portfolio. The figures do not include those matters forwarded to a State or Territory DPP.

During the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 FaCS forwarded nil briefs to the DPP.

The number of briefs forwarded to the DPP by the OIPC for the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 were 2, 6, 3 and 8 respectively.

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Twelve (12) briefs were returned without action, and seven (7) briefs were actioned.

The following table shows the dates briefs were referred to the DPP, the dates proceedings commenced and, the date a matter was concluded and the brief returned to the OIPC.

“NFA” indicates the brief was returned with no further action. “Ongoing” indicates the matter is still with the DPP.

Financial Year	Number of briefs referred to the DPP by OIPC	Date brief referred to the DPP	Date proceedings commenced.	Date proceedings concluded	Date brief returned to the OIPC.
2001 - 2002	2	12/06/2001	NFA	NFA	01/08/2001
		28/02/2002	NFA	NFA	23/09/2003
2002 - 2003	6	24/09/2002	NFA	NFA	01/12/2004
		26/09/2002	21/11/2003	01/06/2005	01/06/2005
		27/09/2002	16/09/2003	02/03/2004	02/03/2004
		20/11/2002	NFA	NFA	03/12/2003
		02/06/2003	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
		13/06/2003	NFA	NFA	16/09/2003
2003 - 2004	3	01/12/2003	NFA	NFA	30/09/2004
		10/02/2004	NFA	NFA	22/08/2004
		18/06/2004	26/04/2005	26/04/2005	26/04/2005
2004 - 2005	8	23/07/2004	24/01/2005	24/01/2005	24/01/2005
		24/08/2004	NFA	NFA	17/06/2005
		05/10/2004	NFA	NFA	05/10/2005
		05/10/2004	NFA	NFA	05/10/2004
		17/10/2004	24/11/2004	Ongoing	Ongoing
		20/02/2005	NFA	NFA	20/05/2005
		17/03/2005	NFA	NFA	17/06/2005
		11/08/2005	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

No formal complaints were forwarded to the DPP.

No informal complaints were forwarded to the DPP.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 013

Topic: Compliance reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Page 282 of the Department's annual report indicates that 18.26% compliance reviews found an incorrect payment in 2004-05.

- Can the Department indicate the actual number of reviews which found an incorrect payment?
- Can the Department indicate the actual number of reviews which found an under payment?
- Separately identify how many of these were due to client error?
- Can the Department indicate the actual number of reviews which found an over payment?
- Separately identify how many of these were due to client error?

Answer:

In 2004-05, 21,564 compliance reviews undertaken by Centrelink found an incorrect payment. In 4,759 cases, the payment rate was increased and in 16,805 cases the payment rate was reduced. The number of reviews which resulted in an overpayment and the number of reviews which are the result of client error are not recorded.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 081

Topic: Overseas Travel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. How many overseas trips were taken by FACS employed in each of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years? Please indicate the destinations of these overseas trips.
2. Please provide a table showing the cost of all overseas travel undertaken by FACS officials in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years. Please provide a breakdown of the cost of accommodation allowances, food allowances and airflights.

Answer:

As at the end of January 2006, FACSIA employees had undertaken 109 overseas trips in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years. Of these, 71 trips were undertaken in the 2004-05 financial year and 38 trips have been undertaken (to date) in the 2005-06 financial year

Over these two financial years \$1,116,852.60 was spent on overseas travel. Of this \$771,650.46 was spent in the 2004-05 financial year and \$345,202.14 has been spent (to date) in the 2005-06 financial year

Overseas travel destinations are attached.

Please note, meal allowance data is not recorded separately, but rather recorded as Travel Allowance, incorporating meals and incidentals.

No data has been provided by OIPC at this time.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006
2004 -05

DATES	DESTINATION	AIR FARE	Travel Allowance including meals, incidentals and equipment allowance	Total Cost after Acquittal including airfares
6/7-12/7/04	Japan	Pd by JPN govt	987.62	987.62
11/07-15/7/04	New Zealand	2,136.24	1336.7	3,472.94
10/7-13/7/04	New Zealand	2,157.42	550.42	2,707.84
12/7-17/7/04	China	6,255.49	1422.83	7,678.32
30/7-15/8/04	USA/Canada	8,209.94	5439.64	13,649.58
30/7-14/8/04	USA/Canada	8,209.94	5754.64	13,964.58
18/7-23/7/04	New Zealand	2,019.04	756.73	2,775.77
18/7-23/7/04	New Zealand	2,108.78	756.73	2,865.51
18/7-22/7/04	Canada	1,165.60	1037.11	2,202.71
20/7-23/7/04	New Zealand	2,589.78	1225.22	3,815.00
20/7-23/7/04	New Zealand	2,268.86	1173.95	3,442.81
24/7-21/8/04	China	4,387.93	6140.97	10,528.90
18/8-22/8/04	Singapore	Pd by CPA	1184.8	1,184.80
18/8-23/8/04	Indonesia	5,926.58	1628.12	7,554.70
18/8-27/8/04	Indonesia/Singapore	5,686.53	2221.91	7,908.44
21/8-27/8/04	Singapore	4,220.53	1517.46	5,737.99
20/8-6/9/04	USA	7,830.06	7625.78	15,455.84
24-29/8/04	Japan	4,682.88	2073.49	6,756.37
24-29/8/04	Japan	4,682.88	2073.49	6,756.37
27/8-18/09/04	Europe	8,300.50	11405.09	19,705.59
27/8-18/09/04	Europe	8,573.38	11855.09	20,428.47
2/9-10/9/04	Philippines/Japan	4,586.98	2038.74	6,625.72
7-10/9/04	Japan	4,525.36	1010.45	5,535.81
10/9-20/9/04	China	6,954.41	4755.28	11,709.69
10/9-20/09/04	China	5,724.41	3729.4	9,453.81
10/9-20/9/04	China	5,708.21	3894.68	9,602.89
25/9-9/10/04	China	4,581.61	2817.51	7,399.12
9/10-17/10/04	Europe	13,221.11	8371.8	21,592.91
9/10-1/11/04	Europe	15,336.12	7645.44	22,981.56
9/10-17/10/04	Europe	11,604.92	7536.23	19,141.15
17/10-14/11/04	China	3,087.21	3258.81	6,346.02
18/10-22/10/04	New Zealand	Pd by NZ govt	1244.06	1,244.06
31/10-16/11/04	Vietnam/Singapore	5,392.54	4533.62	9,926.16
31/10-16/11/04	Vietnam/Singapore	5,392.54	4533.62	9,926.16
14/11-24/11/04	UK/France	7,709.76	3861.65	11,571.41
23/11-27/11/04	New Zealand	2,149.06	1309.34	3,458.40
23/11-27/11/04	New Zealand	2,051.42	1334.34	3,385.76
24/11-27/11/2004	Singapore	3,956.35	557.62	4,513.97
24/11-27/11/04	Singapore	3,956.35	900.61	4,856.96

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006
2004 –05 continued

DATES	DESTINATION	AIR FARE	Travel Allowance including Accommodation, meals, incidentals and equipment allowance	Total Cost after Acquittal including airfares
29/11-11/12/04	USA	8,111.74	5224.12	13,335.86
4/12-12/12/04	China	5,620.02	2439.11	8,059.13
13/12-17/12/04	Thailand	4,848.65	1255.63	6,104.28
13/12-18/12/04	Thailand	4,848.65	1338.03	6,186.68
22/1-7/2/05	USA	7,763.45	7419.66	15,183.11
21/2-4/3/05	Canada	1,449.00	3430.09	4,879.09
15-24/2/05	China	4,692.17	1033.69	5,725.86
25/2-14/3/05	USA	8,442.36	7177.51	15,619.87
26/2-7/03/05	USA	8,442.36	7282.25	15,724.61
10/3-22/3/05	UK	3,290.00	2832.15	6,122.15
18/3-24/3/05	Vietnam	4,532.00	1554.55	6,086.55
22/3-26/3/05	Cambodia	7,947.08	1219.76	9,166.84
22/3-27/3/05	Cambodia	4,384.08	1155.19	5,539.27
21/3-27/3/05	Cambodia	4,384.08	1055.15	5,439.23
29/3-9/4/05	France/Switzerland	11,344.58	5169.91	16,514.49
28/3-31/3/05	Philippines	2,399.00	175.56	2,574.56
7/4-10/4/05	Vietnam	6,713.00	778.31	7,491.31
7/4-10/4/05	Vietnam	3,999.29	1214.46	5,213.75
7/5-15/5/05	Canada	9,005.06	3048.88	12,053.94
6/5-15/5/05	Canada	7,444.42	3275.82	10,720.24
6/5-15/5/05	Canada	7,442.42	2825.82	10,268.24
20/5-30/5/05	Vietnam	4,995.00	1763.38	6,758.38
8/6-12/6/05	New Zealand	2,011.22	690	2,701.22
8/6-11/6/05	New Zealand	2,153.22	1055.71	3,208.93
8/6-11/6/05	New Zealand	2,225.22	898.04	3,123.26
13/6-17/6/05	Thailand	4,967.22	1196.26	6,163.48
25/6-09/07/05	Vietnam	4,994.23	2189.18	7,183.41
25/6-10/7/05	Japan	5,179.00	3564.61	8,743.61
25/6-2/7/05	Japan	5,179.00	3343.24	8,522.24
25/6-30/6/05	Japan	4,808.42	2251.64	7,060.06
25/6-30/6/05	Switzerland	12,325.87	2006.96	14,332.83
26/6-1/7/05	New Zealand	2,092.68	1268.41	3,361.09
		484,845.60	286,804.86	771,650.46

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006
2005 –06

DATES	DESTINATION	AIR FARE	Accommodation	Travel Allowance including meals, incidentals and equipment allowance	Total cost of Trip including airfares
3/7-16/7/05	Vietnam, China	8,120.40	1,163.71	1,747.39	11,031.50
13/7-16/7/05	Singapore	0	0	189.25	189.25
25/7-10/8/05	PNG, Solomon Island, Fiji, Samoa	7829.64	2687.69	2,177.39	12694.72
26/7-30/7/05	New Zealand	2,023.00	636.12	760.55	3,419.67
30/7-27/8/05	Vietnam	4,324.59	2,614.21	2,369.96	9,309.76
21/8-25/08/05	Korea	6,436.00	893.7	609.99	7,939.69
14/8-20/8/05	Vietnam	3,587.21	636.62	796.03	5,019.86
22/8-29/08/05	Korea	4,635.26	1,495.35	1,123.53	7,254.14
27/8-08/9/05	China, Korea	4,775.95	1,993.99	2,123.48	8,893.42
10/9-18/09/05	Paris and Geneva	9,413.23	1,530.69	1,193.53	12,137.45
10/9-18/09/05	Paris and Geneva	9,261.96	1,530.69	1,397.85	2,928.54
10/9-16/9/05	Geneva and London	8,780.57	1,433.67	1,679.51	11,668.75
12/9-17/9/05	Japan	5,107.00	0	974.11	6,081.11
17/9-24/9/05	Fiji	2,415.43	0	757.92	3,173.35
20/9-4/10/05	Singapore and Laos	8,291.54	1,294.08	1,237.78	10,823.40
16/9-30/9/05	Austria, France, Spain	7,950.00	2,998.70	2,196.63	13,145.33
16/9-30/9/05	Austria, France, Spain	7,950.00	2,998.70	2,196.63	13,145.33
18/9-1/10/05	Italy and UK	2,840.12	2,513.62	2,461.78	7,815.52
15/10-25/10/05	Vietnam and Singapore	4,432.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
8/11-12/11/05	Korea	3,699.43	947.54	648.10	5,295.07
8/11-12/11/05	Korea	6,363.33	947.54	976.85	8,287.72
5/11-15/11/05	Vietnam	3,685.62	746.67	833.13	5,265.42
5/11-13/11/05	Vietnam	4,495.67	746.67	621.48	5,863.82
15/11-23/11/05	France	7,645.43	1,240.90	1,173.30	10,059.63
25/11-29/11/05	New Zealand	2,399.43	515.71	689.94	3,605.08
25/11-2/12/05	New Zealand	2,851.34	902.49	1,019.28	4,773.11
17/11-19/11/05	Singapore	2,342.00	0	517.88	2,859.88
30/11-7/12/05	New Zealand	2,401.01	1,057.55	1,157.55	4,616.11
30/11-7/12/05	New Zealand	2,401.01	1,057.55	1,181.56	4,640.12
14/1-06/02/06	New York	8,956.39	6,779.76	4,736.02	20,472.17
14/1-06/02/06	New York	8,891.51	5,990.97	4,500.67	19,383.15
14/1-06/02/06	New York	8,891.51	5,990.97	3,742.99	18,625.47
14/1-06/02/06	New York	8,891.51	0	3,742.99	12,634.50
20/01-02/02/06	New York	9,121.10	3,157.14	2,550.91	14,829.15
20/01-02/02/06	New York	9,121.10	3,427.97	3,094.64	15,643.71
23/2-12/03/06	New York	5,868.27	4,913.07	3,584.24	14,365.58
23/2-12/03/06	New York	5,868.27	4,464.39	3,331.62	13,664.28
6/3-14/3/06	United Kingdom	3,298.74	0	1,465.89	4,764.63
		223,407.09	69,308.43	2,385.00	345,202.14

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 082

Topic: Management retreats/conferences

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Could you please list all 'management retreats/conferences' attended by FACS managerial staff during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years. For such meetings held off-site (ie not at FACS offices) could you please indicate:

- (1) where (location and hotel) and when they were held;
- (2) how much was spent in total;
- (3) how much was spent in total;
- (4) how much was spent on food;
- (5) how much was spent alcohol/drinks; and
- (6) how much was spent on transport.

Answer:

There were a number of conferences held across the Department during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to end February) financial years. An outline of each conference is included below.

A conference was held for FaCS Senior Executive staff from the evening of 31 August to the afternoon of 2 September 2005. It was held at the Coach House Marina complex at Bateman's Bay. The total cost for the conference was \$19,635.

The breakdown of costs is as follows:

Accommodation	\$9,317
Meals	\$4,896
Alcohol	\$444
Coffee/Tea	\$243
Travel	\$978 (bus hire)
Facilities hire	\$3,757

Core Business Processes Steering Committee meeting held at the Country Comfort Hotel Canberra on the 8th of September 2005 at a total cost of \$345.

Accommodation	NIL
Meals	\$75
Alcohol	NIL
Travel	NIL

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Facilities hire \$270

Group Planning Day held on 10 August 2005 at the Country Comfort Greenway at a total cost of \$1,763.

Accommodation	NIL
Meals	\$1,493 (including tea/coffee)
Alcohol	NIL
Travel	NIL
Facilities Hire	270

Management conference for NSW State Office held at Doyles' Palace Hotel, Sydney on 29/30 March 2005 over one and a half days at a total cost of \$4,496.

Accommodation	\$2,260
Food	\$830
Alcohol	NIL
Transport	\$586
Facilities Hire	\$820

Future of FaCS all SES Workshop was held on 25 November 2004 at the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra for a total cost of \$4,467.

Accommodation	NIL
Meals	\$2,544
Alcohol	NIL
Travel	NIL
Facilities Hire	\$1,923

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: All

Question No: 79

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator asked:

Page 320 of the Department's annual report lists the areas in which discretionary grants were awarded in 2004-05.

Can a detailed description of each of the areas listed be provided, indicating:

- the number of grants approved,
- the process for applying for the grants,
- the process for assessing the grants, and
- the process for monitoring the grants.

Answer:

The following table is a breakdown of the number of grants by programs as listed on pages 320-321 of the 2004-05 Annual Report:

Programme	No of Grants
Child Abuse Protection	33
National Secretariat Program	22
Community Business Partnerships Program	6
Family and Community Network Initiative	17
Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing	22
National Housing Priorities	3
National Housing Research	1
Services for Families with Children	42
Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (Outcome 1)	231
Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (Outcome 2)	5688
Mentor Market Place	1
Support for People with a Disability	283
Women's Development Program	6

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Processes for applying for, assessing and monitoring grants are described in the response to Question on Notice No 77. Detailed information for all funding agreements covered by this question would require a significant diversion of resources.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 050

Topic: National Youth Week Expenditure by line item

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

1. I refer to the Bureau for Youth and National Youth Week. Please provide amounts spent on the PR company 'Horizon' which was contracted by the Department for the purposes of promoting National Youth Week. Please provide amounts for: the last 5 years in total; each year; amount spent each year to the \$100, and the purpose why the money was spent.
2. Please also provide a breakdown of total amounts spent and budgeted on for National Youth Week: in the last 5 years; for this current financial year; and please provide expenditure items by line item.

Answer:

The Department took over responsibility for National Youth Week following machinery of government changes in the 2002-03 financial year.

The amounts spent of services provided by Horizon Communications for each year is as follows: 2002/03 - \$360,100; 2003/04 - \$219,600; and 2004/05 - \$383,900. A total of \$963,600.

Total amount spent and budgeted on National Youth Week since the 2002/03 financial year: 2002-03 is \$675,000 spent and \$700,000 budgeted; 2003-04 is \$825,800 spent and \$785,600 budgeted; 2004-05 is \$804,200 spent and \$785,600 budgeted; 2005-06 Year To Date is \$176,900 spent and \$776,000 budgeted.

Total amounts spent by line item are listed below.

2002/2003: travel expenses \$9,300; consultants \$361,000; contractors \$300; publishing and printing \$53,200; payments to States for National Youth Week \$245,300; and Other General expenses \$5,800. The total expenditure for the financial year was \$675,000.

2003/2004: travel expenses \$31,200; consultants \$214,400; contractors \$222,900; publishing and printing \$89,000; payments to States for National Youth Week \$242,000; and Other General expenses \$26,300. The total expenditure for this financial year was \$825,800.

2004/2000: travel expenses \$32,200; consultants \$218,400; contractors \$202,300; publishing and printing \$88,300; payments to States for National Youth Week \$249,400; and Other General expenses \$13,600. The total expenditure for this financial year was \$804,200.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

2005/2006 as at 31 January 2006 was: travel related expenses \$4,200; contractor expenses \$85,500; training expenses \$1,100; publishing and printing \$84,400 and Other General expenses \$1,700. The total expenditure as at 31 January 2006 for this financial year was \$176,900.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006



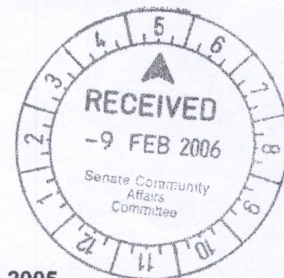
Australian Government

**Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

THE SECRETARY

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Committee Secretary Elton Humphery
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia



Dear Committee Secretary Humphery

**INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SENATE ESTIMATES NOVEMBER 2005
REGARDING THE VOLUNTEER SMALL EQUIPMENT GRANTS (VSEG)
PROGRAM**

I wish to amend the advice provided by the Department at the Thursday 3 November 2005 sitting of Senate Estimates hearings, with regards to the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) program.

In response to a question by Senator Evans on whether there had been any instance of the Minister altering the Department's recommendations, (as per attached page CA179 of the relevant Hansard) Ms McKenzie, a departmental officer who Senator Evans noted had only limited experience in this area, advised that she was unaware of any instance in the time she had been looking after VSEG.

A review of the Department's files in preparation for the February 2006 Senate Estimates hearings indicates that in fact the Minister did use her Ministerial discretion in relation to the Department's recommendations during this time.

I would also like to clarify in relation to another question from Senator Evans that there is a financial year breakdown for VSEG provided within the Explanation of Additional Appropriations 2004-2005 (page 44).

I apologise for these unintentional oversights. The Department is enhancing its business systems to ensure the Committee receives accurate information at the time it seeks it.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Jeff Harmer
9 February 2006

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Thursday, 3 November 2005 Senate—
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Legislation

CA 179

have got a broad description, but can you take on notice the criteria against which there is success. You do this distributional check.

Ms McKenzie—Yes.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Which is designed to spread around geographical areas and regions.

Ms McKenzie—That is right.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Do you have a formula for that? Obviously, you take into account populations and areas. For instance, the Kimberley in Western Australia has a small population with a big area. I do not want the detail. I just want to understand how you do it.

Ms McKenzie—We use the ABS population statistics.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—It is based on population. What regions do you look at? How are they defined?

Dr Harmer—I suspect we use statistical divisions.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—CCDs.

Dr Harmer—Yes.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—How then do you proceed? You have done the distribution. Who signs off on it?

Ms McKenzie—The recommendations go to the minister.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Has that same process been used each time in all these rounds?

Ms McKenzie—To my understanding it has been. I have not been involved in any of the rounds before this year.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you would take on notice if all the rounds since 2001 have been conducted in the same way.

Dr Harmer—We can take that on notice.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Has there been any instance of a minister altering the recommendations?

Ms McKenzie—Certainly I am unaware of an instance of the minister altering the recommendations in the time I have been looking after VSEG.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Is that the one year or a longer period?

Ms McKenzie—In this last year Minister Patterson did not change the recommendations.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—With all due respect then, Ms McKenzie, your experience is rather limited.

Ms McKenzie—It is rather limited.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take on notice a bit of a longer time frame, back to 2001.

Ms McKenzie—Yes.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Additional Estimates, February 2006

Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 022

Topic: SRA Reviews

Hansard Page: CA33

Senator Evans asked:

Has the La Perouse funding started?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) is funding an Environmental Health Assessment (EHA) of houses and surrounding areas of the La Perouse "Mission". The EHA is currently underway and is due to be completed by the end of March 2006.

As part of the EHA, FaCSIA has funded some priority sewerage repairs to address potential health issues.

The Community Development Facilitator position at La Perouse has been extended for a further 17 months until June 2007.

Funding for 12 months has been provided through the Local Answers Programme to establish a community newsletter at La Perouse. This initiative will provide training and skill development for residents, and also an opportunity to receive updates on current and future projects.

An offer of a grant for \$1.45 million for the replacement/repair of approximately five houses was made on 28 April 2005 to the administrator of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The administrator, on behalf of the Council, was not able to accept the offer, as there were legal issues that related to the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the standard accountability requirements of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme.

FaCSIA has sought legal advice on these issues to resolve them. As a result, the FaCSIA New South Wales Office is preparing to negotiate a funding agreement with the administrator who is acting on behalf of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.

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PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 029

Topic: YP⁴ Homelessness Project and National Homelessness Funding

Hansard Page: CA45

Senator Carr asked:

- 1) What was the commencement date?
- 2) What is the source of the funding?
- 3) Is there an ongoing funding source?
- 4) How much has been set aside for ongoing funding for the coordination across these various strategies?
- 5) How long does the pilot run?
- 6) How much specifically for project coordination?

Answer:

Planning for the YP⁴ Trial commenced in 2002 and recruitment for participants commenced in 2005.

The YP⁴ Trial receives funding from various sources including government funding, philanthropy and in-kind contributions from participant organisations. In 2004-05, the YP⁴ Trial received \$270,000 from the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS). We cannot provide any advice on how much funding is contributed by other organisations. It is suggested that any questions about funding (other than the FaCSIA component) should be directed to YP⁴ who can be contacted at Hanover Welfare Services, 52 Haig Street, South Melbourne on 03 9695 8366.

There is no ongoing funding source for the YP⁴ project but the services provided to individuals participating in the trial are funded by programs such as JPET, SAAP, etc.

The Trial is expected to be completed by 2009.

No ongoing funding is being provided by FaCSIA for project coordination.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 030

Topic: National Homeless Strategy / YP⁴

Hansard Page: CA45

Senator Carr asked:

- 1) How many additional projects were funded under the first round of the NHS after September 2003?
- 2) Provide details of how much funding each of the projects received.
- 3) Also advise whether or not those projects have continued in any way or have been taken up somewhere else and how many of those projects are no longer funded?

Answer:

Fourteen (14) NHS Demonstration Projects commenced after September 2003.

Details of these projects are provided in the attached table.

Some of the projects related to one-off expenditure such as for conference support and development of training materials. Other projects improved service delivery mechanisms for established services. Where relevant information is available it is included in the attached table.

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**NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY (NHS) - DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
Projects Funded post September 2003**

Project	Agency	\$	Description
A New Approach to Assisting Young Homeless Job Seekers 'YP4'	Hanover Welfare Services Melbourne City Mission Brotherhood of St. Laurence Lodden Mallee Housing Services	270,000	The National Homelessness Strategy contributed funding to the evaluation of this groundbreaking project, implemented by a consortium of community agencies. The project trials the provision of integrated support services to homeless jobseekers in relation to housing, health and personal development, with employment being the key goal. For the first time, homeless young jobseekers are receiving all the help they need from a single agency. The project will assist 240 jobseekers over three years. A report on the project is available on the FaCSIA website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-yp4.htm
Uniting Families Project	Uniting Care Harrison Community Services	150,000	This project involved a three-way partnership, with the NHS funding the operational costs, the Baker Foundation (associated with Kodak Australasia) funding the action research and Harrison providing the professional expertise. The project aimed to reduce youth homelessness by stabilising young people within their families. Immediate support was offered to families in crisis. Families were offered mediation in their own homes along with parenting courses and family therapy. Community-based short-term respite care was available in a group home, when needed. A report on the project is available on the FaCSIA website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-uniting_families.htm
Family Makeover Project	Wesley Mission	200,000	This project helped families at risk of homelessness to develop independent living skills. They were provided with access to a wide range of counselling and community services while living in a community housing setting.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Family Caravan Park Pilot	University of Newcastle	153,711	<p>NHS and Childcare Broadband funding allowed community agencies to work creatively with children and families living in caravan parks through supported playgroups. Agencies assisted families with information, support and access to community services. The NHS provided funding for an action research overlay to facilitate support and document innovative strategies to prevent family homelessness.</p> <p>The pilots proved successful in engaging 333 marginalised families who faced difficulty in accessing support services available in the broader community. A number of positive outcomes resulted from the pilots. Health and community services, previously unsuccessful in assisting these families, joined with the supported playgroups to respond to a range of health and support needs. In addition, FaCSIA staff responsible for policy and programme development in Childcare, Family Relationships and the National Homelessness Strategy will use evidence from the pilots to inform future policy directions.</p> <p>The <i>Caravan Parks Pilot Family Crisis Child Care Program Final Report</i> is available on the NHS website: http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-family_caravan_parks.htm</p>
Development of Training Materials for Use in Rural and Remote Regions	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	100,000	<p>This project implemented a recommendation of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH.) CACH highlighted the need for training on recognising and dealing with homelessness to be made available to first-to-know agencies in rural and remote areas of Australia. AFHO have developed a self-directed learning kit to improve the identification, prevention and possible responses to homelessness, particularly for Indigenous peoples, in rural and remote communities. First-to-know agencies include hospitals, health centres and schools.</p>
Traditional Living Transitional Lifestyle Project	Adelaide Central Community Health Services	46,945	<p>Development of the living skills programme resource for use by other Aboriginal health services and teams including remote and rural area services. Further development of the case coordination approach with key agencies, and linkage with remote community controlled health services based on Pika Wiya care planning model and pathway was also facilitated.</p>

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Roofs for Youths	Youth Affairs Council of WA	30,000	The second phase of the Roofs for Youth Project was undertaken to further develop and promote the Roofs for Youth Manual and education programme, aimed at the youth sector and schools. One task was to monitor the use and effectiveness of the manual and collect some data on its use and impact. The key strategy for the second stage was to develop a partnership between YACWA and the Tenants Advice Service of WA (TAS). The YACWA has also undertaken to address other tenancy and housing policy issues impacting on young people through various projects.
The Lighthouse Model of Care	Lighthouse Foundation	140,000	This project further developed the Lighthouse Model of Care by strengthening the Light4ce education element. An intranet site was developed to facilitate both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Lighthouse Model of Care and allow carers to securely enter and access data and thereby improve case management. Additional funding to continue the development and extension of the Lighthouse Model of Care has been provided. A report on the project is available on the FaCSIA website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-lighthouse_youth.htm
Family and Community Network Initiative	Mission Australia	250,000	Mission Australia is redeveloping Campbell House (crisis accommodation for single men). The clients who use this facility present with complex issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, gambling, family breakdown, poverty, etc. The NHS project funded development and implementation of a new service delivery model for these clients aimed at providing early intervention and intensive case management. The project also investigated and implemented strategies to provide the most appropriate service to Indigenous men.
Wrestling Wicked Problems	Northside Community Service	5,000	This community development conference considered how government and community agencies might better integrate their service delivery to meet the needs of clients with high and complex needs. This client group often needs a complex set of services delivered to them but is unable to deal with the processes involved in accessing a range of services. The conference provided opportunities to share experiences in dealing with these clients to identify ways to better integrate services on order to provide better outcomes for clients.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Homeless Persons' Legal Service	Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd and Public Interest Law Clearing House	120,000	This project involved a partnership between private legal firms and community agencies. Private legal practitioners provided targeted legal information, advice and representation to homeless people. Six law firms and five host welfare agencies committed to participating in the pilot project. The project was implemented using an action research model, with the service delivery model regularly reviewed and adapted over the life of the project. The project identified the legal issues faced by homeless people and made recommendations on how these could be resolved.
Best Practice Report on Sentencing Alternatives for Homeless People	Queensland University of Technology	3,000	This research project examines the ways in which jurisdictions around Australia and the world respond to the 'offending' behaviour of homeless people, in order to identify best practice strategies to deal with infringements of summary offences law. This paper is available in printed format only from the author, Tamara Walsh, at the University of Queensland (not QUT).
Australian Homelessness Conference – 1-3 March 2006	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations (AFHO)	50,000	Preparation of a project plan for the Australian Homelessness Conference in 2006. The Australian Homelessness Conference 2006 aimed to contribute to the continued development of a strategic response to homelessness through addressing prevention, system development and improved responses by other service systems to homelessness.
No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)	Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services	110,000	Funding to support a National Coordinator for the NILS® scheme. This funding was designed to enable NILS organisations to build new partnerships and share good practice arrangements within the network. The role of the National Coordinator is to work with NILS providers across Australia, facilitating the sharing of ideas and resources and supporting the NILS organisations growth and development. Further funding to support a National Coordinator of the NILS® scheme has been provided.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No:031

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy

Hansard Page: CA46

Senator Carr asked:

- 1) a) Is the general evaluation report available on the webpage?
b) Were any of the programmes evaluated?
- 2) Advise which projects were evaluated.
- 3) PIAC Legal Service? Was it evaluated?

Answer:

FaCSIA conducted an internal evaluation of the National Homelessness Strategy in October 2004. The evaluation is not available on the FaCSIA website.

The majority of Demonstration Projects funded under the National Homelessness Strategy to date have been required to provide a final report as part of their reporting obligations. Most of these final reports include an evaluation of the project.

PIAC was required to submit a final evaluation report on its Demonstration Project.

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NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY (NHS) - DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Project	Agency	\$	Description
A New Approach to Assisting Young Homeless Job Seekers 'YP4'	Hanover Welfare Services Melbourne City Mission Brotherhood of St. Laurence Lodden Mallee Housing Services	270,000	The National Homelessness Strategy contributed funding to the evaluation of this groundbreaking project being implemented by a consortium of community agencies. The project trials the provision of integrated support services to homeless jobseekers in relation to housing, health and personal development, with employment being the key goal. For the first time, homeless young jobseekers will be able to receive all the help they need from a single agency. The project aims to assist 240 jobseekers over three years. Report available on the FaCS website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-yp4.htm
Preventing Centrelink Breaches	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	65,000	AFHO have developed wall charts and wallet cards containing information about Centrelink services as they apply to young people in order to prevent breaches. 3,000 posters and 10,000 wallet cards were distributed nationally through SAAP services.
Preventing Centrelink Breaches - repeat	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	27,500	Reprint of further 2,000 wall charts and 50,000 wallet cards for distribution through SAAP services.
Centrelink Community Officers	Centrelink	540,000	Funding provided for 6 additional Centrelink Community Officers (CCOs) for twelve months. These CCOs provided increased outreach to homeless people and people in psychiatric hospitals. Positive results in preventing and reducing breaches, promoting links between Centrelink and community agencies and information exchange to identify and resolve issues affecting shared customers.
Parity Edition	Council to Homeless Persons	20,000	An edition of <i>Parity</i> containing information on Centrelink and homelessness was published in August 2001.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Cross Match Project	Hanover Welfare Services, Vic	28,140	<p>The study compared customer data on Centrelink files with data obtained through direct interviews with SAAP customers. Consultations with stakeholders and series of focus groups with SAAP clients were also undertaken. The study sample were 135 current users of homeless services across Victoria.</p> <p>The report concluded that procedures for conducting the JSCI (Job Seeker Classification Instrument) and current Centrelink interview processes were not facilitating full disclosure of all relevant customer circumstances. There were also technical and administrative barriers to proper updating of the JSCI. Consequently, incorrect assessments are made about customers' job readiness and capacity to participate in employment programs.</p> <p>As a result of the study, two additional questions on homelessness were added to the JSCI and Centrelink implemented a revised JSCI training package for Centrelink Customer Service Officers to enable them to assist job seekers with complex needs.</p>
Working Out of Homelessness Charles O'Neil Project	St Vincent de Paul	51,370	<p>Development and documentation, through action research, of a best practice model to assist chronically homeless men to become ready for employment and training programs. Seminars presenting the findings were presented in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. The presentations indicated that the model developed and trialled was expensive (approximately \$14,000 per participant) due to the intensive support provided to clients. However, given that the twelve men who undertook the first stage of the program were chronically homeless, the fact that 9 completed the program and obtained work placements is a significant outcome.</p> <p>Report available on FaCS website. http://www.faacs.gov.au/internet/faacsinternet.nsf/v/IA/homelessness/\$File/Charles_O'Neill_final_report.pdf</p>

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Homebound	Centrelink and SAAP Agencies	37,000	This project was modelled on the concept of a 'work exchange' placement specifically for workers in SAAP agencies. It is designed to give participants an overview of the business and culture within the national Centrelink Network (Customer Service Centres and Call Centres) and to develop closer working relationships between local SAAP providers and Centrelink. It also provides Centrelink staff with the opportunity to work in SAAP agencies to gain a better understanding of issues impacting on homeless people. 50 placements were funded at 25 Centrelink sites.
Uniting Families Project	Uniting Care Harrison Community Services	150,000	This project involved a three-way partnership, with the NHS funding the operational costs, the Baker Foundation (associated with Kodak Australasia) funding the action research and Harrison providing the professional expertise. The project aimed to reduce youth homelessness by stabilising young people within their families. Immediate support was offered to families in crisis. Families were offered mediation in their own homes, parenting courses and family therapy. Community-based short-term respite care is available in a group home, when needed. Report available on the FaCS website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/ho-use-uniting_families.htm
Family Makeover Project	Wesley Mission	200,000	This project helps families at risk of homelessness to develop independent living skills. Families are provided with accommodation in a community housing setting for up to nine months. Each family is supplied with a computer and Internet access to help them develop computer and literacy skills. Welfare services, medical and psychiatric counselling, family support services, programs aimed at developing self esteem, credit and financial counselling and educational tutoring are also provided.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Family Caravan Park Pilot	Newcastle University	153,711	<p>NHS and Childcare Broadband funding allowed community agencies to work creatively with children and families living in caravan parks through supported playgroups. Agencies assisted families with information, support and access to community services. The NHS provided funding for an action research overlay to facilitate support and document innovative strategies to prevent family homelessness.</p> <p>The pilots proved successful in engaging 333 marginalised families who faced difficulty in accessing support services available in the broader community. A number of positive outcomes resulted from the pilots. Health and community services, previously unsuccessful in assisting these families, joined with the supported playgroups to respond to a range of health and support needs. In addition, FaCS staff responsible for policy and program development in Childcare, Family Relationships and the National Homelessness Strategy, will use evidence from the pilots to inform future policy directions.</p> <p><i>Caravan Parks Pilot Family Crisis Child Care Program Final Report</i> is available on the FaCS website at http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-family_caravan_parks.htm</p>
National Family Homelessness Project Moving Out of Homelessness	Centacare WA	92,434	<p>Research and report on 15 months of longitudinal information identifying factors that contribute to homelessness for Indigenous people living in temporary or substandard accommodation in WA. 61 families participated. On project completion 55 of the 61 participant families (90%) were housed. Report available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-national_family_homelessness_project.htm</p>

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Development of Training Materials for Use in Rural and Remote Regions	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	100,000	This project implemented a recommendation of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH.) CACH highlighted the need for training on recognising and dealing with homelessness to be made available to first-to-know agencies in rural and remote areas of Australia. AFHO have developed a self-directed learning kit to improve the identification, prevention and possible responses to homelessness, particularly for Indigenous peoples, in rural and remote communities. First-to-know agencies include hospitals, health centres and schools.
Indigenous Families Pilot Homeless and Parenting Program Initiative (HAPPI)	Centacare SA	160,071	The project explored methods to provide parenting information and support to families with high and complex needs in rural areas. In the first year, 82 parents and 181 children participated in the project.
Indigenous Families Pilot – repeat Homeless and Parenting Program Initiative (HAPPI)	Centacare SA	160,071	Extension for further 12 months approved with a focus on engaging Indigenous families. . Evaluation available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-happi.htm
Transitional Lifestyle Project Sustainable housing for traditional-living Aboriginal people living in Adelaide.	Adelaide Central Community Health Service (SA)	99,308	Provision of support to traditional Indigenous families moving to metropolitan areas to prevent homelessness. This project was undertaken with a strong Action Research focus. Report available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/md1nnasr55lmm2r3gc40lqrteh162sj15pk78r8
Traditional Living Transitional Lifestyle Project	Adelaide Central Community Health Services	46,945	Development of the living skills program resource for use by other Aboriginal health services and teams including remote and rural area services, the further development of the case coordination approach with key agencies, and linkage with remote community controlled health services based on Piika Wiya care planning model and pathway.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Indigenous Safe Houses Pilot	QLD Dept of Families	100,000	Twelve months research conducted by a project officer based in Queensland Department of Families. This research explores the future directions of safe-houses for women and children in remote Aboriginal communities. The Report is available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/respubs/nav.htm#Homelessness
National Analysis of Strategies used to respond to Indigenous Itinerants	Aboriginal Environments Research Centre Paul Memmott and Associates	20,000	A national overview of local strategies being implemented to respond to the needs of Indigenous homeless and itinerant people. The report identified issues impacting on the health and well being of itinerants and described various responses from a range of perspectives (their own, local council and other community stakeholders). Report available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-ippd.htm
Schools Research Project	NFO CM Research	86,138	This project researched information and education tools for 14 to 18 year olds on issues that may increase the risk of young people experiencing homelessness. The project was divided into three parts: Research the perceptions of young people, teachers and community workers about the information needs of young people; Research perceptions of various existing and related products; and Recommend a number of options to meet the information needs of young people and teachers.
Rooms for Rent – A CD	St Vincent de Paul NSW	8,000	Production and distribution of a CD providing practical information on share house living to SAAP agencies, Job Placement Education and Training providers, schools, youth development programs, and other services for young people. There were 4,000 copies of this CD distributed, which met the existing demand.

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
Roofs for Youths	Youth Affairs Council of WA	53,293	This project developed strategies to increase 16-21 year old independent young people's access to and retention of private rental properties. The project trialled strategies using an action research framework. <i>Roofs For Youth Tenancy Training Manual</i> has been produced. Final report available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-roofs_for_youths.htm
Roofs for Youths	Youth Affairs Council of WA	30,000	The second phase of the Roofs for Youth Project to further develop and promote the Roofs for Youth Manual and education programme aiming at the youth sector and schools. To Monitor the use and effectiveness of the manual and collect some data on its use and impact. The key strategy for the second stage is to develop a partnership between YACWA and the Tenants Advice Service of WA (TAS). YACWA also undertake to address other tenancy and housing policy issues impacting on young people through various projects.
Youth Practice Networks	Council to Homeless Persons	\$40,000	Trial of two Youth Practice Networks, on in metropolitan and one in regional Victoria. The Networks will meet regularly to identify and discuss issues of practice in working with young people.
Waarvah	Pierson Services QLD	110,000	This project targets Indigenous young people at risk of homelessness who have high truancy rates or contact with the Juvenile Justice or care and protection systems. The project developed culturally appropriate homelessness prevention information through the provision of cultural field activities, support, community links and cultural networks. Project evaluation available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-waarvah_project_evaluation.htm

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Project	Agency	\$	Description
The Lighthouse Model of Care	Lighthouse Foundation	100,000 40,000	<p>The project further developed the Lighthouse Model of Care by strengthening the Light4ce education element. An intranet site was developed to facilitate both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Lighthouse Model of Care and allow carers to securely enter and access data and thereby improve case management.</p> <p>Final report available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-lighthouse_youth.htm</p> <p>Additional funding to continue the development and extension of the Lighthouse Model of Care.</p>

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Young Offenders Support Program (YOSP)	Anglicare TAS	70,000	<p>This project aimed to prevent youth homelessness by supporting young people make the transition from juvenile detention to family/community life. Two projects were funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Offenders Support Program (YOSP) – Anglicare (Tasmania) • Youth Action Housing Options (YAHO) - South East Metropolitan Youth Action (Western Australia) <p>The report recommends that more is done to address young peoples education, health, and relationship needs during the young person's period of detention, prior to a crisis developing upon release. Planning for the young persons successful participation in economic, family, and community life also needs to be undertaken at the commencement of their incarceration. Reports available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-yosp.htm</p>
Youth Action Housing Options (YAHO)	SEMYA	70,000	
Housing Options for People with a Mental Illness	Top End Association for Mental Health Inc NT	118,000	<p>The project provided support to 26 persons while inpatients and after discharge from a psychiatric ward in Darwin. The support resulted in reduced levels of homelessness, reduced hospital admissions and better access to, and more use of, existing support services. Strategies were developed and documented using an action research framework. Report available on the FaCS website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/respubs/nav.htm#Homelessness</p>
Family and Community Network Initiative	Mission Australia	250,000	<p>Mission Australia is redeveloping Campbell House (crisis accommodation for single men). The clients who use this facility present with complex issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, gambling, family breakdown, poverty, etc. The NHS project will fund development and implementation of a new service delivery model for these clients aimed at providing early intervention and intensive case management. The project will also investigate and implement strategies to provide the most appropriate service to Indigenous men.</p>

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Wrestling Wicked Problems	Northside Community Service	5,000	This community development conference considered how government and community agencies can better integrate their service delivery to meet the needs of clients with high and complex needs. This client group often needs a complex set of services delivered to them but is unable to deal with the processes involved in accessing a range of services. The conference provided opportunities to share experiences in dealing with these clients to identify ways to better integrate services to get better outcomes for clients.
Homeless Persons' Legal Service	Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd and Public Interest Law Clearing House	120,000	This project involves a partnership between private legal firms and community agencies. Private legal practitioners provided targeted legal information, advice and representation to homeless people. Six law firms and five host welfare agencies participated in the pilot project. The project has been implemented using an action research model, with the service delivery model regularly reviewed and adapted over the life of the project.
Best Practice Report on Sentencing Alternatives for Homeless People	Queensland University of Technology	3,000	This research project examines the ways in which jurisdictions around Australia and the world respond to the 'offending' behaviour of homeless people, in order to identify best practice strategies to deal with infringements of summary offences law. This paper is available in printed format only from the author, Tamara Walsh, at the University of Queensland. (not QUT)
Older Persons Project	Wintringham	82,110	This project provided funds for Wintringham to participate in an international longitudinal study on the causes of homelessness for older people. The study is being coordinated by the UK group. A FaCS representative is on the International Reference Group for this study. This report is available on the FaCS Website. http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/homelessness_olderpeople.htm
Counting the Cost of Homelessness - A systematic review of primary studies of pathways into homelessness	AHURI	20,000	This review analysed the costs and benefits of various homelessness interventions, helping to build an evidence base to inform decision-making regarding homelessness programs. The report is available on the AHURI Website at http://www.ahuri.edu.au/global/docs/doc569.pdf?CFID=71553&CFTOKEN=41621971

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National Dissemination Project	University of Newcastle	This project developed a range of communication materials for families living in caravan parks, service providers supporting families in caravan parks and caravan park owners and operators. Materials include: a biannual national magazine and annual conference and development and maintenance of a website. <i>National Insite</i> magazine was published and distributed in March and August 2001 and March 2002. National Conferences were held in 2001, 2002 & 2003.
National Indigenous Homelessness Forum	Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing	Held in Melbourne March 2003. Opened by Minister Vanstone. 250 people attended.
National Homelessness Conference – Beyond the Divide – 3 rd National Homelessness Conference 6-8 April 2003	AFHO	Held in Brisbane in April 2003. Opened by Minister Vanstone. Secretary, FaCS, and CEO, Centrelink delivered keynote addresses. 1,000 people attended. Papers available on AFHO website. http://www.afho.org.au/4_publications/conference_papers/Summary_Report.pdf
Australian Homelessness Conference – The Great Australian Dream? – Waking up to Homelessness - 1-3 March 2006	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations (AFHO)	The preparation of a project plan for the Australian Homelessness Conference in 2006. The Australian Homelessness Conference 2006 aims to contribute to the continued development of a strategic response to homelessness through addressing prevention, system development and improved responses by other service systems to homelessness.
No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)	Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services	Funding to support a National Coordinator for the NILS® scheme. This funding is designed to enable NILS organisations to build new partnerships and share good practice arrangements within the network. The role of the National Coordinator is to work with NILS providers across Australia, facilitating the sharing of ideas and resources and supporting the NILS organisations growth and development. Further funding to support a National Coordinator of the NILS® scheme.
		40,000
		40,000
		50,000
		50,000
		60,000

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 032

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Westwood Spice

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Carr asked:

- 1) Westwood Spice conducted an independent evaluation of the National Homelessness Strategy (possibly only the Homeless Persons Legal Service in Sydney) at a cost of \$15,000. Can you confirm this?
- 2) Please provide the amount of money spent on the evaluation or the results of the evaluation.

Answer:

Westwood Spice were engaged by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) to provide a final project report and evaluation on PIAC's NHS funded Demonstration Project.

According to the audited acquittal report provided to FaCSIA, PIAC spent \$7,500 on the evaluation.

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Recommendations from the Evaluation Report on Homeless Persons Legal Service (HPLS)

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Station sees a comparative low number of women clients (less than 6%). It may be that, with the recent introduction of the dedicated services facilities for women on a particular day, HPLS could consider sending solicitors to The Station on that day.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Given the high proportion of criminal law matters at The Station, HPLS lawyers at the Station should consider undertaking more criminal law matters where legal aid is unable to assist. This may involve additional training for those lawyers.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Given the particular ex-prisoner client base at Parramatta Mission, HPLS should consider ways it could enter into dialogue with the Department of Corrective Services to enable better exit-planning for prisoners and deal with other issues that arise for prisoners on release.

RECOMMENDATION 4

HPLS should consider the extent to which it may be able to participate in and/or contribute to policy and advocacy work to assist in redressing the crisis in accommodation for homeless women in Western Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION 5

HPLS should consider adopting the Law Society of NSW's guidelines and statements in relation to HPLS training being counted towards lawyers' Mandatory Continuing Legal Education professional development requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 6

HPLS lawyers who are developing expertise in particular areas could explore the possibilities of training each other in these areas to share expertise, resources and experiences.

RECOMMENDATION 7

HPLS should consider combining its firm file reviews with visits to each of the clinics to facilitate clinic-specific discussions.

RECOMMENDATION 8

HPLS firms, as well as individual HPLS lawyers, should be encouraged to be more involved in HPLS work, including taking more "ownership" of client matters from the clinics.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Firms should also be encouraged to assist agencies in other ways such as workplace giving programs, as well as participating in agency activities such as working bees and clothing drives. However, these activities should not replace or diminish the *pro bono* legal assistance provided by the firm in any way.

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RECOMMENDATION 10

HPLS should explore less general, and more targeted and “packaged” strategies to involve HPLS firms in its law reform work.

RECOMMENDATION 11

HPLS lawyers need to collect and record data more rigorously. HPLS lawyers, at induction process, and in any follow-up training or event, should be reminded of the importance of data collection for HPLS’s strategic planning, law reform and policy work.

RECOMMENDATION 12

HPLS should explore ways of better involving homeless people in the planning and delivery of services, including ways suggested in this report.

RECOMMENDATION 13

In future planning, HPLS should continue its efforts to target agencies that are attended/frequented by higher proportions of under-represented groups among homeless people.

RECOMMENDATION 14

HPLS should reconsider ways in which Firm rosters are organised. In order to facilitate continuity of service for HPLS clients, provide opportunity to build on lawyers’ expertise and confidence and to provide better opportunity to work closer with the host agencies, the rosters should be smaller. Lawyers should be encouraged to attend the clinics for extended “sessional” periods or at more frequent intervals, rather than once every few months. The weekly AB, BC, CD rotation style of roster should not be encouraged unless continuity is otherwise secured, for example, by attendance each week of a Team Leader.

RECOMMENDATION 15

Acknowledging that not all Senior Lawyers will have as much experience and/or expertise in areas of law relevant to HPLS practice as junior lawyers, and that HPLS has professional indemnity insurance requirements, HPLS should review the requirement that a Senior Lawyer must attend each clinic advice session, or explore other ways it can ensure compliance with its insurance requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 16

HPLS should explore the feasibility of an electronic “extranet” type resource in order to assist it to supervise HPLS matters and streamline file administration. An HPLS PILCH member or other PILCH member could assist in this regard.

RECOMMENDATION 17

PIAC and HPLS law firms should also otherwise work together towards agreed systems of administration of HPLS matters, and to work on ways they can streamline their administration requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 18

Firms and HPLS should consider whether in some circumstances it may better for the firm take over HPLS files as their own firm’s *pro bono* files.

RECOMMENDATION 19

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HPLS lawyers should be made aware of the importance of collecting demographic data from clients seen at the clinics.

RECOMMENDATION 20

HPLS should consider making available electronically, perhaps on its website, useful documents such as forms and precedents, for HPLS lawyers to access and share. HPLS should also explore the options for making available and sharing information and resources from other homeless persons' legal services.

RECOMMENDATION 21

HPLS should consider compiling a checklist of standard documents for inclusion in a HPLS "kit" of documents, forms and procedures. HPLS and HPLS firms and other homeless persons' legal clinics should work together to share resources such as precedents and pro formas.

RECOMMENDATION 22

HPLS should continue to encourage assisted referrals of clients otherwise unable to manage referrals alone.

RECOMMENDATION 23

HPLS should generally review how it manages referrals. As part of this review, HPLS should consider the benefits of referral training for HPLS lawyers. Such training could include information about the relevant legal and non-legal referral destinations, and their scope to provide assistance. Referral training could also usefully include agency workers. HPLS could also review its referral manual information to make it more relevant for each clinic (noting that referrals to some agencies will overlap, but others, like Parramatta Mission, will be significantly different). Involving HPLS firms in the compilation of local referral manuals is desirable.

RECOMMENDATION 24

To facilitate better inter-agency and intra-agency collaboration, HPLS lawyers at each clinic should be made aware of the parameters of the non-legal and legal services available in each locality. This could be done, for example, through a special training package for each clinic, or as a *pro bono* project by each HPLS firm.

RECOMMENDATION 25

HPLS Team Leaders and lawyers across all HPLS firms should make arrangements to regularly meet to discuss issues arising and to share experiences, expertise and resources.

RECOMMENDATION 26

HPLS, in consultation with HPLS firms, Legal Aid and other CLCs, should consider organising a periodic (perhaps annual) review of the areas in which it will consider undertaking casework, and in particular to consider the extent to which HPLS can assist in minor criminal and family law matters.

RECOMMENDATION 27

HPLS, with cooperation from PILCH, should organise a facilitated forum/networking event for HPLS lawyers and other stakeholders to enhance discussion of HPLS' shared aims and models. Such a forum would provide the

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opportunity to address some of the perceived cultural differences between private firm and community lawyering, and to discuss the HPLS law reform strategies, as well as issues relating to rostering and data collection.

RECOMMENDATION 28

HPLS should consider convening a structured meeting of HPLS Team Leaders, firm *pro bono* Co-ordinators, the HPLS Co-ordinator, PIAC Principal Solicitor and the PILCH Co-ordinator to discuss legal practice issues and some of the suggestions to improve HPLS's effectiveness and efficiency.

RECOMMENDATION 29

HPLS lawyers should be reminded of the benefit of addressing a client's legal issues on the spot wherever possible. Lawyers should be reminded that they can call the HPLS Co-ordinator from the clinic if there is a matter about which they are unclear, rather than requiring the client to come back at another time.

RECOMMENDATION 30

Any funding for the continuation of HPLS should be, at a minimum, three-year funding to facilitate participation in HPLS by homeless people, and to assist HPLS undertake effective strategic planning.

RECOMMENDATION 31

HPLS should work with its funders to develop more flexible methods and timeframes to report on its work.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 033

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Carr asked:

- 1a) Can you confirm the observations of the evaluation report which recommend that any funding for the continuation of HPLS should be for a minimum of three years, to facilitate participation by homeless people and effective strategic planning?
- 1b) Further observations note the onerous funding reporting requirements of FaCSIA. Can these be confirmed?
- 2) In December 2005 the Homeless Persons Legal Service submitted an expression of interest for further ongoing funding? Can you confirm this?

Answer:

One of the recommendations of the report was that funding for HPLS should be for a minimum of three years.

Recommendation 31 of the evaluation report stated “HPLS should work with FaCSIA to develop more flexible methods and timeframes to report on its work”.

An Expression of Interest for NHS Demonstration Project funding was received from HPLS on 4 November 2005.

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Output Group: 2.1 **Question No:** 034

Topic: Coordination of Response to Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written Question on Notice

Senator Carr asked:

The HOME Advice Program has helped 400 families at a cost of \$2.5m per year, equating to approximately \$6,250 per family per year. How does this compare to the cost per family for providing support under SAAP?

Answer:

It is not possible to provide such a comparison as the available SAAP data does not provide information on the number of services provided to family units.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No. 035

Topic: Social Security Act – Definitions from the *Social Security Act 1991* on housing structure

Hansard Page: CA56

Senator Carr asked:

Definition from the *Social Security Act 1991* on housing structure.

Answer:

FaCSIA has assumed the question refers to the definition of government rent for the purposes of establishing entitlement to Rent Assistance (RA). The following sections of the *Social Security Act 1991* define government rent: 13.(1), 13.(5), 13.(3AC) and 13.(8D).

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 071

Topic: Western Australia Power

Hansard Page: CA128

Senator Evans asked:

Can FaCSIA provide more information about QONs 1377 and 1375?

Answer:

A briefing with Senator Evans was held on 1 March 2006 to provide further information about the new Western Australia Power charging scheme and the Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project. Following on from that meeting, FaCSIA officers subsequently provided additional information on this issue to Senator Evans.

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Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: T1

Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme – Number Registered

Hansard Page: Taken on Notice

Senator Evans asked:

How many people are registered under the Pension Bonus Scheme? Provide a breakdown between Partnered/Single.

Answer:

As at 30 December 2005 there were 51,790 people registered in the Pension Bonus Scheme. 14,993 (30 per cent) were registered as Single and 34,918 (70 per cent) as Partnered.

The total Single and Partnered recipient's do not add up to the total registered as cases where a recipient's partnered status is unknown have been excluded.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 036

Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme

Hansard Page: CA62

Senator Evans asked:

How many people are now registered under the Pension Bonus Scheme? How many are currently registered? What is the difference between people registered as singles or as couples? Has there been any change in the eligibility requirements or time frame to register for the Bonus Scheme?

Answer:

As at 30 December 2005, a total of 95,919 people had registered with the Pension Bonus Scheme (“the Scheme”) since it commenced in 1998. While the composition may change over time, 51,790 people are currently registered in the Scheme with approximately 30 per cent being single and 70 per cent being partnered.

There have been no legislative changes in regard to eligibility, claiming or registration requirements for the Pension Bonus Scheme.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 037

Topic: Health Card

Hansard Page: CA64

Senator Evans asked:

Estimates have been increased due to higher than expected take-up this year. Is this due to a lower than expected uptake in 2004-05?

Answer:

No. Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) take-up rates have been slowly and steadily increasing.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 038

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card/Great Southern Rail

Hansard Page: CA67

Senator Evans asked: Do the Concession or health care cards have numbers?

Answer: Yes.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 039

Topic: Seniors Concession Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) On what dates has the Seniors Concession Allowance been paid to date?
- (b) For each occasion on which the allowance has been paid:
- How many payments were made?
 - What has been the total amount paid?
 - What was the average payment made?

Answer:

Details of payments are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and the quarterly Centrelink publication 'A guide to Australian Government payments'.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 040

Topic: Utilities Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) On what dates has the Utilities Allowance been paid to date?
- (b) For each occasion on which the allowance has been paid:
- How many payments were made?
 - What has been the total amount paid?
 - What was the average payment made?

Answer:

The Utilities Allowance was paid in March 2005 and September 2005.

In March 2005 1,874,953 payments were made. Eligible single customers received \$50 each and eligible members of a couple received \$25 each. In September 2005 1,873,047 payments were made. Eligible single customers received \$50.60 each and eligible members of a couple received \$25.30 each.

The total cost of these payments was \$137,481,392.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 041

Topic: Great Southern Railway – Concessional Rail Travel

Hansard Page: CA67

Senator Chris Evans asked:

- (a) Can the Department confirm that the arrangements now in place for funding concessional travel on Great Southern Rail are based on an electronic tracking of actual trips taken by concession cardholders?
- (b) Is FACS given a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual account by the rail company of the trips taken by concession cardholders?
- (c) How does FACS verify this information?
- (d) When was this tracking of individual trips implemented?
- (e) For 2005-06 to date how many trips have been taken by concession cardholders with Great Southern Rail?
- (f) For 2005-06 to date how much has been paid by the Commonwealth to Great Southern Rail for concessional rail travel?
- (g) How much was paid by the Commonwealth to Great Southern Rail for concessional rail travel in 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (h) What was the estimated number of trips used to determine the amount paid to Great Southern rail in 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (i) What is the total amount of funding provided by FACS to Great Southern Rail for concessional rail travel since 1999?

Answer:

Great Southern Railway provides monthly invoices to the Department including details of all persons who have travelled under contract arrangements in the last calendar month. Data matching is performed on this data to ensure integrity.

Data matching is used to ensure that only valid concession recipients are accessing concessions. Great Southern Railway's reservation system validates a person's Customer Reference Number upon making a booking, after this initial check, further data sampling of monthly passenger data is conducted by the Department to ensure only valid concessional beneficiaries are accessing concessions.

Payment for actual travel undertaken each month has been in place since July 2005.

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Details of payments, trips and passenger numbers in relation to the Reimbursement to Great Southern Railway for Concessional Fares measure from 1998-99 to 2004-05, are listed in the Department's Annual Reports for the relevant years.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 042

Topic: Young Person in Residential Aged Care

Hansard Page: CA71

Senator McLucas asked:

Who is conducting survey of the 6,500 young people in residential aged care regarding the nature of their disabilities?

Answer:

Australian Healthcare Associates are completing the survey as part of a research and development project commissioned by the National Disability Administrators.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 043

Topic: Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement

Hansard Page: CA73

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide National Indicator Data Set? Details? Level of accuracy that the department supplies?

How many Indigenous people with disabilities? Do we record this and how do we get this information?

Answer:

The National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) was developed under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).

The Department conducts an annual data collection for all Australian Government-funded specialist disability services, which fulfills its obligation under the CSTDA. The Department has a 100 per cent response rate for this data collection. These data are reported in the *Australian Government Disability Services Census* report.

The *Australian Government Disability Services Census* collection records Indigenous information for consumers of specialist disability employment services. In 2003–04, 1,546 (2.2%) of the 68,873 disability employment consumers were identified as being of Indigenous origin.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 044

Topic: Walter and Turnbull contract

Hansard Page: CA78

Senator McLucas asked:

Investigate management of this contract by that consultant and advise of any specific problems?

Answer:

The panel of consultants conducting the full capability reviews of business services all have a good understanding of the business service sector, based on the work they have done with the Department over several years.

Recommendations made by consultants are based on an analysis of the organisation's costs, including the impact of wages and any on-costs, such as superannuation and leave entitlements, as part of the normal establishment of the business position of the organisation now and into the future. Organisations have the opportunity to comment on recommendations before they are formally referred to FaCSIA for consideration and approval. If an organisation is concerned that their full financials have not been captured appropriately, they can talk with the consultant or include the necessary information in their response to the consultant's report prior to consideration by FACSIA. We are not aware of any issues that have not been able to be resolved through these processes.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 045

Topic: Population Census

Hansard Page: CA83

Senator McLucas asked:

Please provide the content of the question, which will appear on this years census regarding disabilities?

Answer:

Any matters relating to the 2006 Census should be directed to the Australian Bureau of Statistics as that organisation has responsibility for the 2006 Census.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: 046

Topic: Supported Employment Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bartlett asked:

1. FaCSIA has facilitated a process of Business Planning for Supported Employment Services through contractors such as Walter Turnbull. However, evidence in Victoria suggests that Walter and Turnbull have, in many instances, omitted consideration of significant business costs including, for example: the increased cost of wages due to the 'no disadvantage rule', the costs associated with leave entitlements and superannuation for supported employees; and the costs to agencies in complying with the departments new computerised financial management systems. These additional costs can exceed \$100,000 per annum.
 - a. What mechanism does FaCSIA have in place to fix the gaps in the Walter and Turnbull business assessments to ensure that Supported Employment Services are funded appropriately and do not collapse, thereby jeopardising the future for supported employees?
 - b. Did the contract with Walter and Turnbull specify the relevant business planning issues that should be considered or was this left purely to Walter and Turnbull and the individual agencies?
 - c. Given that the Government policy actively encouraged award-based wages for supported employees to what extent did FaCSIA's contract with Walter and Turnbull specify consideration of all the business planning implications of adopting award-based wages? If not, why not?
 - d. How much BSAP money remains unexpended and can this money be used to remedy the deficiencies in the business planning processes in Victoria?
2. Supported Employment Services produce goods and services that can be purchased by Commonwealth Departments. However, access to Commonwealth Government contracts for Supported Employment Services is extremely difficult.
3. What progress has FaCSIA made in negotiating with the Department of Finance to ensure that the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines are amended to facilitate access to Government contracts for Supported Employment Services?
4. Are there any plans to amend the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) in relation to Supported Employment Services and, if so, what are they?
5. What is the methodology behind the Disability Maintenance Instrument (DMI) and to what extent is the DMI a tool for rationing funding? What mechanisms does FaCSIA have in place to ensure that the new Case Based Funding model accurately reflects the real cost of service provision, particularly in rural and regional areas?
6. Are there any plans to revise the ARIA rating system to ensure that Supported Employment Services operating in regional parts of smaller States (such as Victoria) where there is little industry can be fairly compensated?
7. Will the Corporations head of power, under the Australian Constitution, enable the Federal Government to apply the Work choices legislation to not-for-profit charities providing supported employment services in Victoria? Is so, has FaCSIA investigated

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the implications of this far-reaching legislation for the viability of Supported Employment Services?

8. Evidence from the latest Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services suggests that the Commonwealth's share of the total national expenditure on CSTDA services (which includes transfer payments to the States and Territories) has decreased by 0.5 per cent, from 28.4 per cent in 2003-04 to 27.9 per cent in 2004-05. Meanwhile the State/Territories contribution to national expenditure on CSTDA services has increased by 0.5 per cent. In what areas has the Commonwealth reduced its share of expenditure?

Answer:

Business Services Assistance Package (BSAP) funds are available to assist disability business services improve business viability so that they will be able to pay full pro rata award based wages without further FaCSIA assistance by the end of May 2008 and to ensure that no one loses access to a service as a result of the reforms.

FaCSIA has made use of a panel of contractors, including Walter Turnbull, to provide full capability reviews of business services. The consultants undertake an analysis of each organisation's costs, including the impact of wages and any on costs (such as superannuation, insurance and leave entitlements), in determining the business position of the organisation both currently and into the future.

Organisations have the opportunity to comment on recommendations made by a contractor before they are formally referred to FaCSIA for consideration and approval. If an organisation is concerned that particular information or data have not been captured appropriately, the organisation can talk with the consultant or include the relevant information in their response to the consultant's report prior to consideration by FaCSIA. We are unaware of any issues that have not been able to be resolved through these processes.

FaCSIA has encouraged business services to check the AusTender website and to register their interests and their availability to provide services or goods for relevant tenders. FaCSIA is also actively encouraging the use of supported employment services by government departments and agencies.

The Disability Maintenance Instrument (DMI) is a questionnaire completed by providers around a person's relative support needs in six key areas: social and behavioural skills, cognitive and physical abilities, communication and vocational skills. The assessment of relative support needs is then matched to one of four funding levels ranging from \$3,500 per annum to \$12,000 per annum. The DMI is used in the Case Based Funding calculations to ensure that funding provided more closely matches the support needs of the person in a business service. Case Based Funding is replacing a system of arbitrary block grant funding which set funding levels without regard to the support needs of the individual.

In December 2005, following a review of the levels of assistance provided to services in rural and remote areas, a simple supplementary payment for rural and remote business services was introduced. The supplementary payment has tripled the additional funding available to rural and remote business services to \$2.4 million per annum.

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Any matters relating to the Work Choices legislation should be directed to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations as that Department has responsibility for the administration of the Work Choices legislation.

Actual expenditure by the Australian Government under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement increased from \$928.8 million to \$1 billion in the period 2003-04 to 2004-05. Transfer payments by the Commonwealth to the states and territories increased from \$550.3 million in 2003-04 to \$563.7 million in 2004-05, while funding of employment assistance and other services increased from \$378.5 million to \$442.3 million.

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Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 047

Topic: Welfare to Work

Hansard Page: CA84

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) Can you tell me why Welfare to Work extended eligibility for parenting payment single on page 28 of the additional estimates is in 3.3?
- b) Has there been any analysis of rejected Carer Payment (child) claims?
- c) Provide a breakdown of the reasons.

Answer:

The reference to Parenting Payment Single under Output Group 3.3 appears as a result of the changes to the Welfare to Work measures and their impact on Carer Payment.

On 8 November 2005, the Government extended eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single) recipients so that payments can be received until their youngest child turns eight years of age thereby impacting on the previous Carer Payment costings.

The additional estimates reflect this change.

No analysis of rejection reasons for Carer Payment (child) claims has been undertaken.

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Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 048

Topic: National Family Carers Voice

Hansard Page: CA86

Senator McLucas asked:

Is the report by the National Family Carers Voice being released?

Has the Minister considered the survey?

Answer:

No.

No.

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Output Group: 3.4

Question No: 49

Topic: National Youth Week 2006

Hansard Page:

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

1. In December 2005, it was announced that the National Youth Week marketing contract was awarded to Lifelounge Pty Ltd. The Lifelounge Pty Ltd website contains a page called Booty Palace. Was the Department of Family and Community Services aware of the involvement of Lifelounge Pty Ltd with Booty Palace at the time the marketing tender for National Youth Week 2006 was awarded?
2. If the Department was not aware of this association, did the tender process include a visit to the public website of Lifelounge Pty Ltd?
3. What tasks does the National Youth Week 2006 marketing contract entail?
4. How much money will Lifelounge Pty Ltd receive from the National Youth Week 2006 marketing contract? What percentage is this of the National Youth Week budget?

Answer:

1. The department was not aware of Lifelounge Media's involvement with the Booty Palace at the time the marketing tender for National Youth Week 2006 was awarded.
2. The tender process did not include a visit to the public website of Lifelounge Pty Ltd. The successful consortium demonstrated they were capable of undertaking the contract and provided the best value for money in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified in the tender.
3. The Lifelounge Consortium has been contracted to provide sponsorship services and media components of the National Youth Week communications strategy. These tasks include: advertising (production of 2 x Community Service Announcements (CSA) for television and 1 x CSA for radio); media relations (publicity of the week and securing media partners to help promote the week); sponsorships- (securing sponsors for the NYW competitions); source prizes (including prize delivery for the NYW competitions); source judges for the NYW competitions (industry experts); and source high profile supporters to help promote the week including writing profiles/source pictures.

All work undertaken by the Lifelounge Consortium goes through an approval process by the Australian Government before being implemented.

4. Lifelounge Pty Ltd will receive from the National Youth Week 2006 marketing contract \$220,000 (including GST). This is around 28 per cent of the total \$776,000 2006 National Youth Week Budget.

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Output Group: 4.1 – Support for Families

Question No: T2

Topic: Bringing Them Home Report

Hansard Page: Taken on Notice

Senator Crossin asked:

Does the department have any involvement with the Bringing Them Home report? Does OIPC/FaCSIA know which agencies/programmes have been funded? How is the funding being utilised?

Answer:

Agencies/Programmes funded:

The “Bringing Them Home Report” (BTH) was tabled in May 1997. In December 1997, the Australian Government announced a \$63 million package of practical assistance over the next four years (1998-1999 to 2001-2002):

- \$11.25 million for a national network of family Link Up services;
- \$5.9 million on Indigenous family support and parenting programs;
- \$2 million for Australian Archives to index, copy and preserve files;
- \$1.6 million to the National Library for an oral history project;
- \$9 million for language and culture maintenance programs;
- \$16 million for counselling for those affected by separation and family reunions; and
- \$17 million for network of regional centres providing emotional and professional support.

The 2001-02 Commonwealth budget included an additional \$53.8 million over a further four years (2002-03 to 2005-06) to continue the Link Up services and counselling and parenting measures.

In total the Commonwealth committed more than \$116 million in response to the BTH report.

Other agency’s ongoing involvement:

Link Up

A total of \$21.15 million was provided to Link Up programs over the eight year period from 1998-2006 in response to the findings of the BTH report.

This year the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) allocated \$4.157 million to the Link Up program (\$3.824 million for recurrent activities plus \$0.333 million for national activities).

Financial Year	Funding Amount -GST excl (\$)
2005-06	4,157,000
2006-07	4,278,000

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2007-08	4,370,000
2008-09	4,462,000

The Link Up Program is ongoing. Funding has been rolled into the DoHA's base allocations.

The Link Up Program will be considered in the national evaluation of DoHA's BTH and Indigenous Mental Health programs. The evaluation will develop recommendations to inform future program objectives, directions and alignment. It will report by September 2006.

FACSIA involvement:

One of the elements of the Government's response was \$5.9 million over four years for the Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing (IPFW) Programme. The Department of Family and Community Services became responsible for this programme in 2001-02 following its transfer from the Department of Health and Ageing.

Funding for the IPFW Programme is ongoing, with current annual funding of approximately \$1.9 million. There are currently 22 projects spread across all states and territories.

As a result of a review conducted in 2004-05, the IPFW was merged with the Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency programme from 1 January 2006 to form the Indigenous Children Programme, focusing on early intervention and prevention measures for indigenous children, families and communities.

Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA):

MCATSIA sponsored an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of government and non-government responses to the recommendations of the BTH report. This review was completed and accepted by MCATSIA in late 2003. It acknowledged that all governments had made substantial contributions to address the needs of separated children. The review was publicly released in early 2004 and is available via the MCATSIA website:

<http://www.mcatsia.gov.au>.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 051

Topic: Adoptive Parents

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Stott-Despoja asked:

1. In last year's Budget, the Government agreed to extend eligibility for the Maternity Payment to parents adopting children aged up to two years, up from six months.
- (a) What percentage of adoptive families now receive the Maternity Payment, following this change?
 - (b) How much does the Department estimate it would cost to abolish the age restriction altogether, and extend the Maternity Payment to all adoptive parents?
 - (c) Is the Department aware of any moves to abolish the age restriction?

Answer:

It is too early to establish the percentage of adoptive families who receive Maternity Payment. The question of abolition of the age restriction is a hypothetical one and it would not be appropriate for the department to respond.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 052

Topic: Maternity Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Chris Evans asked:

1. Please update all of the tables (for 2004-05 and 2005-06 to date) provided in response to Question on Notice 95 from November 2005 Estimates.

Answer:

Updated information from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005 on the distribution of Maternity Payment recipients by geographical state is as follows:

State	Number of Customers
Australian Capital Territory	2,084
New South Wales	44,084
Northern Territory	1,920
Queensland	26,744
South Australia	8,521
Tasmania	3,091
Victoria	31,195
Western Australia	12,882
Unknown*	121
Total	130,642

* Includes recipients who no longer reside at their most recent address and have not yet provided the Family Assistance Office with an updated address.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 056

Topic: Maternity Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Chris Evans asked:

1. What were the number of claims for Maternity Payment in 2004-05, state by state and nationally?
2. What were the number of births in 2004-05, state by state and nationally?
3. What is the Department's current estimate on the percentage of new mothers who do not claim the Maternity Payment?
4. Does the Department have any explanation as to why significant numbers of mothers are not claiming the Payment?
5. What is the rationale behind having a 26-week time limit for making a claim?
6. Are there any circumstances under which an individual may lodge a claim after the 26-week period is up?

Answer:

The number of Maternity Payment claims granted in 2004-05 by geographical state is as follows:

State	Customers
ACT	3,705
NSW	79,093
NT	3,190
QLD	48,425
SA	16,156
TAS	5,378
VIC	55,894
WA	23,245
Unknown*	285
Total	235,371

* Includes recipients who no longer reside at their most recent address and have not yet provided the Family Assistance Office with an updated address.

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Information on the number of births is available in the 2004 Australian Bureau of Statistics publication, *Births Australia*, (3301.0) released on 16 November 2005. The department does not collect or maintain data on parents who do not claim Maternity Payment.

The 26-week period for situations other than adoptions is considered a reasonable period within which to allow claims, given the payment is intended to assist with the costs around the time of birth. The legislation allows the acceptance of claims after 26 weeks if the claim was delayed because of severe illness associated with the birth of the child.

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Output Group: 4.1 and 5.1

Question No: 057

Topic: Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008

Hansard Page: CA95-CA96

Senator Fielding asked:

What evaluation has been done on the Communities for Children projects?

Answer:

An evaluation framework is in place for the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, including the Communities for Children initiative. It aims to address effectiveness of outcomes as well as contribute to policy and practice development. The National Evaluation Framework for the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy is available on the FaCSIA website at: http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-sfcs_evaluation_update.htm

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 053

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliations

Hansard Page:

Senator Chris Evans asked:

1. Please provide an update of all tables provided in response to question on notice 97 arising out of November Estimates.
2. Please provide updated family tax benefit reconciliation figures for each of the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years.
3. Please indicate how many families incurred an FTB debt in 2003-04 before the effect of the pre-child supplement was taken into account?
4. Please supply an update of all the information/tables supplied in response to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of question on notice 183 of the budget estimates hearings.

Answer:

The number of overpayments is continuing to decrease and the number of top-ups is continuing to increase, as is shown in the December 2005 update of Family Tax Benefit reconciliation outcomes provided in the table below:

Financial Year	Top-up Payments		Overpayments		Nil Change
	Customers	Amount	Customers	Amount	Customers
2004-05	1,492,020	\$2,353m	119,498	\$130m	80,419
2003-04	1,790,137	\$2,529m	219,645	\$266m	147,500
2002-03	612,229	\$585m	628,033	\$561m	917,023
2001-02	564,130	\$516m	707,233	\$653m	863,400
2000-01	492,041	\$451m	743,321	\$662m	825,974

The provision of information in respect of previous years requires considerable resources and the Minister is not prepared to divert resources to answer such questions in future.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 054

Topic: Average Incomes of Family Tax Benefit Recipients

Hansard Page: Question on Notice

Senator Evans asked:

For the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 financial years:

1. What was the average actual adjusted taxable income of families who received Family Tax Benefit Part A via Centrelink lump sum, via ATO lump sum and Centrelink fortnightly payments?
2. What is the distribution of all Family Tax Benefit Part B and Part A customers' ATIs in \$5,000 bands between \$0 and \$100,000 per annum; in \$10,000 bands between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per annum; and in \$100,000 bands between \$200,000 and \$1 million or more per annum?
3. Please break down by (1) state and territory and (2) federal electorate the number of families with an actual annual taxable income of:
 1. between \$100,000 and \$300,000,
 2. \$300,000 and \$500,000,
 3. \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, and
 4. above \$1,000,000

who received family payments (that is, either Family Tax Benefit Part A or Family Tax Benefit Part B) in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Answer:

1. The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who received FTB Part A at any stage for 2000-01 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

	Average actual ATI for 2000-01*
ATO lump sum	\$56,303
Centrelink lump sum	\$49,779
Instalments	\$39,232
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$47,418

* Customers with zero actual ATI are excluded in the calculation of average actual ATI. The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who had an entitlement to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A at any stage for 2001-02 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

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	Average actual ATI for 2001-02*
ATO lump sum	\$59,773
Centrelink lump sum	\$51,488
Instalments	\$40,216
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$47,819

* Customers with zero actual ATI are excluded in the calculation of average actual ATI.

The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who had an entitlement to FTB Part A at any stage for 2002-03 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

	Average actual ATI for 2002-03*
ATO lump sum	\$61,701
Centrelink lump sum	\$54,428
Instalments	\$40,770
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$51,671

* Customers with zero actual ATI are excluded in the calculation of average actual ATI.

The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who had an entitlement to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A at any stage for 2003-04 and who have been reconciled as at 30 December 2005.

	Average actual ATI for 2003-04*
ATO lump sum	\$66,165
Centrelink lump sum	\$56,390
Instalments	\$41,923
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$52,368

* Customers with zero actual ATI are excluded in the calculation of average actual ATI.

The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who had an entitlement to FTB Part A at any stage for 2004-05 and who have been reconciled as at 30 December 2005.

	Average actual ATI for 2004-05*
ATO lump sum	\$71,713
Centrelink lump sum	\$55,159
Instalments	\$42,188
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$52,159

* Customers with zero actual ATI are excluded in the calculation of average actual ATI.

The provision of information in respect of previous year requires considerable resource and the Minister is not prepared to divert resources to answer such questions in future.

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2. The response to this question has already been provided in Question on Notice 98 from 2005-06 Supplementary Estimates.

3. The response to this question has already been provided in Question on Notice 99 from 2005-06 Supplementary Estimates.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 055

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Debts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked: In relation to Family Tax Benefit overpayments in the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (to date), please indicate in tabular form the number of families who were overpaid by:

- (1) Over \$10,000?
- (2) Between \$9,000 and \$10,000?
- (3) Between \$8,000 and \$9,000?
- (4) Between \$7,000 and \$8,000?
- (5) Between \$6,000 and \$7,000?
- (6) Between \$5,000 and \$6,000?
- (7) Between \$4,500 and \$5,000?
- (8) Between \$4,000 and \$4,500?
- (9) Between \$3,500 and \$4,000?
- (10) Between \$3,000 and \$3,500?
- (11) Between \$2,500 and \$3,000?
- (12) Between \$2,000 and \$2,500?
- (13) Between \$1,500 and \$2,000?
- (14) Between \$1,000 and \$1,500?
- (15) Between \$900 and \$1,000?
- (16) Between \$800 and \$900?
- (17) Between \$700 and \$800?
- (18) Between \$600 and \$700?
- (19) Between \$500 and \$600?
- (20) Between \$400 and \$500?
- (21) Between \$300 and \$400?
- (22) Between \$200 and \$300?
- (23) Between \$100 and \$200?
- (24) Between \$0 and \$100?

Answer: At this point data to update the answer to Parliamentary Question on Notice number 1305 is not available. The compilation of detailed information of this kind requires considerable resources and the Minister is not prepared to divert resources to answer such questions on an ongoing basis.

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

Dear parent or guardian

The enclosed brochure is designed to remind families about their responsibilities when receiving Child Care Benefit (CCB).

Our child care services do a great job caring for your children and put considerable effort into ensuring you receive your correct entitlement to CCB. I am concerned however that a small number of services may be encouraging or pressuring parents to participate in practices that are unfair and/or illegal.

These practices can result in the wrong entitlements being paid, putting additional strain on tax payers dollars and undermining the affordability of child care.

The information in the enclosed brochure outlines some of these practices and explains how you can let the Australian Government know if you are aware of such practices by returning the tear-off slip in the reply paid envelope provided.

Information is also being sent to your service to remind them of their responsibilities under Family Assistance Law.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kay Patterson'.

Senator Kay Patterson
Minister for Family and Community Services

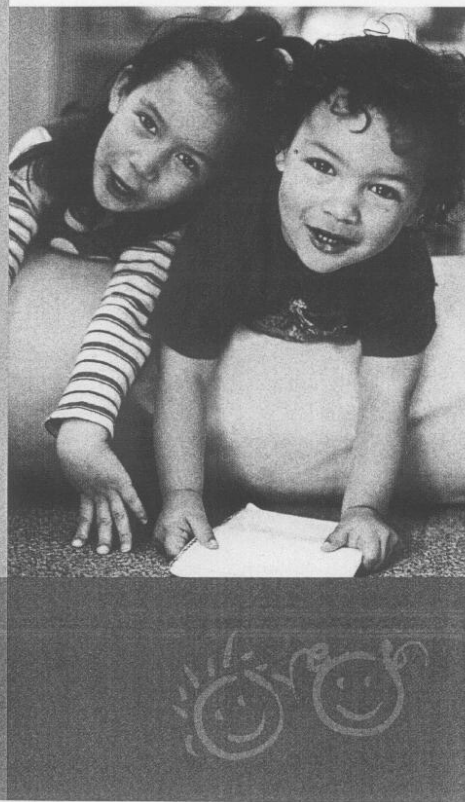
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Australian Government

Important information

Important information
for families using
child care



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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 058

Topic: Child Care Support - Inclusion and Professional Support Program

Hansard Page: CA97

Senator Forshaw asked:

1. How many local governments ran supplementary services programs in NSW?
2. How many Local Government Agreements tendered nationally. Can you provide a breakdown state by state?
3. (a) Can you provide details of organisations that have previously received funding?
(b) Please list the new successful organisations.
4. How many areas did the Kindergarten Association of NSW receive?

Answer:

Seventeen local government organisations ran Supplementary Services programs in New South Wales.

Twenty-two local government applicants tendered nationally. Of these, six applications were received in New South Wales, one in Queensland, one in Tasmania, twelve in Victoria, and two in Western Australia.

The programme has changed so comparison of previous arrangements is not useful.

The successful Inclusion Support Agencies are published on the FaCS site at:
[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/ipsp/\\$File/Inclusion_Support_Agencies.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/ipsp/$File/Inclusion_Support_Agencies.pdf)

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 060

Topic: Ernst & Young contract

Hansard Page: CA99

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide a copy of the tender docs and contract for Ernst & Young to analyse the impact of the operational subsidy.

Answer:

A copy of the Request for Tender is available on the Departments website. As the website indicates the contract for Ernst & Young contains confidential provisions and has not been supplied.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 061

Topic: Multifunctional Child Care Services

Hansard Page: CA104

Senator Crossin asked:

How many multifunctional child care centres will lose funding under the new arrangements?

Answer:

There are 25 multifunctional child care services that will no longer be funded under the old Multi Functional funding model. These services are now funded under the Sustainability Assistance model.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 062

Topic: Appointment of Ernst and Young to the Business and Financial Advisor role for funded Child Care Services

Hansard Page: CA105, CA106

Senator Moore asked:

- (i) During the tender process, was individual parent's financial viability taken into account?
- (ii) Provide a copy of the letter of advice from FaCSIA regarding the engagement of Ernst & Young's services.
- (iii) Provide dates regarding the time allowed to accept the take up offer

Answer:

This process was about service viability, not individual parent's financial viability, and the letter that was sent to services regarding Ernst & Young's services is attached.

Eligible Child Care Services who are funded through the Community Support Program are able to accept the offer of a Business and Financial Assessment from Ernst & Young between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006.

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[Name]
[Position]
[Service/Organisation]
[Address]

Dear [Insert Name]

In June 2005 you received a letter stating that the [Insert Service Name] would be eligible to receive \$XXXX of [Insert Payment Type] in the 2005-06 financial year, under the Child Care Support Program. The Funding Agreement outlining these amounts and the conditions of funding is attached. [Please sign and return both copies of this agreement to the Department as soon as possible. – **Long Form Agreement**] **OR** [Please sign and return the appropriate copy to the Department, as directed in the attached agreement. – **Short Form Agreement**]. The agreement will not take effect until both the Department and the service have signed the agreement.

(Insert only if applicable - Please note your service has been assessed as a multiple care service. A multiple care service is an organisation that offers more than one Australian Government approved child care service type and operates from the same premises. As such, you may notice that your Funding Agreement has a slightly different structure to previous agreements.)

The previous letter outlined the eligibility criteria that were applied to the various payment types and also highlighted the transitional arrangements that were put in place to support services receiving reduced funding in 2005-06. These arrangements included the recent three-month extension of your previous funding agreement, additional transitional funding in 2005-06 (and 2006-07 if applicable), and access to the independent business and financial advisor, Ernst & Young. More details on transitional assistance can be found in the fact sheet that you received with the most recent letter or at www.facs.gov.au/CCSP.

If you are concerned about the reduced level of funding you will receive in 2005-06, as mentioned above, Ernst & Young have been contracted by the Department as the independent advisor to undertake the Business and Financial Assessment. This professional advice has been made available to you at no cost. At the conclusion of the assessment, you will receive a confidential report that will outline strategies to support your operational circumstances.

Accessing the business and financial advisory service is not compulsory. However, it is important to note that should you wish to lodge an appeal against the reduced funding arrangement, having undertaken the Business and Financial Assessment with Ernst & Young will assist in hastening the administrative process.

If you have any queries about this letter, require assistance and/or referral to the independent business and financial advisor, please contact the FaCS office in your state or territory on 1300 653 227.

Otherwise, please return the signed copies of the Funding Agreement (as directed above) to ensure that payment is not delayed.

Please retain a copy of this original letter for your records.

Yours sincerely

[Departmental Officer]
[Relevant contact details]
[Insert Date]

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 063

Topic: Skilled Labour Force

Hansard Page: CA 108

Senator Moore asked:

Is there any ministerials regarding the Child Care workforce? If so please provide them.

Answer:

The Department responds to a range of diverse enquiries about child care including workforce issues. The letters and responses are between constituents and the Minister and it is not appropriate to provide them. In addition they may contain personal information that would otherwise be protected from disclosure on privacy grounds.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 064

Topic: Child Care Research

Hansard Page: CA 111

Senator Moore asked:

- a) What research has FaCSIA carried out on Child Care?
- b) What form of child care best encourages people into the workplace and what can be offered? Has there been any research on that element of what is the best way to spend the dollar ie Child-care tax benefit, tax relief, fringe benefit tax?

Answer:

FaCSIA has conducted child care research in 2005. Research publications once finalised are routinely published on the FaCSIA website and are accessible from <http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/nav.htm>.

The Australian Government strongly supports families with the choices they make in raising their children and achieving a balance between work and family responsibilities. A range of child care types and assistance supports the diverse needs of Australian families including through long day care services, family day care, outside school hours care, in-home care and other registered child care options.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 065

Topic: National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)

Hansard Page: CA112, CA113

Senator Polley asked:

1. Have the National Childcare Accreditation Council ever confirmed an incidence of swapping equipment and toys to pass accreditation?
2. Can an employee who has lost their license be employed to carry out accreditation or reviews on facilities?

Answer:

The National Childcare Accreditation Council has advised that there has been no confirmed incidence of equipment swapping.

The National Childcare Accreditation Council has confirmed that an employee working in a child care service that is not licensed, and who was employed in the service at the time the service is not licensed, cannot carry out an accreditation or review until the service is licensed.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 066

Topic: Family Day Care

Hansard Page: CA114, CA115, CA116, CA119

Senator Moore asked:

Are Family Day Care schemes legally able to determine and set fees?
Do Family Day Care carers have the ability to challenge decisions regarding staff employment & termination?
What were average Family Day Care operational subsidies in 2004-05?
Can you please provide more information on flexible FDC schemes?

Answer:

Decisions relating to fees are commercial decisions of a Family Day Care scheme. Family assistance legislation does not regulate fees. However, commercial fee charging practices must be conducted in accordance with the Trade Practices Act.

The majority of Family Day Care carers are self employed and contracted by the scheme to provide care and others are employees. A carers' ability to challenge decisions regarding employment and termination are governed by the relationship and contract of the carer with their employer, and the industrial relations law.

The average Family Day Care operational subsidy in 2004-05 was \$228,844.45.

The Australian Government appreciates that parents may work unusual and irregular hours, and Family Day Care schemes can provide flexible hours of care, including overnight care, for families who are on call or work shifts. The Family Day Care project has also been tasked with identifying and evaluating innovative flexible models.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 067

Topic: Child Care Policy

Hansard Page: CA120

Senator Moore asked:

Has the Department received letters regarding Child Care policy in the last six months?

Answer:

Yes. The Department received a diverse range of letters about childcare.

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Output Group: Child Care Support

Question No: 068

Topic: Costs incurred for the CCB compliance brochure mail-out.

Hansard Page: CA125

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the costs incurred into production of the leaflet and pamphlet, and the distribution

Answer:

The costs are as follows:

Design and Printing Including reply paid envelopes	\$30,033.00
Compiling letter, brochure and reply paid Envelope for over 377 000	\$50650.88
Postage	\$173935.46

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 070

Topic: JET Child Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide figures on the number of children, parents and services receiving JET child care assistance by state/territory in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years.

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

Answer:

The latest publicly available information about the number of parents and children assisted by the Jobs Education and Training (JET) Child Care program can be found in:

- the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report 2004-05. A copy of this publication is available on the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) website at <http://www.facs.gov.au/annualreport/2005/part2/output1-4.html> and
- the Department of Family and Community Services Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06. A copy of this publication is available on the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) website at <http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/budget/budget2005-pbs.htm#budget>

Information about the number of services receiving JET Child Care Fee Assistance is not available.

The latest publicly available information about the current funding allocation for the Jobs Education and Training (JET) Child Care program. can be found in:

- the Department of Family and Community Services Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06. A copy of this publication is available on the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) website at <http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/budget/budget2005-pbs.htm#budget>
- the Department of Family and Community Services Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2005-06. A copy of this publication is available on the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) website at <http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/budget/budget2005-pbs.htm#paes> and
- the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' Media Releases. A copy of these releases are available on the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) website at http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/minister1.nsf/content/budget2005-06_7childcare.htm and

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- the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Welfare to Work Reform Package 2005 papers. A copy of this information is available on the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations website at <http://www.budget.gov.au/2005-06/bp2/html/expense-09.htm>.

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 091

Topic: Financial Advisor Role for Funded Child Care Services

Hansard Page: CA102

Senator Crossin asked:

What is the highest and lowest loss suffered by Child Care providers? If possible, provide an average cost?

Please advise when the review was tendered and what the payment schedule for Ernst & Young is, refer to Ernst & Young if required.

Answer:

Child care services supported through the Child Care Support Program are being funded based on utilisation of places and based on location and size of the service. The changes to the basis for program payments were announced in 2004 and implemented from 1 July 2005. If a service uses all places they have been claiming previously they will not have any reduction in funding. Some services are receiving additional transitional payments in 2006-07 to assist with the transition.

The tenders for the Ernst and Young contract opened on 18 December 2004 and closed at 2pm on 3 February 2005.

As indicated in the 2004-05 Annual Report the total value of the contract is \$1.2 million (exclusive of GST). Ernst and Young was paid in accordance with the terms of the contract.

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Output Group: 4.3 Child Care Support

Question No: 69

Topic: Child Care Benefit Reconciliations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please supply updated information on CCB reconciliations for the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years.

Please supply an update to each of the attachments supplied in response to question on notice 111 arising from November Estimates.

Answer:

The Minister has agreed to provide a breakdown of Child Care Benefit reconciliation data this time. The Australian Government has introduced a number of measures to assist families to minimise the possibilities of incurring a CCB debt and as the attached tables demonstrate these measures have been effective. In the future the Department will not continue to provide information in this form as it is not required routinely in this way for the management of the programme and takes significant resources to collate separately.

- (a) Please see Attachment A for updated information on CCB reconciliations for the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years.
- (b) Please see Attachment B & C for the update of question on notice 111.

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Attachment A

DATA AS AT 30 December 2005

**Child Care Benefit (CCB) Reconciliation Results
(Revised Method)**

	30-Dec-2005				
	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05
Top-Up (Credit)					
Number of customers	175,215	205,610	229,160	244,594	217,541
%	31	33	35	37	38
Total Amount (\$m)	35	44	58	68	56
Average Amount	\$203	\$213	\$251	\$276	\$258
Overpayment (Debit)					
Number of customers	172,575	179,559	171,074	165,231	115,674
%	30	29	26	25	20
Total Amount (\$m)	49	56	55	55	34
Average Amount	\$283	\$313	\$319	\$330	\$293
Nil Change					
Number of customers	224,361	242,426	255,693	254,358	238,227
%	39	39	39	38	42
Total (Top-up + Overpayment + Nil change)					
Number of customers	572,151	627,595	655,927	664,183	571,442
Lump Sum Claims granted					
Number of customers	9,766	7,950	5,938	5,275	3,675
Total Amount (\$m)	4	4	3	3	2
Average Amount	\$385	\$458	\$462	\$520	\$573
Reco. pending					
Number of customers	7,579	7,515	11,126	15,035	126,930

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Attachment B

DATA AS AT 30 December 2005

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WITH AN OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

STATE	NO OF CUSTOMERS				
	FINANCIAL YEAR				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	14	86	198	375	560
NEW SOUTH WALES	166	1445	3607	6695	9627
NORTHERN TERRITORY	3	50	122	247	548
QUEENSLAND	108	897	2437	5167	8109
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	25	173	511	1098	1947
TASMANIA	3	47	118	287	628
VICTORIA	117	904	2122	4141	6448
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	29	333	736	1541	2734
UNKNOWN	53	216	236	233	173
TOTAL	518	4151	10087	19784	30774

* The "unknown" category covers costumers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are not longer customers).

TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

STATE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE TOTAL				
	FINANCIAL YEAR				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	\$17,922	\$72,811	\$143,941	\$265,817	\$343,680
NEW SOUTH WALES	\$157,267	\$1,156,711	\$2,737,451	\$4,809,282	\$5,276,605
NORTHERN TERRITORY	\$6,202	\$49,439	\$115,913	\$239,395	\$383,176
QUEENSLAND	\$113,625	\$799,433	\$2,087,869	\$4,092,196	\$4,696,737
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	\$17,305	\$141,250	\$385,121	\$728,199	\$870,201
TASMANIA	\$1,290	\$30,079	\$80,647	\$184,349	\$235,215
VICTORIA	\$133,867	\$801,242	\$1,793,675	\$3,106,059	\$3,482,966
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	\$35,357	\$268,526	\$558,007	\$1,166,239	\$1,502,357
UNKNOWN	\$61,792	\$114,389	\$132,861	\$129,903	\$98,551
TOTAL	\$544,627	\$3,433,881	\$8,035,485	\$14,721,439	\$16,889,487

* The "unknown" category covers costumers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are not longer customers).

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Attachment C

DATA AS AT 30 December 2005

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

STATE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE AVERAGE				
	FINANCIAL YEAR				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	\$1,280	\$847	\$727	\$709	\$614
NEW SOUTH WALES	\$947	\$800	\$759	\$718	\$548
NORTHERN TERRITORY	\$2,067	\$989	\$950	\$969	\$699
QUEENSLAND	\$1,052	\$891	\$857	\$792	\$579
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	\$692	\$816	\$754	\$663	\$447
TASMANIA	\$430	\$640	\$683	\$642	\$375
VICTORIA	\$1,144	\$886	\$845	\$750	\$540
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	\$1,219	\$806	\$758	\$757	\$550
UNKNOWN	\$1,166	\$530	\$563	\$558	\$570
TOTAL	\$1,051	\$827	\$797	\$744	\$549

* The "unknown" category covers costumers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are not longer costumers).

AVERAGE INCOME OF CCB DEBTOR BY STATE

STATE	AVERAGE INCOME OF CCB DEBTOR				
	FINANCIAL YEAR				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	\$65,324	\$70,369	\$74,174	\$77,241	\$80,150
NEW SOUTH WALES	\$61,774	\$65,828	\$69,090	\$72,298	\$72,468
NORTHERN TERRITORY	\$61,722	\$65,160	\$69,048	\$73,351	\$75,863
QUEENSLAND	\$58,645	\$62,309	\$65,693	\$69,545	\$69,480
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	\$59,509	\$63,908	\$67,142	\$70,374	\$71,105
TASMANIA	\$57,814	\$61,379	\$64,723	\$68,747	\$68,973
VICTORIA	\$61,544	\$65,733	\$68,747	\$71,704	\$71,725
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	\$59,730	\$63,886	\$67,043	\$70,566	\$71,987
UNKNOWN	\$61,948	\$68,042	\$71,063	\$75,060	\$78,668
TOTAL	\$60,569	\$64,595	\$67,817	\$71,177	\$71,503

* The "unknown" category covers costumers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are not longer costumers).

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Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 059

Topic: Unanswered Parliamentary Questions on Notice

Hansard Page: CA99

Senator Moore asked:

Can you please advise why answers to QoN #'s 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2622 have not been tabled as yet?

Answer:

Questions 2622, 2796, 2797 and 2799 have been tabled. Question 2798 was sent to the tabling office on 26 May 2006 and is likely to be tabled on 30 May 2006.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 072

Topic: Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

Hansard Page: CA129

Senator Evans asked:

- a) (The Minister did use her discretion in relation to the departmental recommendations.)
 1. When did she use ministerial discretion?; and
 2. For how many recommendations?
- b) During the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) rounds in 2003-2004, was ministerial discretion used and on how many occasions?
- c) On how many applications (*not "rounds" as stated in the question*) was discretion used in the round of (16 May) 2005?

Answer:

Consistent with our advice provided in Question on Notice 112 in November 2005, funding is a Ministerial decision. Recommendations for funding are provided by the Department to the Minister for consideration. It is not the practice for the Department to provide details of advice given to the Minister as this is considered to be confidential information between the Department and the Minister.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 073

Topic: Community Organisations – One Off Grants

Hansard Page: CA130

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Who gave FaCSIA the paperwork to support the election commitment grants?
- b) Which department did the eighth project come from? ie. other than the Department of Transport and Regional Services

Answer:

The authority to administer these grants came from public Election commitments. Refer to QON 1364.

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Question No: 075

Topic: Hillsong Church Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many grants have you issued to Hillsong Church, its associated corporations and entities? List name, price and duration of funding by department.

Answer:

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has three funding agreements with the Hillsong Church, its associated corporations and entities. The department also made some claims based payments under the Child Care Support programme. Details of funding are provided in the table in Attachment A: -

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Attachment A:

SERVICE NAME	PROGRAMME	FUNDING 2005-06 (GST excl.)	DURATION OF FUNDING AGREEMENT	FUNDED SINCE (Funding is adjusted annually)
Hillsong Emerge Ltd. Blacktown	Emergency Relief	\$ 30,815	Annual	1 July 2000
Hillsong Emerge Ltd. Redfern	Emergency Relief	\$ 35,700	Annual	1 July 2003
Hillsong Youth Services Inc. Castle Hill	Youth YouthLinx (Formerly known as Youth Activities Services and Family Liaison Worker).	\$ 62,420	Annual	1 July 1999
Hillsong Emerge Ltd. Baulkham Hills	Child Care Support Program¹ Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS) ² JET Child Care ³	\$ 11,246 ⁴ \$ 548 ⁵	N/A N/A	Not applicable as payments are claims based.

1. Hillsong Emerge Ltd. Baulkham Hills is also approved to offer Child Care Benefit (CCB) for 40 long-day care places, however the amounts shown above do not include CCB as this is a payment made to eligible families to assist with the cost of child care.

2. SNSS is a subsidy paid to a service to assist with the costs associated with children with ongoing high support needs.

3. The JET Child Care payment is a "gap fee" (the difference between the fee charged by the child care service and CCB) paid to approved child care services. The service claims the fee on behalf of eligible parents where the cost of child care is a barrier to participation in work or study.

4 & 5. Figures shown are taken as at 6 March 2006.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 076

Topic: Acquittal of Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

Hansard Page: NA - Supplementary questions

Senator Evans asked:

The Department's website notes that acquittals for the 2005 round of grants were due in September 2005. Can the Department provide the following information:

- d) The total number of grants this program [*funded?*] in the 2005 round.
- e) The total number of acquittals for the 2005 round received by the due date in September 2005.
- f) The total number of acquittals for the 2005 round received to date.
- g) What has happened to follow-up those that have still not provided acquittals (if any).
- h) The number of acquittals received that required further action from the Department and the action required, eg seeking further information, seeking the return of funds.

Answer:

There were 2131 grants approved and 2123 grants funded in 2005. The 2005 acquittal documentation was issued to grant recipients in September 2005. Our records show that acquittal documentation has now been received from approximately 93% of organisations. All organisations that have not provided any acquittal documentation have been contacted and will be followed up where required. Our records indicate that follow-up action was required on approximately 36% of the acquittal documents received to date. The action required involves following up issues related to receipts or statutory declarations presented.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 077

Topic: Funding Agreements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Can an updated list of these agreements be provided for 2005-06 to date?
2. Are all of these funding agreements subject to an open tender process? If not, provide a list of all methods for selecting organisations for these funding agreements?
3. If various selection methods are used provide an explanation as to why the different methods are used?
4. Where no open tender is used to select the organisations how is the price determined?
5. Is there a pro-forma agreement, with a standard set of terms/conditions, for these funding agreements? If so can a copy of this be provided?
6. Are the actual funding agreements available? Can we be provided with copies of actual agreements?
7. Can the Department outline its process for monitoring the implementation of the funding agreements?
8. What reporting do the organisations provide FACS over the life of the agreement? i.e: monthly/quarterly reports?
9. Do the organisations have to report on specific performance measures and the achievement of milestones?
10. Is the provision of funding under agreements subject to the meeting of these measures and milestones? i.e: is the funding conditional?
11. Do Departmental officers actually visit and meet with the organisations during the life of these agreements as part of the monitoring/reporting process? Can the Department outline its process for evaluating funding agreements at the completion of the agreement?
12. What performance measures are used?
13. How are the outcomes measured and verified?
14. Are the findings of these evaluations made public anywhere?
15. Do Departmental officers actually visit and meet with the organisations at the completion of an agreement?
16. Can the Department provide the total amount of funding provided through funding agreements in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (projected)?
17. For 2003-04 and 2004-05 how many funding agreements were underspent by more than 20%? Provide a list of all funding agreements which were underspent against the approved budget by more than 20%.

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Answer:

The updated Departmental response for Senate Order 192 for the period 1 Jan 2005 to 30 Dec 2005 was released on the FaCSIA website on 28 February 2006. This does not include the programmes administered by the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination. These agreements are included in the response provided on Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs website.

Selection methods for programme service providers depend on the nature of the programme. Selection is in keeping with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

The level of funding is determined within each programme based on a number of factors including information received from proposed or existing providers, the availability of funding, demographic information indicating potential demand for services, geographic considerations, and overhead costs.

Funding is provided via a standard funding agreement that sets out the funding requirements for the individual organisation and outlines the performance monitoring, payment details and service delivery requirements. These vary between programmes and projects, and in some instances take account of the specific circumstances of the service provider. Copies of the standard agreements are made available on the FaCSIA website at the time of advertising for potential providers.

The performance of service providers is monitored during the term of the agreement generally via regular reporting against milestones or details of specific services provided as well as financial reports and, where appropriate, site visits. The nature of the reporting is determined by the requirements set out in the funding agreement and varies from programme to programme and the level of funding provided.

Outcomes are measured and verified according to the methodology established for each programme. Evaluation of individual service provider performance is not released publicly.

The values of the grants made by FaCSIA (excluding to and through State and Territory Governments) are available in the relevant FaCSIA Annual Reports

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Output Group: All

Question No: 78

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Hansard Page: written

Senator Evans asked:

For the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) please provide the following information:

- A list of all grants rounds administered by FACS (e.g. volunteer small equipment, local solutions)
- The closing date for applications for each of these rounds
- The number of applications received for each of these rounds
- The date that the Department provided recommendations to the Minister for each of these rounds
- The number of grants approved by the Minister for each of these rounds
- The number of grants over which the Minister exercised their discretion for each of these rounds (i.e. where the Minister refused to approve a grant recommended by the Department or approved a grant that was not recommended)

For each instance where the Minister exercised their discretion in the approval of grants in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date), provide a list of the grants, the value of each grant, the date the grant was approved and the location of the organisation receiving the grant.

Answer:

Responding to the detail encompassed by this question would require a very significant allocation of resources. The information is not held centrally in the Department. Funding rounds are conducted across the majority of the grants programs administered by FaCS, and it is likely that in the time frame covered by the question there would have been one or more funding rounds in many of these programs. There may also have been a number of smaller rounds conducted on a geographic basis to meet specific local needs. In addition there are a number of programs that FaCS is no longer responsible for as a result of Machinery of Government changes in 2004.

It is not the practice for the Department to provide details of advice given to the Minister, which is considered to be confidential information between the Department and the Minister.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 080

Topic: Community Business Partnership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Can the Department confirm that Robert Gerard remains a member of the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership?
- b) Is any consideration being given to replacing Mr Gerard on the Partnership?
- c) Is Mr Gerard receiving any payment or reimbursements as a member of the Partnership? If so, what were the total values of these payments in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date)?

Answer:

Robert Gerard is a member of the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership. Members of the Partnership are not paid and do not receive sitting fees. Travel and accommodation costs to attend meetings are met.

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Output Group: 5.1

Question No: 074

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (i) What baseline data was drawn up to form the basis of any trial evaluation, such as school attendance, housing occupancy rates, rates of domestic violence incidents?
- (ii) If none were drawn up, why?
- (iii) What is being done now to evaluate the trial?
- (iv) How many houses have been built at Wadeye each year since the trial commenced and what is the total cost? How many of these houses were at Wadeye and how many have been built at homelands?
- (v) Which programs, if any, have in fact been extended to homelands?
- (vi) What programs and what funding have been provided in the area of Domestic Violence over each year of this trial at Wadeye?
- (vii) Is there any data to show what effect these programs have had, such as records of the number of incidents of DV each year?
- (viii) Has the \$40,000 given by the Prime Minister on his visit to Wadeye in 2005 been spent? If so what was this money used for and if not why the delay?
- (ix) What was the average daily school attendance rate at the end of 2005 at Wadeye?
- (x) There is an SRA, which was announced for Wadeye last November to assist with Education Planning through Education Workshops and setting up a school council. Who is helping to organise these and/or have any facilitation role? Other than providing some funds (\$53, 530) what is the Government role? When will these workshops be held – all in 2006?
- (xi) Another tripartite SRA between the Wadeye community, NT Government and FaCS deals with housing and construction. Can you tell me who is on the Tri partite Steering Committee for this project? How many Priority Working Groups are there? Who is on them?
- (xii) What will happen if the funding proves insufficient for all these major projects within this SRA? What is the proposed timeline for this SRA?

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Answer:

Dr John Taylor, from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research produced a baseline profile of social and economic conditions in Wadeye. Dr Taylor's report, *Social Indicators for Aboriginal Governance: Insights from the Thamarrurr Region*, can be found at http://epress.anu.edu.au/caepr_24_citation.htm.

Housing is the responsibility of the Northern Territory Government under the Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements. However, the Australian Government is supplementing the housing effort in Wadeye through the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS). NAHS is a sub-element of the larger Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP). In August 2005, \$9.5 million was provided under NAHS to ease the overcrowding of houses in the Wadeye community by approving the construction of up to 25 new homes and 10 serviced lots. This funding is in addition to strong financial support provided to the Wadeye community by the Australian Government, including approximately \$10 million to build 34 new homes and renovate 14 homes under previous NAHS funding (1999-2005).

Under the CHIP program funds for the provision of municipal services and community infrastructure have been provided to homelands around Wadeye. An Intensive Support Playgroup is currently being established and may provide services to some homelands during the dry season. No funding has been provided to explicitly address domestic violence.

\$40,000 was used to support a nutrition program for school students at Wadeye and run information sessions on nutrition through the local community TV network (BRACS).

As the Northern Territory Government is responsible for the support of the Mission School at Wadeye, enrolment and attendance figures are the responsibility of the Catholic Education Office and the Northern Territory Government Department of Employment, Education and Training. The Thamarrurr Regional Council organised education workshops, facilitated by Marluk Linkup and held in late 2005.

The Tripartite Steering Committee (TSC), represented by the three tiers of government (Australian, Northern Territory government and Thamarrurr Regional Council) oversee and manage the COAG trial at Wadeye. The Northern Territory Government is represented by the Chief Minister's Department and the Australian Government by FaCSIA. Thamarrurr Regional Council represents the interests of the Wadeye community. There are five priority working groups with representatives from all parties to the Agreement and other experts as required.

The focus of the SRA and related funding is identified by partners as community issues, priorities and solutions are identified. The first stage of an evaluation of the Wadeye trial is taking place between March and May 2006.

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Question No: 014

Topic: National Indigenous Council (NIC)

Hansard Page: CA8

Senator Evans asked:

1. The member who has been stood down pending finalisation, was this directed by the minister?
2. When will the matter be finalised?

Answer:

Yes, the member has been stood down by Minister Vanstone. The matter is now subject to an investigative audit by the South Australian and the Australian Governments and the South Australian Police.

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Question No: 015

Topic: Commonwealth State Agreements/Bilateral Agreements

Hansard Page: CA10

Senator Evans asked:

Are funding levels in the schedules renegotiated in subsequent years? Are amounts specified over a number of years or will you renegotiate?

Answer:

Bilateral Agreements are not intended to set out detailed funding arrangements. They provide an overarching framework of cooperation between the Australian and State/Territory Governments for a period of five years. Schedules attached to the Agreements detail specific priority areas of work that both governments agree to focus on. The terms in the schedules may or may not include specifics such as funding levels which can be once-off or relate to action over a longer period. Where necessary, the parties will review and re-negotiate arrangements.

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Question No: 016

Topic: Shared Responsibility Agreement – Galiwin’ku

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Crossin asked:

What assessment of the actual scope of work required was done, and by whom, prior to drawing up the agreement?

Answer:

The Galiwin’ku community identified a number of essential repairs that were necessary to ensure the existing Arts Centre would remain operational until a feasibility study could be undertaken for a new building.

The Galiwin’ku Council, with advice from council builders and a pest control expert, assessed the work required and determined the costs prior to the development of the Shared Responsibility Agreement.

As the community has identified a new cultural precinct as one of its priorities, the SRA included the engagement of a consultant to undertake a feasibility study. This is expected to commence in June 2006.

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Question No: 017

Topic: Shared Responsibility Agreement – Galiwin’ku

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Crossin asked:

How much of the \$984,628 is going to the Arts Centre and what is it going to be used for?

Answer:

\$98,990 of this amount has been allocated for activities in relation to the Arts Centre. These funds will be used to: make repairs to the existing Arts Centre; develop a management plan for the operation of the Arts Centre; and fund an art coordinator position for a six month period.

A further \$40,000 has been allocated for the engagement of a consultant to undertake a feasibility study for the cultural precinct proposed by the community.

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Question No: 018

Topic: COAG Trials

Hansard Page: CA24 & CA25

Senator Evans asked:

Can you give the names of the consultancies that were appointed? Have you got the costs of each consultancy? Have you finalised the costs?

Answer:

As at 9 March 2006, the name of each consultancy and the costs are as follows:

Trial	Consultant	Cost (Inc GST)
ACT	Morgan Disney	\$20,020
SA – AP Lands	Urbis Keys Young	\$43,428
WA – East Kimberley	Quantum Consulting	\$50,586
QLD – Cape York	Request for Quote documentation is still being finalised	Not yet determined
NSW – Murdi Paaki	Contract not yet signed	Not yet determined
VIC - Shepparton	Morgan Disney	\$42,350
TAS – Northeast Tasmania	Contract not yet signed	Not yet determined
NT - Wadeye	Contract not yet signed	Not yet determined

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Question No: 019

Topic: SRA Reviews and Evaluations

Hansard Page: CA27

Senator Evans asked:

Can you tell me who the auspicing association was?

Answer:

This question was answered during the Hearing at page CA33.

The answer provided was that First Contact Aboriginal Corporation is the auspicing body for the 2 Shared Responsibility Agreements.

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Question No: 020

Topic: Regional Representation Agreements

Hansard Page: CA28

Senator Evans asked:

Can you provide me with the amount of funding for these two regional representative bodies and where that money comes from?

Answer:

The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly has been funded \$177,370 from OIPC's Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) Implementation Assistance Program. \$2m has been provided to Ngaanyatjarra Council over three years for a range of outcomes under their Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) including funds to support the Council's representative role. These funds were also provided from the SRA Implementation Assistance Program.

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Question No: 021

Topic: Advisory Bodies and State Representatives Funding for chairperson's sitting fees.

Hansard Page: CA30

Senator Evans asked:

Could you take on notice whether you can provide me with guidance on those matters so I understand how you are coming at it?

Answer:

With respect to the Indigenous regional engagement arrangements, the Australian Government is prepared to provide funding to facilitate meetings to enable engagement with government and to deliberate on matters that inform government policy. This would include travel and accommodation costs, facilitation of meetings including venue hire, agenda distribution, minute taking and other administrative costs for the conduct of the meetings. It does not include elections or payment of sitting fees, salaries or any other remuneration.

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Question No: 023

Topic: Native Title Act Changes

Hansard Page: CA34

Senator Evans asked:

How did it come about that eight or nine different individuals or organisations were consulted on one day? How did the consultants undertake their work, was there a group forum or were they seen individually?

Answer:

This review was the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department. The Attorney-General's Department has supplied the following response:

In some cases the consultants met with parties at a central location. At other times, the consultants met with parties at the party's premises.

A number of parties agreed to meet jointly with the consultants, either at the premises of one party or at a central location.

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Question No: 024

Topic: Shared Responsibility Agreements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Can you please provide the timetable for evaluations, including when the consultancies will be finalised and any targets for the number of evaluations to be conducted in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
2. Have any evaluations been completed yet? If so, please provide copies of those reports.
3. Will all the evaluation reports by consultants be made public? When?
4. Will Indigenous communities be shown the relevant evaluation reports?
5. Apart from the evaluations by consultants, will any internal review on the SRAs be undertaken? If so, please provide details including:
 - a. The scope of the internal reviews?
 - b. What data will be collected and used for the purposes of the internal review?
 - c. The start and end dates of the review?
 - d. How much the internal review will cost, including from which specific budget line the funds will be drawn?
 - e. When the results of the internal review will be presented to the Minister?
6. What is the department's system to monitor whether obligations are being met on both sides?
7. What happens when it becomes apparent to OIPC that a Federal Government agency is not meeting its obligations under the SRA? What actions does the OIPC take? In what circumstances will the OIPC take action? What are the time constraints in taking such action?
8. How many Indigenous people are covered by SRAs now?

Answer:

Most SRAs will be reviewed as part of the evaluation after their first 12 months of operation, or at an earlier appropriate review point. The first round of reviews is expected to commence in April 2006.

A panel of consultants is being established to conduct the reviews and those on the panel will be utilised from this panel over the four years of planned reviews.

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An estimate of the number of SRAs to be reviewed each year is as follows:

Year	Estimated number of SRAs to be reviewed
2005 – 2006	20
2006 – 2007	100
2007 – 2008	100
2008 – 2009	75

No evaluations have been conducted so far. Release of the reports will be decided by the Minister having regard to the SRA community's views. In addition OIPC will provide copies of SRA review reports to all signatories to the SRA.

As part of its commitment to continuous learning and improvement, OIPC is currently undertaking two internal reviews involving SRAs. The first involves a review of performance information in SRAs, the second seeks feedback on the implementation of SRAs to date.

The purpose of the performance information review is to ensure that the performance information identified for collection in a SRA is available, meaningful and reliable.

The implementation review is obtaining feedback on SRA implementation and progress, including: whether two-way feedback mechanisms between parties to the SRA are in place and operating effectively; whether the commitments of the Australian Government, communities and any third parties are being delivered; and whether any needed support is being provided to communities to implement the SRA.

The performance information review commenced in December 2005 and is expected to be completed by the end of June 2006. The implementation review commenced in February 2006 and was completed in early April 2006.

The reviews are being conducted by OIPC staff in ICCs and the Performance Group and costs are being absorbed by those areas.

The results will be provided to the Minister by the end of April 2006.

Mechanisms for two way feedback and the delivery of monitoring reports are negotiated during SRA development and are reflected in the agreed SRA. Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs), as part of their monitoring responsibilities and their ongoing relationship with communities, monitor the implementation and progress of the SRAs to ensure that all parties to the agreements are meeting their commitments. The implementation review is intended to confirm these mechanisms are in place and working.

It is the responsibility of ICCs to monitor the progress of SRAs and to ensure that parties to the agreements meet their obligations. If there is any issue about an Australian Government agency meeting its obligations, the ICC manager raises the issue with his/her relevant counterpart in that agency for resolution. If unsuccessful, the matter would be escalated to

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more senior staff in the agency, including the Secretary, until resolved. OIPC takes action to rectify the problem as quickly as possible.

It is not possible to accurately estimate how many Indigenous people are covered by SRAs. As of 1 March 2006, 149 SRAs had been signed with 118 communities. Statistical data available to the OIPC indicate that approximately 103,000 Indigenous people live in the communities which have SRAs.

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Question No: 025

Topic: Transition of OIPC into FACS

Hansard Page:

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the transition of the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination into the Department of Families, Community Services:

1. What number of OIPC staff has been transferred to the new department?
2. How many OIPC staff were not transferred to the new department? What were the reasons for their non-transfer?
3. What are the new departmental structures as a result of the incorporation of OIPC? In relation to the changes, please provide the following:
 - a. When will the changes be implemented?
 - b. How many other staff has been affected?
 - c. Have these staff been made redundant or given management-initiated early retirement?
4. Has there been any loss of OIPC program and departmental funding as a result of the incorporation? If so, please provide details of:
 - a. The amount of that loss
 - b. Which programs or sections of the office have been affected
 - c. If that loss will be compensated? And how?
5. In relation to outputs 6.1 and 6.2 under outcome 6:
 - a. What are the specific responsibilities and programs that fall within the two outputs?
 - b. What number of staff is working on each output? Is there any overlap in staff responsibilities?
 - c. Please provide funding estimates for the 2005-06 financial year for each output

Answer:

All Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) staff (approximately 540) are being transferred to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). In addition, a small number (less than 10) of administrative staff from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) who were providing corporate support to OIPC will be transferred to FaCSIA.

The revised structural arrangements for FaCSIA are yet to be finalised. Work is underway to identify the best arrangements to realise the synergies across the new organisation. This is expected to be completed by mid-May 2006. No staff have been made redundant. No loss of department and program funding has occurred as a result of the Machinery of Government change.

As a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders issued on 27 January 2006, the FaCSIA outcome structure was amended to include Outcome 6, reflecting the department's

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new role in Indigenous Affairs. Outcome 6 corresponds directly to the former Outcome 3 for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. The programs and activities and funding estimates that fall into FaCSIA's Output 6 can be viewed at:

www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/budget/budget2005-pbs.htm; and
(FaCSIA – Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2005 – 06)

www.dimia.gov.au/budget/budget05.htm
(DIMIA (DIMA) PBS and PAES 2005 – 06)

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Question No: 026

Topic: Tasmanian Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Trial

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the North Tasmanian Trial led by the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination:

1. Did OIPC submit a written report to the Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs on the trial for the June 2005 COAG meeting?
2. Is the report contained in the document "*Lessons Learned to date from the COAG trials 2004-05*" provided to 3 June 2005 COAG meeting? If not, why not?
3. Has OIPC submitted assessment reports to the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs on the North Tasmania trial? If so, when?
4. Are the reports unclassified? If not, please provide a copy of any report OIPC has submitted to the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs on the North Tasmania trial.

Answer:

No. Reports to the Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs in relation to the COAG trial matter were provided verbally.

The COAG Meeting of 3 June 2005 did receive reports on the Trials and this included material from OIPC in relation to the North Tasmanian Trial. The public records relating to the 3 June 2005 COAG meeting can be found at:

http://www.coag.gov.au/meetings/030605/index.htm#indigenous_issues

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Question No: 027

Topic: Repatriation

Hansard Page: 11-12

Senator Chris Evans asked:

In relation to the Indigenous Human Remains Repatriation Program:

1. What are the objectives and functions of the program?
2. When was the program first established? When was the program transferred from ATSIC to ATSIIS and then to OIPC?
3. What changes did the program undergo after moving to ATSIIS from ATSIC?
4. What changes did the program undergo after moving to OIPC from ATSIIS?
5. What were the amounts of funding the program received in the budget and the corresponding actual expenditure for each year since it was established to date?
6. For each year to date please also specify the amount that was spent on facilitating Indigenous cultural requirements in relation to the repatriation of the remains.
7. Please provide information on the number of retrievals that have been made by the program for each year since the program was established to date.
8. Please specify the procedure for retrieving remains including:
 - a. The process by which remains are identified to be retrieved?
 - b. Who conducts the research activities to identify remains?
 - c. Who negotiates with the relevant museums?
 - d. Who travels overseas to collect the remains?
9. What is the role of the claimant Indigenous group in the repatriation process? Are members of the group involved in:
 - a. the research activities to identify the remains?
 - b. In the negotiations?
 - c. In collecting the remains?Please specify the extent of this involvement.
10. How is the observation of cultural protocol in relation to the reception of remains facilitated by the OIPC? Is it solely the responsibility of OIPC to facilitate these cultural requirements?
11. Is there any policy guidelines in relation to the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and human remains generally?
12. Do these guidelines include any provisions in relation to facilitating Indigenous cultural requirements? What are they?
13. How many overseas trips have there been to negotiate for and retrieve remains for each year since the program was established to date?
14. For each year, also specify the number of overseas trips in which Mr Wayne Gibbons, Associate Secretary, OIPC has participated?
15. It is reported that Mr Gibbons travelled overseas to pick up Indigenous human remains from the Exeter museum. Is this correct? When did it happen? What was the rationale for sending the head of the OIPC to retrieve the remains?

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16. In relation to the incident outlined in Q 15, did any Indigenous groups approach OIPC about their participation in the retrieval of the remains? If so, what was the OIPC's response to this request?
17. In relation to the overseas trip to Sweden in 2005 to retrieve Indigenous human remains:
 - (a) How many OIPC officials travelled to Sweden in relation to this exercise?
 - (b) How many Indigenous people (who do not work for OIPC, but whose travel was funded by OIPC) travelled to Sweden in relation to this exercise?
 - (c) What was the total amount of travel expenses in relation to this exercise?
 - (d) When did the trip occur?
 - (e) What museum was holding the remains?
18. Please list each individual museum and university OIPC is currently negotiating with in relation to their individual collections.
19. In regard to the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, when and why was FAIRA funding ceased?
20. Did OIPC inform/engage with traditional owners to establish a coordinated response to UK developments on repatriation?
21. How much funding was provided to the National Museum of Australia's Repository in 2004-05 and in 2005-06?

Answer:

The objectives and functions of the program are to provide advice to government on matters relating to the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and to document, provenance and return them to their communities of origin.

The Repatriation Program was established by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) in 2003-04. Repatriation activities were previously funded by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) under its Heritage and Environment Program. The Repatriation Program moved from ATSIS to the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) on 1 July 2004. There were no significant program changes following the move from ATSIS to OIPC but there was greater involvement by the key Australian Government agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Government has shown a strong commitment to this program as evidenced, for example, by Prime Minister Howard's joint statement with the UK Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2000 about increasing efforts to repatriate remains to Indigenous communities. There have also been ministerial interventions to progress the objectives of this program, including contributions to the development of the UK Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums policy which is now fostering agreement by museums to return Indigenous remains.

Under ATSIC, the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA) was initially sub-contracted to undertake the major role in facilitating repatriation of remains from overseas. In 2004 ATSIS undertook this role. Since June 2004 it has not been necessary to fund anyone to do the sort of work FAIRA was doing within Australia (in Queensland). No Queensland-provenanced remains have come from overseas since then. Should this occur in future, either the National Museum (as OIPC's agent) or OIPC would manage it or we would engage a consultant to undertake liaison with communities.

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The budget allocations and actual expenditures for the repatriation program since its establishment are as follows:

Year	Allocated Funding	Actual Expenditure \$
2003-04	500 000	394 265
2004-05	500 000	350 000
2005-06	518 000	Not yet available

A significant proportion of the budget is applied to facilitating Indigenous cultural requirements but it is not possible to apportion the exact amount expended on these activities.

With respect to “retrievals” (which we assume refers to the number of remains repatriated to Australia), the data are as follows:

Retrievals funded under the Repatriation Program		
2003-04	Cleveland, Ohio, USA	Remains of 1 individual
2004-05	University of Michigan, USA Museum of Ethnography, Sweden	Remains of 4 individuals Remains of approximately 20 individuals
2005-06 (to date)	Royal Albert Museum, Exeter UK	2 crania

OIPC liaises with overseas governments and institutions and with Indigenous communities in Australia. Depending on the situation, research may be undertaken by governments, institutions, OIPC, Indigenous individuals/organisations and/or contractors. Negotiations can be undertaken through government to government, government to institution or Indigenous community to Institution. OIPC has the overall coordination role and works closely with other agencies (eg DFAT) and with communities in Australia.

Overseas travel to collect remains is determined on a case by case basis. Priority is given to return to country ceremonies in Australia, but assistance for a community representative/s to travel overseas to accompany the return of remains may be considered in special circumstances (eg where remains are of a person of historical significance or when the return is of an exceptionally large collection of remains, as with the 2004 return from Sweden).

Some community organisations prefer to undertake their own research while some are happy for this to be carried out by government. In the latter case the lead role is taken by OIPC, which liaises with the communities to which the remains are provenanced. Community representatives may be assisted to collect remains on a case by base basis.

OIPC provides funding through the National Museum of Australia for community consultation, ceremonial activities, reburial costs and site protection. In some cases OIPC has dealt directly with communities. Other government agencies have also been involved as necessary, including State and Territory agencies.

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A new policy on the repatriation of Indigenous human remains from overseas has been developed and was recently approved by the Government under the title *Australian Government Policy on the Management of Overseas Repatriation of Indigenous Human Remains*. Under the policy, funding and other support may be provided to communities to manage the return of remains to country. This includes domestic travel assistance in cases where remains were not able to be returned direct to their communities of origin in the first instance, funding of a temporary keeping place and/or sites for burial/reburial, and overseas travel assistance in exceptional circumstances for a representative to accompany the return of remains back to Australia.

To date there have been five overseas trips to negotiate for and retrieve remains: UK in January 2004, January 2005 and April 2005; USA in June 2004; and Sweden in September 2004. The travel to Sweden in 2004 was to retrieve Indigenous human remains from the Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm. Two OIPC officials and seven Indigenous people (not employees of OIPC) travelled and the approximate overall cost was \$109,000. As part of a wider trip, Mr Gibbons visited the UK in January 2005 with then ATSIC Commissioner Mr Rodney Dillon to hold discussions with the British Minister for Culture, Media and Sport and officials about the UK Consultation Paper on the Care of Historic Human Remains and with a number of UK institutions. During this visit, Mr Gibbons and Mr Dillon travelled to Exeter where the Royal Albert Museum transferred the remains of four individuals into the Australian Government's care through Commissioner Dillon. Their subsequent repatriation has been the subject of consultation with the individual communities concerned.

Following the Exeter handover OIPC approached the Kaurna and the Ngarrindjeri communities (South Australia) to discuss the logistics of returning their remains to their country of origin. OIPC offered to fund the return of the remains to Australia and a welcome home ceremony, either at the National Museum of Australia or at the communities, and to assist with costs associated with reburial.

OIPC is currently negotiating with: the Booth Museum and Brighton Museum, Brighton; Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery; British Museum, London; Manchester Museum; Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford; Natural History Museum, London; Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter; Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro; Torquay Museum; Tyne & Wear Museums, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne; University College London; Wellcome Trust, London; World Museum Liverpool; University of Cambridge; Glasgow Museums; Hunterian Museum, Glasgow; Marischal Museum, Aberdeen; National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh; University of Edinburgh(all located in the United Kingdom); National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution (United States of America) and the Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm (Sweden).

As and when the provenance of particular remains or collections is firmly established, OIPC engages with the relevant communities.

The National Museum of Australia's Repository received \$200,000 in 2004-05 and a further \$200,000 has been committed for 2005-06.

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Question No: 83

Topic: Indigenous disadvantage

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert (written) asked:

In response to my previous questions concerning whole-of-government coordination of Indigenous policy development in relation to the findings of the Productivity Commission report on *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2005* (OID report) the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination indicated that the government was focusing its whole-of-government effort on the seven Strategic Areas for Action identified in the report.

1. One of the key challenges of the seven strategic priorities emerging from the OID report is that none of them are portfolio or agency specific – they will involve the kind of coordination across 'silos' that government has found particularly difficult in the past (especially in relation to the delivery of services to Indigenous and rural or remote communities). What strategies are in place to address this problem and do OIPC truly believe they are succeeding or likely to succeed?
2. For instance how is whole of government coordination taking place in the priority areas of 'functional and resilient families and communities', 'environmental health' and 'economic development and participation' ?
 - a) Families & communities
 - children in care & protection orders
 - repeat offenders
 - access to traditional lands
 - participation in organised community activities
 - community resources
 - b) Environmental health
 - relevant disease rates (water and food borne diseases, trachoma, tuberculosis, heart disease)
 - water, sewerage & infrastructure
 - overcrowded housing
 - c) Economic development
 - Employment & industry development
 - CDEP
 - Long-term & meaningful employment
 - Self-employment & community initiatives
 - Indigenous ownership / control of land
 - Training in leadership, finance, management

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Answer:

The OID report has been commissioned by the Council of Australian Governments as the framework to identify and report on indicators of Indigenous disadvantage that are relevant to all governments and Indigenous stakeholders, and which can demonstrate the overall impact of programme and policy interventions over time.

Given its purpose, the OID reporting framework looks at indicators that are broader than those related to specific programs and services delivered by individual agencies or by specific levels of government. It can assist agencies to identify the types of programmes and services delivered by other agencies and by other levels of government, which also contribute to the same strategic areas for action. This can promote more effective whole of government collaboration in policy development and service delivery.

Central to the Australian Government's current approach to Indigenous affairs is to recognise the cross-cutting nature of many Indigenous issues and the consequent need to approach them in a coordinated way across government. Strategic leadership is provided by the Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs (MTF), supported by the National Indigenous Council and the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs. The MTF has committed to three key priorities that align with the high-level Outcomes spelt out in the OID Report.

Strategies to facilitate whole-of-government collaboration include:

- the single Indigenous Budget submission process, where all proposals for Government investment in Indigenous-specific initiatives are considered in a single Budget submission prepared by the MTF;
- the negotiation of bilateral agreements with state and territory governments provides opportunities to work across portfolio and jurisdictional boundaries to tackle areas where the lack of clarity about government responsibility has previously hampered service delivery;
- the operation of whole-of-government Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs), which coordinate annual funding rounds for many Indigenous services and negotiate Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs) and Regional Partnership Agreements to address priority needs identified by communities; and
- the whole of government approach sees agencies working together to develop comprehensive solutions to issues – both at a high level and locally. For example, the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy relates directly to issues canvassed in the OID (see <http://www.workplace.gov.au>). An example of an initiative addressing a key issue is the development of the intergovernmental strategy to tackle petrol sniffing in the Central Desert region of central Australia. Eight Australian Government agencies and three state/territory jurisdictions were involved in developing this whole of government initiative, which aims to tackle petrol sniffing through consistent legislation, appropriate levels of policing, a further roll-out of non-sniffable fuel, alternative activities for younger people, treatment and respite facilities, communication and education strategies, strengthening and supporting communities, and evaluation.

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The Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs closely monitors implementation of these arrangements to ensure effectiveness and improvement over time and reports to the MTF on any key issues requiring strategic resolution.

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Question No: 084

Topic: Whole of Government Coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What impact will the move of Indigenous Affairs from DIMIA to Family and Community Services have on the coordination of whole-of-government policy development and service delivery?

Answer:

There are synergies that can be realised through the machinery of government changes that will strengthen the capacity for effective coordination of whole-of-government policy development and service delivery. The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is now responsible for leading a number of whole-of-government areas (including Indigenous affairs, women, youth and disaster recovery), as well as a range of mainstream and Indigenous-specific programs that are important to Indigenous Australians.

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Question No: 085

Topic: Whole of Government Coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Are you aware of the recommendations of the Australian Future Directions Forum of Feb 2006, that identified Indigenous Disadvantage as the number one priority for the future development of Australia?
2. How do you respond to their statements [to the effect that Indigenous disadvantage was and remained an intractable problem predominantly as a result of the attitude of and lack of concerted action from government]?
3. What action do you intend to take to address the issues raised?

Answer:

Yes. Indigenous disadvantage is a product of a complex range of historical, economic, social and cultural factors. Governments, in partnership with Indigenous people, have a shared responsibility in addressing the problem and both the Australian Government and the Council of Australian Governments are taking action to address this in a concerted way, including through whole-of-government processes. The response to Question 83 outlines key components of the Government's approach to delivering whole of government responses aimed at overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

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Question No: 086

Topic: Cultural Museums

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Are you aware of recent comments from Senator Vanstone in relation to the viability of remote communities, which referred to them as 'cultural museums' and indicated a shift in government policy that would entail phasing out government support and service delivery for these communities with a view to forcing the inhabitants to relocate to regional centres?
2. Is this policy or are these activities currently under consideration within the OIPC?
3. What action is the department taking or planning to take in relation to small and/or remote Indigenous communities?
4. How does this affect the commitments previously given in relation to addressing the recommendations and strategic priorities of the OID report?
5. How does this impact on existing SRAs or RPAs in communities affected?

Answer:

No. Senator Vanstone's speech did not indicate this. The Australian Government is working with various State and Territory Governments to consider how to improve services to remote Indigenous townships, recognising the constraints to supporting very small outstations, particularly those that are not permanently occupied. For example, the Bilateral Agreement with the Northern Territory Government commits the parties to exploring these issues in detail. The Government remains committed to addressing issues canvassed in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report, including through the use of SRAs and RPAs.

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Question No: 087

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In response to my previous questions you noted that ICCs were established in the regional offices of the former ATSSIS, and that ICC staff initially comprised the former ATSSIS staff who were mapped onto agencies (I presume you mean agencies responsible for the delivery of mainstream government services) on a 'staff follow function' basis – with agencies then expected to review their staffing mix. You indicated that a post-implementation review of ICCs would be conducted later in this financial year.

1. Have terms of reference been drafted and approved for this review?
2. Can you clarify how the final makeup of staff in ICCs and across ICCs will be determined - is it based on the decisions of individual agencies as to which staff they will retain or position in any given ICC, or is there some means through which the staffing makeup of the ICCs will be determined at the community level? Do community representative structures have any say in the appointment of ICC Managers?
3. Can you clarify the role that communities do or do not play in determining the goals and priorities and allocation of resources to and through ICCs?
4. Can you clarify the process or mechanism through which a community negotiates a SRA or RPA agreement with government? How are funds made available to communities to develop and RPA or SRA and what is the relative availability or distribution of funds to different ICCs?
5. What happens when a community has determined its priorities and approaches government for resources? How is the distribution of resources across communities and across priority areas determined? Are the resources made available for particular projects or priority areas determined and made available through different government agencies? Are communities competing for a limited amount of resources?
6. Can you clarify the role of the ICC Managers in negotiating SRAs? On the one hand DIMIA has said that “Ideas for agreements and community priorities will come from communities and Indigenous groups and will be developed in partnership with ICCs” on the other hand, in answer to my estimates questions the Department said that “...In negotiating SRAs, ICC Managers make best efforts to ensure that the agreement reflects the goals and needs of the community as a whole. For example, the ICC Manager may participate in discussions with a range of groups within a given community, such as traditional owners, locally elected leaders, women’s groups, men’s groups, youth groups or the entire community.”

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7. Are communities developing their own goals and priorities through whichever means they see fit (which may or may not include ICC Managers in a consultative or facilitative role) – or are ICC Managers effectively undertaking some form of community consultation or facilitation and ultimately playing the central role in developing the SRAs?

Answer:

ICCs were established, drawing on staff employed in former ATSSIS offices, although ICC Manager positions were all separately advertised and filled. The terms of reference for the review are still under consideration.

Government agencies determine the number and classification of staff to be located in the ICCs based on the resources available and the functions to be performed in relation to the priorities and needs of communities within an ICC region. Community representative structures do not play a part in the appointment of ICC Managers. ICC Managers are recruited through an APS merit selection process, in which applicants are assessed for their suitability to carry out the responsibilities of the position, including communicating and negotiating with communities in the region concerned.

Communities themselves decide their goals and priorities, involving their local ICC in discussions as they see fit, which can provide support for community planning and development of the community's longer-term vision. Agencies respond to funding applications from community organisations and ICCs also negotiate Shared Responsibility Agreements or Regional Partnership Agreements with communities to progress community needs and priorities at the local and regional levels.

The process for developing a SRA or RPA will differ from community to community and will depend on the nature of the priority identified. In general, the process will have the following elements:

- a. a community or group of communities identifies to the local ICC Manager their priorities and how they would like to see those priorities addressed
- b. the local ICC Manager canvasses relevant government agencies and third parties about possible engagement in the SRA/RPA
- c. negotiations are held with the community (which may include different groups within the community to settle the detail of the SRA or RPA, including establishing mutual obligations, performance and monitoring requirements, implementation plans and feedback mechanisms
- d. the details of the commitment of other parties to the SRA/RPA are finalised
- e. the community formally commits to and signs the SRA
- f. funds are then provided to the community via funding agreements

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Resources for SRAs/RPAs can come from a variety of sources including government agencies (eg federal/state/local), private partners and non-government organisations. OIPC operates a Shared Responsibility Agreement Implementation Assistance Program (SRAIAP), which can also provide funds to assist communities in developing their SRA/RPA approaches. In the case of SRAs, needs are identified from a community perspective and matched with the availability of funds within government. There is no fixed allocation of funds for SRAs to individual ICCs.

The answer to Q 87(4) is also relevant here. Funding to individual communities and regions reflects a range of considerations including relative need and the guidelines governing the programs involved. At this stage, SRA/RPAs only represent a limited component of the Australian Government's overall Indigenous expenditure. These agreements and associated funding reflect the priorities of the communities concerned. Program Funding Agreements provide the mechanism for coordinated funding by the ICC of many Indigenous services into communities.

Government funding into any community (whether Indigenous or not) is not unlimited. The Australian Government's Indigenous-specific expenditure this year is some \$3.2 billion and is delivered through a range of mechanisms including Special Purpose Payments through the States, grants and direct and contracted service provision. Funding for SRAs/RPAs is generally drawn from flexible elements of this overall pool, with inputs from a variety of Australian Government agencies. However, other parties may also contribute to SRAs/RPAs, including state and territory governments and non-government organisations. Communities don't 'compete' for these resources per se.

These responses are consistent. The initial idea or priority is identified by the Indigenous community. The ICC Manager, representing the Australian Government, then brings the priority to fruition through the framework of a SRA. In doing so, the ICC Manager will talk to various groups within the community who may be proposing or be affected by commitments under the SRA.

ICC Managers have a role in negotiating SRAs to ensure that communities properly understand how progress on the SRA will be measured, how feedback will be obtained, what the implementation steps will be and how mutual obligation commitments will be monitored. They will also identify those in the community who will be leading and managing the commitments and the implementation of the SRA.

Communities develop their priorities through the means they deem appropriate. If a community needs assistance in establishing its priorities, they can talk to the ICC Manager about the help they need to get started. The community may wish to involve the ICC Manager in assisting to identify community priorities or they may wish to enlist the assistance of an independent party.

Once a community has established its priorities and wants to work with the government, they can talk to the local ICC Manager about negotiating a SRA or other government assistance. See also previous answers regarding the role of the ICC Manager in negotiating SRAs.

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Question No: 088

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

You mentioned (question 254, November 2005) that four 'Panels of Experts' have been established by OIPC to assist communities to develop, articulate and prioritise needs. Can you report on the makeup of these four panels and explain the role the four different panels play?

Answer:

The role of each of the four panels is outlined below. The list of companies/organisations on the Panels of Experts is attached. Some organisations have been selected to be on more than one Panel.

Panel 1 - Financial/project/programme management and governance, particularly for Indigenous communities:

- Financial management advice, training, systems implementation, grant administration, financial audits for community organisations
- Business advice, project/program management advice, training and assistance for community organisations
- Corporate and community governance advice and training.

Panel 2 - Risk/crisis assessment and management, particularly at the community level:

- Risk assessment at the community level to assist ICCs/OIPC in designing appropriate responses to crisis situations in communities
- Development of risk management plans following the assessment
- Crisis response and intervention advice, planning and coordination
- Major assessment of activities of government investments.

Panel 3 - Building community capacity to engage with governments and negotiate/ implement Shared Responsibility Agreements and Regional Partnership Agreements:

- Training and coaching government or business/corporate agency staff to appropriately engage with communities
- Training, coaching and/or mediation for communities, community organisations, local leaders:
 - to assist in setting priorities, negotiations with government agencies, initiating and implementing projects and programs; and
 - developing capacity to manage their own affairs.

Panel 4 - Coaching communities and government agencies in whole of government collaboration:

- Training, coaching and leadership development to support effective whole of government work and create leadership teams:
 - for key staff responsible for the implementation of new arrangements in Indigenous affairs (government agencies and/or NGO staff).

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Attachment A

Panel Member	Panels
ACIL Tasman Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Advanced Dynamics Australia Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Alexander J Dodd and Associates	1,2,3
Altmore International Pty Ltd	4
MI Murren Enterprises	3,4
Assai	3,4
Atkinson Kerr and Associates	1,2,3
Belco Consulting	1,2,3,4
Black and More Consultants Pty Ltd	1
Bruce Callaghan Associates	1,3,4
Burns Aldis Community Development Consultants	3
Cape York Financial Management Services	1,2
Cape York Institute & Griffith University	1,2,3,4
Centre for Appropriate Technology	3
Communicare	1,4
Compact Consulting	3
Co-operative Change	1,3,4
David Hollinsworth and Associates	3,4
Deloitte Growth Solutions Pty Ltd	1,2,3

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Directions for Change - Van Meegah & Associates Pty Ltd	3,4
Dixon Partnership Solutions	3,4
Elton Consulting	1,2,3,4
Enmark Business Advisors	1
Executive Central	4
Gavin Robins and Associates & Sovereign Health Care Australia	2,3
GHD Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Global Values Xchange Pty Ltd	1,3,4
GRM International Pty Ltd	1,3
HLA Envirosiences Pty Limited	2,3,4
Indonesia Management Specialists	1,2,3,4
Jacara Consulting	3
Jayne Sunbird Enterprises	1,3,4
John Thurtell Consulting Services Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Kate Sullivan and Associates Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Kavanagh Consulting	3,4
Kidsons DFK	1,2
Knowledge Consulting	1,2,3,4
KordaMentha	1,2

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KPMG (Cairns)	1,2,3
KPMG (NT)	1,2
Langford	1,2,3,4
Lawler Partners Pty Limited	1
Leading Innovation	3,4
Senatore Brendan Rashid- MAD Communication	1,2
McGrath Nicol and Partners	1
Michael Walshe and Associates	2,3
MLCS Corporate	1
Natural Partners Australia Pty Ltd	1,3
Oz Train Pty Ltd	4
Palm Consulting Group Pty Ltd	4
Participatory Corporate Development Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Partners in Capacity Development (PCD)	1
Pitcher Partners	1
Powers and Associates Aust Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Protiviti Independent Risk Consulting	1,2
Quantum Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	1,2
Rural Remote Resources Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
Ridge Partners	1
Rockpool Communications	3

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RSM Bird Cameron National Centre for Indigenous Services	1,2
SGS Economics and Planning	1
Stanton International	1,2
STF Associates	2,3,4
Success Works	1,2,3,4
TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute	1,3,4
Taskdynamics Pty Ltd	1,2,3,4
TSA Management	1,3
Vantage Point Consulting Pty Ltd	3,4
Vision Network	3,4
Walter Turnbull	1
Western Land Planning	1,2,3,4
Whistling Kite Consulting Pty Ltd	1,3,4
Wunan Foundation Inc	1,2,3,4

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Question No: 089

Topic: Multi-Use List

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you clarify how people are sourced to become part of the MUL? Who are they employed by? What financial and reporting arrangements will be made to cover their involvement in different projects, initiatives or consultations?

Answer:

The Multi-Use List (MUL) of community facilitators/coordinators has been established through an open procurement process consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Applications were invited through advertising in national and regional newspapers from 24 September 2005, and supported through local information sessions run by Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs).

The MUL includes individuals, companies and community organisations. The engagement of individuals and organisations from the MUL is on a contracted (fee for service) basis. MUL members will be engaged for specific projects (taking into account their capability to work in a particular location, availability at the time and price for the project in question) by OIPC or other relevant Australian Government agency.

Normal reporting arrangements such as performance milestones and frequency will be specified and put in place for each project. Most projects will be managed and monitored locally through the ICC.

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Question No: 090

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Have you evaluated a range of possible policy approaches to Indigenous housing (beyond individual private ownership of housing on Indigenous land)?
 - a) What is the government doing in relation to these alternative approaches, including:
 - b) encouraging increasing state investment in community housing?
 - c) relaxing the scope of Ministerial powers over the use of Aboriginal land in the NT?
 - d) requiring state and commonwealth agencies to pay commercial rents for agency-occupied land?
 - e) supporting private housing via sub-leasing (ie secure title granted to the housing stock rather than the land)?

Answer:

Individual home ownership is only one element in the Aboriginal housing policy mix. Most resources continue to be applied to public and community rental housing.

The home ownership on Indigenous land initiative is only one of the approaches implemented by the Department particular to Indigenous housing under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP). The Department is working with state and territory governments on possible approaches to Indigenous housing through the Housing Ministers Conference, and will be evaluating approaches to Indigenous housing through the review of CHIP.

The Department has negotiated with states and territories to achieve greater transparency of investments to improve indigenous housing under the new Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements for 2005-08.

The Government's proposed legislation in relation to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* will substantially reduce the involvement of the Commonwealth Minister (eg in regard to the sort of leases and agreements requiring Ministerial approval).

Aside from pre-1976 arrangements, this has always been a matter for negotiation between the Land Councils, on behalf of the traditional owners, and the Territory or Australian Government agency concerned, as between any landowner and prospective lessee.

The proposed new township leasing scheme in relation to Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory is designed to secure the communal land base whilst simultaneously facilitating individual home ownership and business

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Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs, Annual Report on Indigenous Affairs

http://oipc.gov.au/performance_reporting/sec_group/ar2005/OIPC_Sec_Report05.pdf