

# **Community Affairs Committee**

**Examination of Additional Estimates 2006-2007**

**Additional Information Received**

**CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 4**

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

**Outcomes 3 & 4**

**MAY 2007**



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2006-2007

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled  
papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on 12 February 2007

\* Please note that the tabling date of 14 June 2007 is the proposed tabling date

### FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 3: Output group 3.1 – Support for Families	Vol. 4 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
	T6 tabled at hearing	Family relationship Services Program	1-13	10.05.07
Siewert	125, 126	Family relationship services	14-15	10.05.07
Fielding	127	Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)	16	10.05.07
Webber	128	Forms used in family relationship centres	17	10.05.07
Moore	129, 130	Family Tax Benefit	18-19	10.05.07
Siewert	131-137	Report by Ernst & Young into cost of delivering FRSP services	20-26	10.05.07
Siewert	138, 139	Tenders for early intervention services	27-28	10.05.07
Siewert	140, 141, 144, 145	Service providers in rural and remote areas	29-32	10.05.07
Siewert	147	FRSP client registration form	33	10.05.07
Fielding	152, 182	Family relationship centres	34-35	10.05.07
Fielding	184	Relationship breakdown	36	10.05.07
<b>Outcome 3: Output group 3.2 – Child Support</b>				
Stephens	154	Communities for children	37	10.05.07
Stephens	155	Invest to grow	38	10.05.07
Stephens	153	Communities for children	39	10.05.07
<b>Outcome 3: Output group 3.3 – Child Care Support</b>				
Stephens	156	Child care benefit	40	10.05.07
Stephens	157	Inclusion support subsidy	41	10.05.07
Siewert	158-163	Child care quality assurance	42-47	10.05.07
<b>Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Housing Support</b>				
Lundy	164-166	Rent assistance	48-50	10.05.07
Lundy	170-171	CSHA	51-52	10.05.07
Lundy	172-173	Homelessness	53-54	10.05.07
Lundy	174	CSHA	55-56	10.05.07
Lundy	176, 175, 177	Rent assistance	57-58	10.05.07
Lundy	183	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA)	59	10.05.07
Lundy	168, 169	Homelessness	60-61	10.05.07
Lundy	167	Housing support staff in FaCSIA	62	10.05.07
Lundy	178	Rent assistance	63	14.06.07
<b>Outcome 4: Output group 4.4 – Community Partnership and Delivery</b>				
	T7 tabled at hearing	Prime Minister's community business partnership – financial details	64	10.05.07

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**Questions On Notice - Family Relationship Services Program**

In relation to questions asked about information collection and privacy issues regarding the Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP) and Family Relationship Services Online (FRSP Online) data system, the following additional information is provided:

- **Attachment A**, that sets out the processes and arrangements in place to protect privacy. This document is publicly available on the FaCSIA website.
- **Attachment B**, the Client Consent Form. The form makes it clear that the client consents to give information and that the information collected is used for statical and evaluation purposes only.

**FaCSLINK**

In respect of earlier holdings of personal data, the Department previously collected data through FaCSLINK, an electronic, non-web based, data system. The Department collected information on client name, address, postcode and presenting needs. The client's name under FaCSLINK was scrambled and a unique identifier produced. The client's name was then deleted from the system.

**FRSP Online**

The FRSP service model, expanded under the New Family Law System, aims to provide seamless service delivery to clients across the full range of service providers and service types. A unique identifier was created based on clients providing four (4) pieces of information: first name, surname, date of birth and maiden name. This information is stored in FRSP Online for data searching and statistical analysis purposes by providers and the Department.

The system generates an ID the first time a client registers for a service. If the client then attends any another service the next provider can call up that's client unique identifier number (provided consent has been given). That same number can be used to record that client's particular use of subsequent providers' services. The client's privacy is preserved within a provider organisation however, the system through the unique ID, allows the Department better monitoring of clients comprehensive use of services overtime.

In designing the new data system, FRSP Online, the sector was consulted via a Reference Group of FRSP providers. Providers were nominated by the then Industry Representative Bodies (IRB's).

As part of the development of the FRSP Online system the Department had the design of the system assessed as compliant with the National Privacy Principles (NPPs) and the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) by FaCSIA's Legal Services Branch.

The Department is also in the process of commissioning an independent, Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA), to ensure that the database continues to protect client privacy.

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## FRSP Online

### Frequently Asked Questions – Client Information

#### What legislation protects identifying client information

- The Privacy Act 1988 governs the collection, security, access to, use and disclosure of personal information, which incorporates the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) and the National Privacy Principles (NPPs). The IPPs regulate the activities of Commonwealth public sector agencies, such as the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department.
- Organisations funded under the Family Relationship Services Program are bound to comply with the IPPs and NPPs under the Long Form Funding Agreement.

#### How is personal information protected using FRSP Online?

- The FRSP Online application is a secure website, which can only be accessed by a limited number of authorised operators.
- Every authorised operator will be given a unique User ID.
- To allow detection of unauthorised use of information, all transactions will be recorded in an Audit File and traceable to the individual authorised operator.

#### Who has access to FRSP Online?

- There are 5 levels of operator access with level one (1) having full access. Details of levels of access may be found in the FRSP Online Manual located on the FRSP Online website at <https://frsponline.facsia.gov.au>. The levels of access are:
  1. FaCSIA Administrator
  2. FaCSIA Help Desk
  3. Service Provider Administrator
  4. Service Provider Operative

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5. FaCSIA State/National Office, Attorney-General's Department. Industry Representative Bodies will also have this level of access. (Access limited to de-identified data)

- Service Provider Administrators and Operatives will have the capacity to view, edit and delete information about their own organisation and their clients. They will not be able to view information about clients of another organisation.

Will FaCSIA staff have access to the data entered into FRSP Online?

- Access to the FRSP Online data is restricted to a limited number of FaCSIA FRSP Online Support staff.
- FRSP Online Support staff only have Help Desk access.
- There are business rules governing FRSP Online Support staff view and edit of client, client activity, support and survey data. Client Data may only be changed with the express permission of the organisation.
- FaCSIA staff who do not have responsibility for Help Desk functions will only have access to reporting data which does not contain information which identifies individual clients.
- This access allows the Support Team to provide full support to service providers.
- All transactions will be recorded in an Audit file and may be traced by the FRSP Online Administrator .
- This access allows for:
  - View & Edit of Organisation, Outlet, Project Output and Reference Table data
  - View, Edit & Delete of User and Professional data
  - View, Edit & Delete of Registered Client, Client Activity, Support Activity and Survey data
  - View Reporting

Will Attorney-General's staff have access to the data entered into FRSP Online?

- Attorney-General's Department's staff will have view access to reporting data only.

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- Reporting data does not contain information which identifies individual clients.
- No other agency or government department will be provided with information identifying individual clients.

Will Industry Representative Body staff have access to the data entered into FRSP Online?

- Industry Representative Body staff will have view access to reporting data only.
- Reporting data does not contain information which identifies individual clients.
- No other agency or government department will be provided with information identifying individual clients.

How may Service Providers obtain access to FRSP Online?

- To be authorised to use the FRSP Online system, Service Provider staff must complete a FRSP Online User/Professional Administration form and fax it to the FRSP Online Support Team on (02) 6212 9299.
- The FRSP Online User/Professional Administration form must be authorised by the CEO or nominated officer of the service provider, prior to being sent to the FRSP Online Support Team.
- The User/Professional Administration form can be downloaded from <https://frsponline.facsia.gov.au>.

What must FaCSIA do to keep client information recorded in FRSP Online confidential?

- The FRSP Online Support team must ensure that all FaCSIA and service provider Operators using FRSP Online have a registered user ID and password.
- The FRSP Online Support team must ensure that FaCSIA and service provider Operators have been appropriately permissioned by FaCSIA and decommissioned prior to departure.

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- The FRSP Online Support team must monitor user access to the system and investigate any suspected breaches of the Privacy Act 1988 or security protocols such as the sharing of User Names and Passwords.
- All FaCSIA staff are required to adhere to the APS Code of Conduct including complying with the Privacy Act.
- Any FaCSIA staff found to breach the APS Code of conduct are dealt with under the Public Service Act 1999.

What must FRSP Service Providers do to keep client information recorded in FRSP Online confidential?

- All Service Providers are required to adhere to provisions specified in the section 17 of the Long Form Funding Agreement and sections 3 and 4 of the FaCSLink/FRSP Online Protocols.
- In particular:
  - They must ensure that all staff who require access to FRSP Online have their own registered user ID and password issued by the FRSP Online Support team.
  - They must ensure that the user has been authorised by the appropriate person within the Service Providers' organisation i.e. Service Provider Administrator or CEO.
  - They must ensure that user IDs are not shared.
  - They must inform the FRSP Online Support Team if a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 or security protocols has occurred so that the Operator may be warned or suspended and the matter can be investigated.
  - They must decommission access for staff that leave the organisation prior to their departure date.

Will the data entered into FRSP Online be available to other Government Departments?

- As stated on the Client Consent form, reporting data will be accessible by the Attorney-General's Department. However, this will be in a de-identified format and will be used for statistical and evaluation purposes only.



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- Data from FRSP Online cannot be accessed by other Government Departments.

**Why are Mother's Maiden Name and Full Date of Birth being captured?**

- Mother's Maiden Name and Full Date of Birth are being used in conjunction with Last Name to generate a **UNIQUE** client code which is then encrypted using Advanced Encryption software.
- This unique code will reduce the number of duplicate clients in the system and more accurately reflect the number of clients accessing services provided under the Family Relationship Services Program. This assists in FaCSIA's needs based planning activity and performance management.
- The unique client code will be used for all statistical analysis and evaluation processes to follow the movement of clients through the Family Relationships Services Program. This code does not disclose the identity of individual clients.
- The identifying information will **NOT** be used to track clients. It is only the unique code that is used.
- If a client is concerned about providing their mother's maiden name, they may put five crosses (XXXXX) instead.

**What has FaCSIA sought clients consent to?**

- FaCSIA has given notice to Clients through the Client Registration Form, which states:  
  
"The information you provide on this form WILL BE forwarded to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department for statistical and service evaluation purposes only."
- Where a client has entered information on this registration form, the client is taken to have given implied consent for the information to be provided to FaCSIA and the Attorney-General's Department.
- Where a client expresses concern about the provision of their personal information to FaCSIA or the Attorney-General's

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Department, the client should be invited to provide the requested information on the form without provided their name.

- Additionally, the client is invited to sign a consent form for their details to be disclosed to other FRSP service providers and to be contacted for research and evaluation purposes.
- If the Client does not sign the consent form or refuses consent, their details cannot be transferred to another FRSP organisation when a referral activity is created. The client will not be contacted to participate in research or evaluation processes by service providers.

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**Client Consent**

The services provided by (insert organisation name) are funded or partially funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Family Relationships Service Program.

The information you provide on this form WILL BE forwarded to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department for statistical and service evaluation purposes only.

If you have given your written consent below, and are referred to another organisation funded under the Family Relationships Services Program, we can arrange for the information provided on this form to be transferred to them to save you filling out another form.

We will protect your privacy and will only disclose personal information if you give

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**Consent for Client Details to be transferred**

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(print your name)

Consent  
 Do not consent

*(tick one box only)*

That if I am referred to other organisations funded under the Family Relationships Services Program, information contained on this form be transferred to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Consent to be contacted by this organisation at a later date**

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(print your name)

Consent  
 Do not consent

*(tick one box only)*

To be contacted by this organisation at a later date to participate in follow up, research or evaluation activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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[Empty rounded rectangular box]

[Shaded rectangular box]

[Large empty rectangular box with horizontal lines and a small grid]

[Small grid]

[Horizontal line with two checkboxes]

[Horizontal line with four checkboxes]

[Horizontal line with four pairs of checkboxes]

Client ID:

[Horizontal line with four pairs of checkboxes]

The information you provide in  
used in statistical and evaluation

[Small grid]

[Horizontal line with four pairs of checkboxes]

Your First Name:

[Horizontal line with four checkboxes]

[Large rounded rectangular box with a checkbox and a grid]

Your Full Date of Birth:

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**Client Details**

Client ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Activity No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Marital Status: *(tick one box only)*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married | <input type="checkbox"/> De Facto Separated         | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married       | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated but not divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Relationship               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> De Facto      | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced                   | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - person aged under 15 years |

\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|  
**Date of Separation** (Must be completed for de facto separated, separated but not divorced and divorced)

Your Highest Education Level: *(tick one box only)*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Post Graduate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary - Year 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Degree      | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Stated               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary - Year 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Diploma     |   |

Your Current Employment Status: *(tick one box only)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed - including self employed   | <input type="checkbox"/> Student                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed - actively looking for a job  | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - person aged under 15 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not in the labour force <i>(e.g. stay at home parent, volunteer, not looking for a job etc.)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Not stated                       |

Your Current Earnings per week before tax and deductions: *(tick one box only)*

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negative income  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - \$399 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 - \$1299 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2000+                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nil income   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 - \$599 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1300 - \$1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - person aged under 15 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$149 <i>(incl. pensions or Centrelink payments)</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 - \$799 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1600 - \$2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not stated                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - \$249 <i>(incl. pensions or Centrelink payments)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$800 - \$999 |  |   |

Where do you currently live:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Suburb* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Postcode*

This information is optional and is not given to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs or the Attorney-General's Department

**OPTIONAL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Business hours phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*After hours phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mobile phone*

Practitioner preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Practitioner gender preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Male    Female    Either

Confidentiality needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 None  
 Leave no message  
 Do not ring work  
 Do not ring home  
 Do not reveal agency contact  
 Contact details are confidential  
 Okay to send mail

Disability needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intellectual  
 Physical  
 Wheelchair  
 Sensory  
 Other

Time and day preferences: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monday  
 Tuesday  
 Wednesday  
 Thursday  
 Friday

Daytime  
 Lunchtime  
 After hours  
 Any combination

**OPTIONAL**

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**Client's Presenting Details**

Client ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Activity No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Staff use only

Who referred the client to this service: *(tick one box only)*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability service                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Magistrates Court   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carer Service                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Education service <i>(not school)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Media   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health service   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection Agency                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Court                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Agency <i>change of assessment</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Relationships Advice Line      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other FRSP service provider   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Agency <i>general referral</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Relationship Centre            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other family relationships service <i>(not funded under the FRSP)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Celebrant                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friend/Neighbour               | <input type="checkbox"/> Police  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Magistrates Court             | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Legal Practitioner  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Legal Centre                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial counsellor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional at this service  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community organisation                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling service                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Respite Service   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrective services                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Practitioner                   | <input type="checkbox"/> School  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence service                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing service                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow/White Pages  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol service                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet                              |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid Commission                  |  |

What are the client's family membership living arrangements: *(tick one box only)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives alone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in an 'other' family<br>e.g. with siblings, grandparents or extended family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a relationship <i>(without children)</i>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives with other members of the community<br>e.g. shared house                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a relationship <i>(with children)</i>                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in other special accommodation<br>e.g. Nursing home, hostel etc             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a sole parent family with children <i>(adult client only)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Transient living arrangements   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a two parent family <i>(child client only)</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in accommodation for the<br>homeless/emergency accom.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a one parent family <i>(child client only)</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Not stated  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separated under same roof <i>(without children)</i>                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separated under same roof <i>(with children)</i>                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult living separately                                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult dependent children                                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult non-dependent children                              |  |

What is the main relationship this client has with others attached to this activity: *(tick one box only)*

Example 1: Mum, Dad and two children are attending the centre - Each child will have 'Child' ticked on the form, the dad will have 'Father' ticked and the mum will have 'Mother' ticked

Example 2: Mum and her new partner, Dad and his new partner and two children from the first relationship are attending the centre - Each child will have 'Child' ticked on the form, the dad will have 'Father' ticked and the mum will have 'Mother' ticked. Each of the new partners will have 'Step father' and 'Step mother' ticked respectively.

- |                                     |                                      |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother      | <input type="checkbox"/> Step mother   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aunt           | <input type="checkbox"/> School counsellor                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister      | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Cousin         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse     | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand father  | <input type="checkbox"/> Niece          | <input type="checkbox"/> Not stated                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Child       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand mother  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nephew         | <input type="checkbox"/> No association<br><i>(course)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father     | <input type="checkbox"/> Step father | <input type="checkbox"/> Uncle         | <input type="checkbox"/> School teacher |  |

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**Client's Presenting Details Continued**

Client ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Activity No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clinical Staff use only**

What are the presenting needs of the client: *(tick as many boxes as required)*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parents</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Separation of parents</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Step parents</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Siblings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bullying</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Parenting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parenting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post separation parenting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Step parenting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grandparenting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Succession Planning - care of adult child with severe disability</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Violence/abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family violence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Childhood sexual abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Childhood physical/emotional abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Childhood neglect</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adult sexual abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adult physical/emotional abuse</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Relationship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-marriage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establishing a relationship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing a relationship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with relationship difficulties</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Relationship breakdown</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Re-partnering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conflict</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family formation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family maintenance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family separation</li> </ul> | <p><b>Health/Addictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Self-harm</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Suicidality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol/substance abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gambling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Disability</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carer's</li> </ul> <p><b>Legal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Property</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Payments</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Breach of post separation parenting agreements</li> </ul> | <p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial difficulty</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communication issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation difficulties</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grief/Loss</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trauma</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Employment issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Isolation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul> |

**Admin Use Only:**

Data has been entered into FRSP Online Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_



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**.... Question No: 125**

**Topic:** Family Relationship Services

**Hansard Page:** CA57

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Did FaCSIA previously store personal data prior to the implementation of the new online system for collecting client data under the Family Relationship Services program?

**Answer:**

Yes.

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**Question No: 126**

**Topic:** Family Relationship Centres

**Hansard Page:** CA61

**Senator Fielding** asked:

Do you have records showing how many people receive counselling assistance from the Family Relationship Centres in relation to separation versus how many receive counselling to help them continue or strengthen their marriage relationship?

**Answer:**

The Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) are not funded to provide counselling services. They are funded to provide dispute resolution, information, referral and support services.

Under the New Family Law package an additional 82 early intervention and prevention services will be established over the 2006-2009 period. These early intervention and prevention services will deliver a range of activities to clients including counselling, education and skills training. In some locations, organisations funded to operate FRCs, may have also been funded to provide these early intervention services. In these situations the early intervention services may be co-located with the FRC, but the FRC funding itself does not provide the counselling.

In December 2006 a new online data collection system, FRSP Online, was introduced for the Family Relationship Services Program. Service providers have been given up to 31 July 2007 to enter data for 2006-07 year. Consequently, data on the number of people receiving early intervention and prevention services such as counselling will be not available until after 31 July 2007

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**Question No: 127**

**Topic:** Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

**Hansard Page:** CA 63

**Senator Fielding** asked:

How much money in research do we give the Australian Institute of Family Studies?

**Answer:**

FaCSIA has seven contracts with AIFS that incorporate research activities. These contracts have a total value of \$5,025,500 for 2006-07, and include the:

- collection of baseline data for FaCSIA components of the new family law system measure;
- Longitudinal Study of Australian Children;
- National Child Protection Clearinghouse;
- Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse;
- Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault; and
- Families Caring for a Person with a Disability study.

Funding is GST exclusive and includes all payments due to AIFS in 2006-07.

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**.... Question No: 128**

**Topic:** Forms used in Family Relationship Centres

**Hansard Page:** CA68

**Senator Webber** asked:

Could you please provide to the committee a copy of the form that you currently use?

**Answer:**

This form was tabled on 12 February 2007 with the Committee.

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**.... Question No: 129**

**Topic:** Family Tax Benefit

**Hansard Page:** CA 72

**Senator Moore asked:**

Will the Annual Report at the end of this year, have the data reconciliation as of the end of the financial year?

**Answer:**

Yes.

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**.... Question No: 130**

**Topic:** Family Tax Benefit

**Hansard Page:** CA 73

**Senator Stephens** asked:

What proportion of FTB B went to the quarantining entitlements estimate?

**Answer:**

The proportion of the downward variation in the 2006-07 Family Tax Benefit Part B expenditure estimate due to the lower than expected impact of the quarantining measure was 15.85 per cent.

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**Question No: 131**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert asked:**

- a) Has this report been concluded and submitted to FaCSIA?
  - b) If so, could you make a copy available to the Committee?
- If not:
- c) Has FaCSIA received a draft version of the report?
  - d) Is there a clear delivery date for this report?
  - e) Is there an explanation of why this report has yet to be delivered?

**Answer:**

The report has been concluded and submitted to FaCSIA.

The Government is considering the report in relation to its release to the public. The Minister is determining whether the report contains any commercial-in-confidence information and the implications of releasing this information.

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**Question No: 132**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

- a) Can you confirm that the research and consultation phase of the project concluded in August/September 2005?
- b) Is there a penalty associated with late delivery?
- c) When will the report be made available to FRSP service providers?
- d) If the report is not to be made available to FRSP providers or the general public can you provide a reason why?

**Answer:**

The research and consultation phase concluded in September 2005 with final visits to organisations undertaken during that month. The data collected was then analysed and a draft report prepared by the consultant. A final report was received in June 2006. A subsequent Companion Brief was delivered in December 2006 to further assist with work around how best to effectively fund FRSP services.

There is no penalty in the contract for late delivery.

The Companion Brief is expected to be released to FRSP service providers in mid 2007.

The Government is considering the report in relation to its release to the public and service providers. The Minister is determining whether the report contains any commercial-in-confidence information and the implications of releasing this information.



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**.... Question No: 133**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Have the findings from this report and/or any other work undertaken to examine the cost of FRSP service delivery informed the two recent competitive selection processes for new services?

**Answer:**

The findings of the report did not inform the two recent competitive selection processes for new services.

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**.... Question No: 134**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Did the cost methodology project look at the level of additional funding required to deliver rural and remote services?

**Answer:**

The report looked at a number of factors including the costs of providing services in normal and remote areas.

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**.... Question No: 135**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Have the findings from this report and/or any other work undertaken to examine the cost of FRSP service delivery informed negotiations with existing providers to secure service viability without reducing the levels of service delivery to the community – particularly in rural and remote locations?

**Answer:**

The report did not inform negotiations with service providers. However the department negotiates a contract price with a service provider which may take into account circumstances in particular locations

In July 2004 the Government provided a 30% funding increase for all Family Relationship Services Program service providers without a requirement that they see additional clients to assist with service viability.

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**.... Question No: 136**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Has FaCSIA developed a standard funding formula, or is there an intention to develop a rural and remote funding multiplier? If so, what is it? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

A standardised funding formula has not been developed. Negotiations occur with potential service providers based on average costs per client and may take into account circumstances in particular locations.

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**Question No: 137**

**Topic:** Report by Ernst & Young into Cost of Delivering FRSP Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Given that the costing methodology work is now two years old, is more contemporary work in the area of service viability and funding levels planned?

**Answer:**

FaCSIA continues to liaise with the sector on all aspects of service delivery, including costs, through service provider groups and individual providers, on a regular basis.

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**.... Question No: 138**

**Topic:** Tenders for Early Intervention Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

I understand that two rounds of competitive selection process for the Early Intervention Service (funded by FaCSIA) have taken place, and that the requests for applications specified a rate of ongoing funding to deliver a particular service to an estimated number of clients within a particular catchment area.

- a) Is this correct?
- b) Can you explain how particular funding levels were determined to be appropriate to deliver particular services to a certain number of clients?
- c) Is there a set of formulae that are used to calculate the cost of delivery of different types of counselling services?
- d) If so, what are they? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

In the two competitive selection processes for Early Intervention Services, funding is available to deliver a particular service to a specified number of clients within a particular catchment area.

An average cost per client was used to determine the funding levels for particular services. This average cost per client was calculated by dividing the total funding allocated to each service type by the number of clients of that service type in a year. In the second round, in order to provide flexibility in response to different service delivery models and service costs, a range of 10% above and below the average cost per client was applied. Applicants in the second round had flexibility to specify a client number within the client range that reflected their service delivery costs.

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**.... Question No: 139**

**Topic:** Tenders for Early Intervention Services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

I would usually expect that the cost for the delivery of a particular counselling service would depend on the client counsellor ratio (ie, 1:1 or 1:2 for counselling versus small group numbers for relationship education).

a) On this basis I would expect counselling services to have around half the number of clients, whereas the examples I have seen (eg for Noarlunga SA) these numbers were in fact double. Can you explain this discrepancy?

b) Are services in effect being expected to cross-subsidise some activities?

**Answer:**

Family Relationship Education and Skills Training is a more expensive intervention than Family Relationship Counselling. Family Relationship Education and Skills Training incorporates what were previously two separate service types; Family Relationship Education, typically conducted in a group setting, and Family Relationship Skills Training, a very intensive intervention often involving work with families at risk. It is the Family Relationship Skills Training component which accounts for most of the costs for this service type.

The differing costs of the Family Relationship Education and Skills Training and Family Relationship Counselling service types are correctly reflected in the funding allocated in Noarlunga with \$100,000 provided to deliver Family Relationship Education and Skills Training services to between 137 to 165 clients and \$100,000 was provided to deliver Family Relationship Counselling to between 268 to 322 clients.

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**.... Question No: 140**

**Topic:** Service Providers in Rural and Remote Areas

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

We have been informed that some service providers in rural and remote areas are currently employing people from overseas because they are unable to recruit counsellors, mediators, managers etc within Australia.

- a) What steps are FaCSIA and/or AGD taking to improve this situation, particularly as more services are rolled out?
- b) Are there any plans to provide incentives, such as travel and relocation subsidies and rural and remote allowances with increased salary levels?
- c) What support will be provided to service providers in rural and remote areas to access training and professional supervision?

**Answer:**

The Government decided to rollout services over three years, taking into account the capacity of the sector to deliver increased services. FaCSIA and AGD have also engaged the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CHISIC) to develop vocational competencies to improve the career pathways for people interested in working in the family relationships sector and thereby increase the depth of the workforce.

In July 2004 the Government provided a 30% funding increase for all Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP) service providers without a requirement that they see additional clients to address service viability issues including staffing costs.

FRSP providers are generally expected to provide for training of staff within their funding agreements. The program however, does offer some additional support where new competencies are identified such as Mental Health First Aid, Certificate IV level training for Indigenous FRSP practitioners, culturally sensitive service provision, and child and father inclusive practice. In these circumstances, FaCSIA and AGD ensure rural and regional FRSP providers have access to those opportunities. FaCSIA has also funded the Australian Institute of Family Studies to develop a clearing house for family relationship service providers. This provides an online source of up-to-date research and best practice advice to practitioners across the spectrum of FRSP interventions to support providers to enhance service delivery and keep up to date.



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**.... Question No: 141**

**Topic:** Service Providers in Rural and Remote Areas

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

What is the Government doing to close the gap between Government and community sector salaries where there is comparative work with similar qualifications and skills required?

**Answer:**

The Government does not determine salary levels in the community sector. Salaries are covered by appropriate awards and agreements.

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**.... Question No: 144**

**Topic:** Service Providers in Rural and Remote Areas

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Does the Government know and can it advise how many clients are referred by Family Relationship Centres to other FRSP services in their community?

**Answer:**

Accurate data on referrals will be available at the end of the 2006-07 financial year.

Service Providers commenced entering data into FRSP Online in December 2006 and have until 30 June 2007 to complete the backlog of data entry (back to 1 July 2006). While some data is available on the system, it is incomplete.

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**.... Question No: 145**

**Topic:** Service Providers in Rural and Remote Areas

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Does the Government know and can it advise how many clients are referred by FRSP services and the Advice Line to legal services?

**Answer:**

Accurate data on referrals will be available at the end of the 2006-07 financial year.

Service Providers commenced entering data into FRSP Online December 2006 and have until 30 June 2007 to complete the entry of data. While some data is available on the system, it is incomplete.

The Attorney-General's Department has policy and administrative responsibility for the Family Relationship Advice Line. The Attorney-General's Department is providing information about referrals from the Advice Line to legal services in response to Question on Notice 33(f) of 13 February 2007.

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**.... Question No: 147**

**Topic:** FRSP Client Registration Form

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Are clients that elect not to provide information on the Client Registration form to FaCSIA counted by an agency towards their targets?  
If not, why not?

**Answer:**

Yes. An agency is able to record this type of client in FRSP Online and these clients count towards the agencies overall targets.

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**.... Question No: 152**

**Topic:** Family Relationship Centres

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fielding** asked:

How many people have taken up the offer of three free hours of joint session counselling?  
How many people then went on to purchase further counselling once the three free hours had been used up?

**Answer:**

As at the end of February 2007, Family Relationship Centres had conducted 4,413 dispute resolution sessions with 5,229 clients in attendance. Data on how many of these sessions were conducted under the three free hours, and beyond the three free hours, will be available at the end of the 2006-07 financial year.

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**.... Question No: 182**

**Topic:** Family Relationship Centres

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Kirk** asked:

In relation to privacy concerns:

- (a) What data collection systems are in place at the 15 pilot Family Relationship Centres (FRCs)?
- (b) Is there a national database in place?
- (c) If not, will one be introduced?
- (d) When?
- (e) What interim arrangements are in place?
- (f) Has AGD been requiring FRC providers to provide client identifiable information?

**Answer:**

Since the department's answer to QoN 354 from last years Additional Estimates process, a new data collection system for the Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP) commenced from December 2006. FRSP Online is used by FRCs, to capture client information in the data collection system in order to identify duplicate clients and clients accessing multiple services. AGD does not have access to client identifiable information.

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**.... Question No: 184**

**Topic:** Relationship Breakdown

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fielding** asked:

Has any research been done on the cost to Australian taxpayers of relationship breakdown?

**Answer:**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has conducted research on the financial and non-financial effects of relationship breakdown on children, parents, and the family as a whole, as well as on local neighbourhoods and the Australian community. Studies have included:

Relationship breakdown of couples (married or de facto)

- *Caring for Children After Parental Separation* (CfC) project 2003-2006
- *Australian Living Standards Study*, 1991-1992
- *Children and Family Life* (CHIFL) study, 2003-04
- *Later Life Family Study*, 1996

Relationship breakdown of married couples

- *The Marital Dissolution Study* [1979]
- *The Economic Consequences of Marriage Breakdown* (ECMB) study [1980s]
- *The Parents and Children After Marriage Breakdown* (PCMB) project, 1987
- *The Australian Divorce Transitions Project* (ADTP), 1996-97
- *HILDA analysis* 2006

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**.... Question No: 154**

**Topic:** Communities for Children

**Hansard Page:** CA 66 & 67

**Senator Stephens** asked:

How many of the Communities for Children sites are likely to extend beyond June 2009, and who the facilitating partners are?

**Answer:**

Communities for Children sites are funded to 30 June 2009.



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**.... Question No: 155**

**Topic:** Invest to Grow

**Hansard Page:** CA 155

**Senator Stephens** asked:

Could you provide in writing to the committee how many projects have you funded under that initiative?

**Answer:**

70 projects have been funded under Invest to Grow.

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**.... Question No: 153**

**Topic:** Communities for Children

**Hansard Page:** CA 66

**Senator Stephens** asked:

Can you provide details to the committee about the 45 sites in the Communities for Children (CfC) and the programs that are being funded there?

**Answer:**

Details on the 45 sites covered in the CfC program are available on the FaCSIA website, [www.facsia.gov.au](http://www.facsia.gov.au).

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**.... Question No: 156**

**Topic:** Child Care Benefit

**Hansard Page:** CA76

**Senator Stephens** asked:

Could you provide the figures of those families who choose the fee relief payment and incur an overpayment?

**Answer:**

As at the end of the December 2006 quarter, 77% (576,998) of Child Care Benefit families had their 2005-2006 Child Care Benefit entitlements reconciled.

- 98% of families reconciled chose fee relief (ie most CCB reconciled recipients).
- About 19% of these reconciled families who chose fee relief incurred an overpayment.

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**Question No: 157**

**Topic:** Inclusion Support Subsidy

**Hansard Page:** CA82

**Senator Stephens** asked:

Have you set a timetable for the post-implementation review of the new Inclusion Support Subsidy?

**Answer:**

It is anticipated that the Post Implementation Review of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program will be completed during this year.

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**.... Question No: 158**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

What process did the department use to establish the new draft child care quality assurance standards?

**Answer:**

Prior to developing the draft, the department hosted a child care sector workshop in November 2006 to gain industry/sector input into the development of an integrated Quality Assurance system. The workshop sought expert input from a broad range of representatives from across the child care sector.

The department, in partnership with the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC), used the input from the workshop and the current Child Care Quality Assurance standards to develop the draft standards for consultation. A national advisory group consisting of child care sector representatives was also established in December 2006. The National Advisory Group reviewed the draft standards prior to the broader public consultation.

The first draft standards were placed on the FaCSIA and NCAC websites on 16 February for public comment, and a proposed framework followed on 23 February. Comments on these are due by 10 April. A second consultation process will occur over May/June and will include public meetings and draft documentation being made available for comment.

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**Question No: 159**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Why have the three areas of Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care been combined together in the new quality standard? What was the evidence base for deciding that all three areas should be combined?

**Answer:**

The current three separate sets of standards for Child Care Quality Assurance were developed at different times reflecting the staged implementation of quality assurance for the three service types. Most of the standards are common across all service types and it is important for parents to know that it does not matter what type of approved service they are using, the same quality standards will apply. The decision to simplify the three systems into one will not diminish the robustness or relevance of the Quality Assurance process. It will however, deliver a streamlined system that will enable other child care service types such as Indigenous child care and In-home services to participate in the Quality Assurance process without the need to develop separate, service type-specific quality assurance systems to accommodate them.

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**Question No: 160**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Has the department received any correspondence expressing concern about the combining of all three quality standards? Has the department prepared any material in response to concerns about the combining of all three quality standards?

**Answer:**

The workshop held last November concluded that the initial concerns about combining the three service types into one system were largely unfounded. Some initial feedback on the draft standards expressed concern that the characteristics of the different service types may not lend themselves to one common set of standards. Conversely, feedback has also been received that supports this approach. The first draft standards were placed on the FaCSIA and NCAC websites on 16 February for public comment, and a proposed framework followed on 23 February. Comments on these are due by 10 April. All comments received are being considered in the development of the system.

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**.... Question No: 161**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Does the department have any long term concerns about the combining of all three quality standards? What evaluation process has the department put in place to measure the effect on quality standards of the amalgamation of all three standards?

**Answer:**

The draft standards currently include aspects of quality care that are common to the three service types as well as elements that are unique to a specific service type. Any feedback received during the consultation process on this approach will be taken into account in the development of the integrated system.



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**Question No: 162**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Who has the department consulted with to establish the new standards? What were the results from that feedback?

**Answer:**

Please refer to answer provided to Question on Notice 158.

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**2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007**

**Output Group: 3.3**

**Question No: 163**

**Topic:** Child Care Quality Assurance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Do you believe the consultation time frame for community feedback was adequate? Have you received any comments from the community concerned about the time allowed for the community consultation phase of the new draft standards?

**Answer:**

The department hosted a Workshop in November last year to bring together experts from the sector to commence discussion around development of the elements of the integrated system. The outcomes from the workshop fed into the preparation of the draft standards and these were subsequently reviewed by an advisory group comprising sector representatives and experts prior to their public release in February for comment. The first draft standards were placed on the FaCSIA and NCAC websites on 16 February for public comment, and a proposed framework followed on 23 February. Comments on these are due by 10 April 2007.

Following feedback from the sector, consultation has been broadened to ensure that anyone with an interest in quality assurance of child care has an opportunity to provide input into the development of the integrated system. The opportunity to comment on the documents has been advertised widely via NCAC and peak body newsletters and via the department's and NCAC's web sites. Further opportunities will be provided for sector input into these documents prior to finalisation as well as into other elements of the integrated system as they become available. A series of public consultation meetings will also occur ahead of field testing of the standards.

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**Output Group:** 4.1

**.... Question No: 164**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Please advise how many Australian households currently receive CRA and what is the average payment of CRA to each household per fortnight?

**Answer:**

The most recent available information about daily rates of assistance is for 24 November 2006. At that date Rent Assistance was payable to 942,000 individuals and families and the average fortnightly rate was \$87.

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**Output Group:** 4.1

**.... Question No: 165**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

For Commonwealth Rent Assistance please provide the current expense/revenue and cash forward estimates for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

**Answer:**

Please refer to answers provided to Questions on Notice 166 and 176.

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**Output Group:** 4.1

**.... Question No: 166**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

For Commonwealth Rent Assistance please provide expense/revenue and cash estimates that are not obligated or forward committed for administered and departmental payments for each of: (a) 2005-06 (outcome versus final budget estimate) and (b) current forward estimates for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2005-06 for Family and Community Services estimated that expenditure on Rent Assistance under the Social Security Act and family assistance legislation would be \$2.1 billion. Actual expenditure on Rent Assistance for 2005-06 was \$2.13 billion.

The 2006-07 PBS estimated expenditure for Rent Assistance is \$2.2 billion.

No forward estimates can be provided for future years.

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**Output Group: 4.1**

**Question No: 170**

**Topic:** CSHA

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Have negotiations with the states begun on the next CSHA which is due for renewal in 2008? Or is there still no time frame for renegotiating CSHA? At what stage are the negotiations at? Are the negotiations on schedule to date?

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement expires in June 2008.

The terms of the current CSHA require the Australian Government to commence discussions with the states and territories over future arrangements by 1 January 2007.

The Australian Government commenced discussions with the states and territories on these arrangements through the Housing Ministers' Conference (HMC). The HMC met on 29 September 2006 and is scheduled to meet next in July 2007. The negotiation process is on schedule.

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**Output Group: 4.1**

**.... Question No: 171**

**Topic: CSHA**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Lundy asked:**

Does the Federal government support a new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement? Will it even be renewed?

**Answer:**

Please refer to answer provided to Question on Notice 170.

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**2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007**

**Output Group:** 4.1

**.... Question No: 172**

**Topic:** Homelessness

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could you explain how the SAAP Innovation and Investment Fund is administered? Has it been distributed through the States and Territories? What is the total budget for this fund for 06-07? How much of the budget has been spent to date?

**Answer:**

The SAAP Innovation and Investment (I & I) Fund is a collaborative venture between all parties to the SAAP V Multilateral Agreement. The I & I Fund includes Australian Government and State and Territory Government cash and in-kind contributions.

Projects to be funded from the Innovation and Investment Fund were agreed during negotiation of Bilateral Agreements under the SAAP V Agreement. States and territories then further developed the individual projects and formally submitted them to the Minister for Community Services for his approval. On approval, the Australian Government releases Commonwealth funding for the projects to the relevant state government.

Projects funded under the Innovation and Investment Fund must be consistent with the three Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP) V Strategic Directions, detailed in the Multilateral Agreement – pre-crisis intervention, post-crisis transition and improved linkages with other services. Communication regarding funding availability is a matter for state and territory governments.

The total budget for the Innovation and Investment fund for 2006-07 is \$21.539m. This comprises \$14.838m state and territory contributions and \$6.701m Australian Government Funds. As at 19 February 2007 \$5.218m of the Australian Government monies had been released to the states and territories for approved projects.



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**.... Question No: 173**

**Topic:** Homelessness

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

How do organisations access this funding if they have an innovative proposal and want to get Commonwealth funding? Is there a Committee that decides to find innovative projects or has there been a tendering process?

**Answer:**

Individual states and territories have responsibility for selecting the Innovation and Investment Fund projects they wish to put forward. Communication regarding funding availability is a matter for state and territory governments.

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**Output Group: 4.1**

**.... Question No: 174**

**Topic: CSHA**

**Hansard Page: CA90**

**Senator Lundy asked:**

Could you provide information on the consultancy used in the community housing development plan?

**Answer:**

The National Sector Development Plan for non-profit housing providers forms part of a body of work known as the National Action on Affordable Housing, which is being undertaken by Australian, State and Territory Housing officials under the auspices of the Housing Ministers' Conference. The National Action on Affordable Housing is jointly funded by Australian, State and Territory Governments.

The Australian Government is not managing any consultancies under the National Sector Development Plan. The Australian Government is not able to release detailed information about consultancies managed by the states and territories.

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**Output Group: 4.1**

**.... Question No: 176**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** CA91

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could you provide any cash estimates or expense estimates for administrative and departmental payments for each of the out years (2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10), I guess for the current financial year and forward estimates for Commonwealth Rent Assistance

**Answer:**

Please refer to answer provided to Question on Notice 166.

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**Output Group: 4.1**

**Question No: 175**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** CA90 and 91

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could you please provide previous year's average payment of rent assistance to each household per fortnight? Could you also provide the core data ie how many recipients and range?

**Answer:**

The average Rent Assistance payable to individuals and families was \$81 per fortnight as at 10 June 2005. 2004-05 figures for the number of recipients and total expenditure were provided at the 12 February 2007 Estimates Committee hearing.

Payments vary up to the maximum rate for the relevant family situation. The maximum rates of Rent Assistance payable are published in Centrelink's "A Guide to Australian Government Payments".

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**Output Group:** 4.1

**.... Question No:** 177

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** CA92

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could you please provide details of the portion of the average Commonwealth Rent Assistance in inner city areas, outer metropolitan, regional and rural areas so that we can get an idea of the relative benefit to families living in different geographical areas?

**Answer:**

A wide range of information about the Rent Assistance program is published in the report of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
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**Output Group:** 4.1

**Question No:** 183

**Topic:** Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA)

**Hansard Page:** CA86

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Can you please provide the forward estimates for the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10?

**Answer:**

The 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) ceases on 30 June 2008. It is therefore only possible to provide figures for 2006-07 and forward estimates for 2007-08.

The amount of funding provided by the Australian Government under the 2003 CSHA for 2006-07 is published in *Portfolio Budget Statements 2006-07 Budget Related Paper No. 1.8*. p147.

The forward estimate for 2007-08 for Australian Government 2003 CSHA funding is \$964.932 million.

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**Question No: 168**

**Topic:** Homelessness

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could we have an update on the work of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness? How independent is the Committee? Do they bring their issues from their own representative groups (disability groups, homelessness frontline service provider groups, academia) to the meetings for discussion with the Minister?

**Answer:**

The terms of members of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) have all concluded. FaCSIA is reviewing the best way to move forward.

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**.... Question No: 169**

**Topic:** Homelessness

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Does the committee have its own budget for commissioning research? Can it set its own priorities or areas of focus? What are its priorities? Does it have an ability to directly fund innovative projects? Does it report to the FaCSIA Minister?

**Answer:**

Please see answer provided in Question on Notice 168.



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**Output Group: 4.1**

**.... Question No: 167**

**Topic:** Housing Support Staff in FaCSIA

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Lundy** asked:

How many staff work in the Housing Support Branch in FaCSIA? How is the Housing Support Branch structured? What are the positions in the Branch? Are there housing policy staff based in states and territories too?

**Answer:**

As at 12 February 2007 there were 42 staff working in the Housing Policy and Support Branch and 5 vacant positions pending recruitment action.

The Housing Policy and Support Branch comprises the following sections:

- Housing Policy and Assistance
- Housing Programs and Partnerships (CSHA)
- Homelessness Policy and Assistance
- Performance, Reporting and Data
- Policy, Research and Linkages

All officers in the Housing Policy and Support Branch are located in Canberra.

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**.... Question No: 178**

**Topic:** Rent Assistance

**Hansard Page:** CA93

**Senator Lundy** asked:

Could you please provide information on the Commonwealths position regarding differential rates of rent assistance per region?

**Answer:**

Rent Assistance is a national program to assist low and moderate income households to access appropriate affordable housing. The rates and eligibility arrangements for this assistance is Government policy.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007

**PRIME MINISTER'S COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP –  
FINANCIAL DETAILS**

The **key** initiatives of the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership include (**note – expenditure crosses financial years**):

- Workplace Giving Australia – an allocation of \$1 098 739 (incl. GST) over three years (FY2004-05, FY2005-06 and FY2006-07);
- Giving Australia Research - \$782 962 (incl. GST) (FY2004-05 and FY 2005-06)
- The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships - \$735 400 (excl. GST) (FY2005-06 and FY2006-07, which includes costs associated with the state and territory awards presentations as well as the national presentation event)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Essay Competition - \$175 000 (excl. GST) (FY2004-05 and FY2005-06)
- National Community Business Partnerships Week - \$150 000 (excl. GST) (FY 2005-06 and FY 2006-07)

In the 2004-05 Budget, the Partnership was allocated funding of \$4.3 million per year for the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08, totalling \$12.9 million over three years. In addition, on 31 August 2004, the Prime Minister approved funding of \$850 000 over two financial years (2004-05 and 2005-06) to assist with the establishment of NonProfit Australia. This additional funding was added to the PMCBP administered allocation - \$500 000 in FY2004-05 and \$350 000 in FY2005-06).