

**Community Affairs
Legislation Committee**

Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006

Additional Information Received

VOLUME 1

FaCS Outcomes: Cross Outcome, Outcomes 2 and 3

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

SEPTEMBER 2005

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF 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 budget estimates hearings on 30 & 31 May 2005

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

10/05 2005 14:50 FAX 61 2 62704500

SENATOR MINCHIN

001/002

COPY



SENATOR THE HON NICK MINCHIN
Minister for Finance and Administration
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

10 May 2005

Senator Sue Knowles
Chairman
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Sue

I am writing further to our discussion today regarding your's and Senator Mason's letter of 9 March 2005 regarding the Department of Human Services and Estimates.

I have taken some time to respond to your letter, as I have needed to consult with my colleagues, Senator Patterson and Mr Hockey, together with Senator Ellison as the Manager of Government Business and the Prime Minister's Office. I appreciate that you wish to see this matter settled in advance of the next Estimates hearings.

I understand that it is longstanding practice that responsibility for individual portfolio estimates is divided among committees on the basis of the administrative orders.

The most recent administrative orders represent a clear decision by the Prime Minister that the responsibility for social policy departments and service delivery agencies should be split.

As the Prime Minister has chosen to place the Department of Human Services within the Finance portfolio, it is appropriate the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee have responsibility for DHS.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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10/05 2005 14:50 FAX 61 2 62704539

SENATOR MINCHIN

092/002

This gives all Senators full opportunity to examine the six DHS agencies in Finance Estimates, and to separately ask questions of the relevant policy departments in their respective Estimates.

There are practical difficulties with the alternative arrangements you discuss.

If Centrelink, for instance, was to appear with its client policy departments, it would have to appear before at least four committees, given Centrelink delivers services for DEWR, FACS, DEST and AFFA. This would be an onerous workload for Centrelink officers and would present real scheduling problems.

Requiring DHS to appear with all its policy departments, as well as the FPA Committee, would make this load more onerous.

As for allocating a spill over day, this is a matter that can only be considered if it appears that DHS Estimates would not be concluded on the allocated day. We remain committed to answering all questions that are placed on notice.

I am happy to discuss this further with you.

I have copied this letter to Senator Mason, Senator Patterson, Senator Ellison and Mr Hockey.

Yours sincerely



Nick Minchin

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No:T1

Topic: Media Monitoring Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA question taken on notice

Senator Moore asked: Why have the costs increased significantly since 2000-2001?

Answer: Correction to the record. The Department of Family and Community Services advises that it previously provided the Committee with an incorrect figure. The 2003-2004 media monitoring figure (\$583,093) provided in response to Senator Evans (QON 113) was incorrect. A figure of \$236,868 was mistakenly included when calculating the cost for that financial year. The correct figure for the cost of media monitoring for 2003-2004 was \$347,043. The cost to date for 2004-2005 is \$206,570 (30 April 2005).

The main reasons for an increase in media monitoring costs from 2000-2001 are as follows:

- The introduction of Tax Reform, including Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Benefit in July 2000.
- The implementation of the Australian's Working Together package in 2001.
- The expansion of the FaCS portfolio following the 2001 Election, including the responsibility for youth.
- The implementation of the Stronger Families and Community Strategy in 2000.
- The implementation of the National Agenda for Early Childhood in 2004.

The main reasons for the decreasing costs since 2002-03 are a new provider and the use of electronic delivery of press clips.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross..... Question No: T2

Topic: Concession Cards

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator McLucas asked: Was FaCS involved in the costing of concession cards in the welfare to work package?

Answer:

Yes. FaCS was involved in the casting process.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: T3

Topic: Media Monitoring Costs

Hansard Page: Question taken on notice

Senator Moore asked: Are there any other media monitoring costs besides the clips?

Answer: The media monitoring costs provided to the Committee include the provision of emailed press clips each morning, the monitoring of electronic media (radio and television) and the ad hoc purchase of transcripts, audio and video tapes.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: T4

Topic: Media Monitoring Contract

Hansard Page: Question taken on notice

Senator Moore asked: At what stage of the contract are we up to with Media Monitors?

Answer: The contract with Media Monitors commenced in March 2004 and is due to expire on 30 June 2005. The contract includes the option to extend for a further year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: T5

Topic: Media Monitoring Coverage

Hansard Page: Question taken on notice

Senator Moore asked: What key subjects are being monitored?

Answer: The Department of Family and Community Services monitors media coverage of matters which relate to the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and the portfolio. FaCS provides Media Monitors with a comprehensive brief, listing key topics and related words. The topics include:

- Ministerial
- Departmental Issues
- Families
- Child Care
- Employment and Participation Programs
- Community
- Gambling and Gaming
- Housing
- Youth and Students
- Seniors
- Taxation
- Disability and Carers
- Income and Assets
- Concessions/Benefits
- International
- Indigenous
- Office For Women
- Disaster Assistance

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

Question No: T15

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: CA question on notice

Senator Moore asked: When did FaCS go to electronic media monitoring? Can the Committee have a copy of the business case?

Answer: The Department of Family and Community Services changed to electronic distribution of the press clipping service in January 2003.

This decision was based on the broad business case that:

- The price of the print press clipping service was rising;
- A trial of electronic delivery had demonstrated more staff could access the clippings (including State/Territory Office based staff); clippings were more timely – available between 6.30am and 7.00am; staff could access the clippings of particular interest to them more easily than trawling through the hard copy set; and
- We could expect reduction in paper use.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: T6

Topic: FaCS Part Time Staff by State and National Office Location

Hansard Page: CA question taken on notice

Senator Moore asked: Outline statistics for the number of part time staff by state and national office.

Answer:

Part Time Employees by Office Location (30 April 2005)		
Ongoing Part Time	National Office	166
	ACT	2
	NSW	19
	NT	9
	QLD	12
	SA	11
	TAS	4
	VIC	27
	WA	9
Ongoing Part Time Total		259
Non-Ongoing Part Time	National Office	13
	NSW	2
	QLD	1
	WA	4
Non-Ongoing Part Time Total		20
Grand Total		279

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 3

Topic: FaCS Certified Agreement – Personal Leave for FaCS Employees

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Is it true that the Department of Family and Community Services' (FaCS) management in negotiations for the new Certified Agreement have proposed:

- a) to remove unlimited personal leave which has consequential impact on current carers leave, paternity leave and bereavement provisions, which are accessed from personal leave.
- b) a range of changes that result in an overall reduction in the amount of carer's leave staff are entitled to.
- c) changes to personal leave that result in any eligible staff without a sufficient personal leave accrual losing access to paternity leave.

Answer:

- a) Yes. FaCS has proposed a return to a 20 day per annum personal leave credit accumulation model which is in place in the majority of Australian Public Service Agencies. The amount of paid leave available for carers, paternity and bereavement leave will depend on the amount of personal leave credit accumulated at the time of applying for leave. Transition provisions will apply to employees with low or no personal leave credits by providing access to leave for all personal leave components till their next accrual date.
- b) Yes. The existing FaCS Certified Agreement does not prescribe a limit to the amount of personal leave available for caring purposes, but it encourages employees and managers to address a need for regular or extended periods of caring by exploring alternatives to paid leave, including flexible hours, home based work, part time work and community assistance options. The proposed cap of 15 days per year for caring purposes will provide clarity and consistency in the administration of carer's leave and will meet the intention that paid carers leave is to be provided for caring responsibilities of a short term, occasional or emergency nature.
- c) Under the Certified Agreement proposal on-going employees will continue to accrue 20 days paid personal leave per annum. FaCS employees can use their accrued personal leave entitlements for absences involving personal illness or injury, caring purposes, bereavement and non primary care giver or paternity leave (up to 20 days per annum). Transition provisions will apply to employees with low or no personal leave credits by providing access to leave for all personal leave components till their next accrual date.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 7

Topic: Purchased Advertising

Hansard Page: CA27-28

Senator McLucas asked:

Purchased advertising:

- a) Why did the costs double in 1999-2000?
- b) Why did the costs drop between 2001-02 to 2002-03?
- c) Why did the costs triple between 2002-03 and 2003-04?
- d) What was the purpose of the advertising?
- e) Outline the projected spending on purchased advertising for next year?

Answer:

a), b), c) and d)

The variations noted in QoN112 are caused by major advertising campaigns built to inform Australians of their rights and obligations under policies within the FaCS portfolio.

The attached table (**Attachment A**) outlines the major expenditure items ie communication campaigns that occurred in each financial year which explains the variances across financial years.

Minor advertising incurred each year has not been incorporated in the table.

e)

Anticipated major project spending on advertising includes the following:

- Violence Against Women – Australia Says No (\$5 million).
- More Help For Families (approximately \$6 million earmarked for advertising).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Attachment A

Financial Year	Total Expenditure on Advertising¹	Major Expenditure Items	Purpose
1999-2000	\$4,817,151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,182,476 – A New Tax System (ANTS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication strategy targeting families, people on pensions and allowances, and older Australians to educate Australians about the ANTS measures in the FaCS portfolio area and the actions they needed to take to receive the new benefits. This included a television and press campaign.
2000-2001	\$8,564,346	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$170,014 – Stronger Families and Communities Strategy and welfare reform • \$243,226 – Advertising campaign continuing information about ANTS • \$6,366,101 – Acknowledging Older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS) aims to help build family and community capacity to deal with challenges and take advantage of opportunities that come along. Its focus on early intervention and prevention aims to help families and communities deal with issues before they become serious problems. The strategy gives communities the chance to think about local issues and what solutions they can put in place to deal with them. Public relations included development of community kit, newsletter and information kits. • Continuing information to build on awareness about A New Tax System.

¹ Includes costs associated with advertising agencies, media advertising organisations and direct mail organisations.

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Financial Year	Total Expenditure on Advertising ¹	Major Expenditure Items	Purpose
		<p style="text-align: center;">Australians communications campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$731,410 – International Year of Volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Acknowledging Older Australians package aimed at recognising the contribution of older people in building Australian society. There was a range of services including increases to existing payments and rebates/concessions for older Australians. This included national television and radio advertising. • International Year of Volunteers 2001 celebrated and recognised the achievements of Australia's volunteers. This included television and magazine advertising.
2001-2002	\$7,170,226	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,767,015 – Acknowledging Older Australians communications campaign. • \$3,780,816 – 'Support the System that Supports You'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Acknowledging Older Australians package aimed at recognising the contribution of older people in building Australian society. There was a range of services including increases to existing payments and rebates/concessions for older Australians. National print, radio and television broadcast material for public information were developed. • The purpose of the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 'Support the System that Supports You' campaign was to encourage voluntary compliance from Centrelink customers to voluntarily report changes in their circumstances (i.e. employment and living

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Financial Year	Total Expenditure on Advertising ¹	Major Expenditure Items	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$97,236 – International Year of Volunteers. 	<p>arrangements) that might impact on their rate of social security payment. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the need to report changes and the possible consequences of non-compliance and a Call Centre was set up to deal with client inquiries about the package. This included national TV, radio, print, internet and outdoor advertising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Year of Volunteers 2001 celebrated and recognised the achievements of Australia's volunteers.
2002-2003	\$2,129,928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,248,661 – 'Support the System that Supports You'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 'Support the System that Supports You' campaign was to encourage Centrelink customers to voluntarily report changes in their circumstances (i.e. employment and living arrangements) that might impact on their rate of social security payment. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the need to report changes and the possible consequences of non-compliance and a Call Centre was set up to deal with client inquiries about the package. This included television, radio, print, internet and outdoor advertising for voluntary compliance campaign.
2003-2004	\$6,600,594	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,586,874 – More Help for Families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The More Help for Families Communication Campaign aims to improve understanding of family assistance payments and promote awareness for More

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Financial Year	Total Expenditure on Advertising¹	Major Expenditure Items	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$444,098 – 2003 Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships. 	<p>Help for Families measures; encourage Family Tax Benefit (FTB) customers to update their annual income estimates and to increase awareness of the importance of correct income estimation; and inform Indigenous and non-English speaking background FTB customers of options available to avoid overpayments and how they can access up-to-date information about the family assistance system. Included radio and press advertising of the \$600 per Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A child one-off bonus payment. This also includes market research and the development of advertising material for further communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feature on the 2003 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships recognise and reward those businesses and community organisations, which come together to generate outcomes that have long term benefit for the community.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 10

Topic: Management Retreats / conferences

Hansard Page: CA30-31

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) How many people went to the SES workshop at Old Parliament House on 2-3 April 2003?
- b) Why were the costs of food and beverage one third of the total costs of the workshop?
- c) Could you disaggregate the cost of food and beverages?
- d) How many people attended the SES workshop 10-11 December 2003?
- e) Could you disaggregate the cost of food and beverages?
- f) Why was one recall day disaggregated and not the others?

Answer:

- a) There were 55 attendees at the SES workshop at Old Parliament House on 2-3 April 2003.
- b) A review of our records regarding our response to QoN 110 has revealed that the cost of food and beverage was overstated as the \$10,809 provided included venue hire, equipment hire, security and phone lines. The actual cost of food and beverages alone for the two days was \$7,808, one quarter of the total cost of \$30,809.
- c) The cost of food for the two days was \$6,780 and the cost of beverages for the two days was \$1,028.
- d) There were 60 attendees at the SES workshop on 10 December and 65 on 11 December 2003.
- e) The separate beverage costs that can be disaggregated are \$513 for the dinner of 10 December and \$353.75 on 11 December 2003. All other beverages were included as part of the total workshop package of \$8,785 and which included morning and afternoon tea and lunch.
- f) The Federal Golf Club invoice for 11 December 2003 provided disaggregation whereas the catering package provided by the National Museum for 10 December 2003 was inclusive of food and beverages.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 11

Topic: Staff Development

Hansard Page: CA31

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) Why was there a cost of \$1,623 for transport included in the Recall Day for the Leadership and Emotional Intelligence course on 25 October 2004?
- b) Was there a cost for transport for other similar courses but not listed on the table?

Answer:

- a) The \$1,623 was inadvertently reported. No transport expenses were incurred as the course was held locally and only attended by local participants.
- b) A review of our records has revealed that there were transport costs associated with other similar courses, which were not listed in the table. Correct details of expenditure for transport costs incurred are outlined in the table below.

Financial Year	Session	Location	Transport	Total Cost
2002-03	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence	The Carrington, Bungendore, 31/3/2003	\$3,126.16	\$47,000
	As above	As above, 21/5/2003	\$5,037.98	\$47,000
2003-04	As above	As above, 2/7/2003	\$3,171.30	\$47,000
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Recall Day	As above, 26/8/2003	\$1,863.77	\$7,800
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence	As above, 8/9/2003	\$3,630.23	\$43,000
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Recall Day	Hill Station, 14/10/2003	\$2,885.31	\$7,800
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Recall Day	As above, 17/11/2003	\$3,761.35	\$7,800
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Recall Day	As above, 23/2/2004	\$3,352.81	\$7,800
	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence	12/5/2004	\$1,477.96	\$43,850
2004-05	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Recall Day	Hill Station, Hume, 25/10/2004	Nil	\$8,300

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 19

Topic: Annual Report

Hansard Page: CA62

Senator Moore asked:

Rent Assistance is recognised as a separate line item in the Annual Report but not in the Budget measures – are there other instances of this in FaCS?

Answer:

Rent Assistance was not a 2005-06 Budget measure and consequently is not listed in the Statement of Budget Measures in the Portfolio Budget Statements. Yes, there are other instances, for example, the Pension Bonus Scheme.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 22

Topic: FaCS Diversity Plan

Hansard Page: CA22

Senators McLucas and Moore asked:

Could you provide a copy of the FaCS Diversity Plan?

Answer:

A copy of the FaCS Diversity Plan 2002-2004 and the FaCS Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2003-2005 is attached (Attachment A). The Draft FaCS Diversity Plan 2005-2007 – Making It Real is also attached (Attachment B). The Draft Plan will be finalised at the conclusion of consultation with staff.

[Note: the attachments have not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 146

Topic: Staffing - Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Mason asked:

For each of the last four financial or calendar years for which this information is available:

- a) what was the average number of sick leave days taken per full-time equivalent employee;
- b) what was the average number of days of unscheduled absence (encompassing all types of leave) taken per full-time equivalent employee.

Answer:

a)	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average number of sick leave days per FTE	7.9	9.42	9.1	10.25

b)	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average number of unscheduled absence days per FTE	10.6	11.27	10.33	13.03

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 147

Topic: Staffing – Unscheduled Leave

Hansard Page: written question on notice

Senator Mason asked:

- a) Does the department collect, collate and analyse data about unscheduled absence and/or sick leave, for example, which days of the week that employees are away, reasons for absence, dates of absence, employee's age, gender, length of service and work unit location?
- b) Does the department record the number and/or percentage of working days lost due to unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in the Annual Report?
- c) Does the department record the cost of unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in annual financial statements?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) No.
- c) No.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 148

Topic: Efficiency Dividend – Financial Impact

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?

Answer:

See table below.

		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
		\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Outcome 1	Administered	-0.006	-0.012	-0.015	-0.015
	Departmental	-0.017	-0.036	-0.054	-0.054
	Total	-0.023	-0.048	-0.069	-0.069
Outcome 2	Administered	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Departmental	-0.283	-0.570	-0.856	-0.856
	Total	-0.283	-0.570	-0.856	-0.856
Outcome 3	Administered	-0.632	-1.293	-1.974	-1.974
	Departmental	-1.327	-2.674	-4.015	-4.015
	Total	-1.959	-3.967	-5.989	-5.989
Outcome 4	Administered	-0.143	-0.289	-0.436	-0.436
	Departmental	-1.843	-3.714	-5.578	-5.578
	Total	-1.986	-4.003	-6.014	-6.014
Outcome 5	Administered	-0.021	-0.043	-0.067	-0.091
	Departmental	-0.012	-0.025	-0.038	-0.038
	Total	-0.033	-0.068	-0.105	-0.129
Measure	Administered	-0.802	-1.637	-2.492	-2.516
	Departmental	-3.482	-7.019	-10.541	-10.541
Resourcing	Total	-4.284	-8.656	-13.033	-13.057

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 149

Topic: Efficiency Dividend – General Impact

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year’s elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
- b) What will this mean for staff numbers?
- c) Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
- d) Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
- e) How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
- f) How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Family and Community Services has incorporated the impact of the efficiency dividend into its internal budget baseline and is reviewing its core business processes to meet functional responsibilities within available funding.
- b) The impact on staff numbers is still being assessed by the department.
- c) Yes – see table below.

Savings Impact of Efficiency Dividend - Administered Programs

Administered Item	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)
Support for child care	-0.115	-0.232	-0.349	-0.349
Employment Assistance & Other Services	-0.560	-1.149	-1.758	-1.758
National Secretariats	-0.006	-0.012	-0.015	-0.015
Reconnect	-0.054	-0.108	-0.163	-0.163
Services for Families with Children	-0.027	-0.055	-0.084	-0.084
Services for Families with children SPP	-0.001	-0.002	-0.003	-0.003
Volunteer Management Program	-0.021	-0.043	-0.067	-0.091
Youth Activities Services	-0.018	-0.036	-0.053	-0.053
TOTAL	-0.802	-1.637	-2.492	-2.516

- d) See answer to part a) above.
- e) There is no impact anticipated on graduate recruitment plans.
- f) The impact is expected to be negligible.

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Output Group:

Cross Question No: 150

Topic: Australian Workplace Agreements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) How many staff are covered by Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) in your Department?
- b) Can you provide a breakdown of AWAs by gender and by classification?
- c) Can you tell me how many staff on AWAs are paid more than the band for their classification under the Certified Agreement?
- d) Why were these staff simply not promoted to a higher classification?

Answer:

- a) The number of staff covered by AWAs varies with staff movements to and from the Agency. As at 24 June there were 123 staff on AWAs in the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS).
- b) A breakdown of AWAs by gender and classification is outlined in the table below.

Classification	Male	Female	Number paid above Certified Agreement
FaCS B3 (APS 5-6)	3	3	3
Executive Level 1	10	7	13
Executive Level 2	25	29	23
SES 1	18	18	N/A
SES 2	3	5	N/A
SES 3	2	-	N/A
TOTAL	61	62	N/A

- c) Excluding SES staff, all of whom are on AWAs but do not have pay rates specified in the Certified Agreement, 39 of the 77 (non-SES) staff with AWAs have pay rates higher than the bands specified in the Certified Agreement.

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- d) The FaCS non-SES AWA Remuneration policy specifically provides that ‘It is not intended, for example, that an AWA should be used where a job should be reclassified and advertised for filling based on merit selection, or where temporary performance allowance could meet a demonstrated short term need for a higher salary payment’.

Circumstances where AWAs may be considered include where:

- the remuneration structure does not adequately recognise the unique aspects of the employee’s job;
- the employee’s skills, qualifications or experience add such ongoing value to their job or to FaCS outcomes that a higher personal salary is warranted;
- the offer of a payment for high performance could benefit FaCS; or
- it is necessary to offer additional remuneration or special conditions of employment to attract or retain the services of a highly valued employee.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 151

Topic: Performance pay

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is performance pay available under your Department's Certified Agreement?
- b) If not, how many staff in your Department are eligible for performance based pay?
- c) Please provide a breakdown of performance pay awarded for this financial year to date including the following details:
 - i. How many staff have received performance pay?
 - ii. What levels are those staff at?
 - iii. What gender, a breakdown please?
 - iv. How much has each staff member received?
 - v. When did they receive it?
 - vi. What was the rationale for awarding of performance pay in each instance?
 - vii. Did the Department head receive performance pay?
 - viii. How much?
 - ix. When?
 - x. On what grounds?

Answer:

- a) Performance pay is not available under the Department of Family and Community Services' Certified Agreement.
- b) The number of staff eligible for performance pay constantly varies with staff movements to and from the Department, however, for the 2004-05 financial year to 16 June 2005, 113 staff were eligible for performance pay under their Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA).

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- c) Please note that the majority of performance pay paid this year relates to the 2003-04 performance cycle, which concluded 31 July 2004. In addition to these payments, eligible staff may receive a pro-rata performance payment when leaving the Department.
- i. 110 staff excluding the Secretary have received performance pay.

ii.

Level of staff who received performance pay.

FaCS Executive Level 1	15
FaCS Executive Level 2	48
SES Level 1	37
SES Level 2	8
SES Level 3	2

- iii. Fifty males and 60 females received performance pay.
- iv. The chart below provides a summary of all performance payments paid in the 2003-04 financial year up till payday 16 June 2005.

Level	Staff Eligible	Staff Paid Female/Male	Amount Paid (\$)	Average (\$)	Range (\$)	
Executive Level 1	15	6	9	69,016	4,601	1,161-5,674
Executive Level 2	48	30	18	265,919	5,540	457-6,455
SES 1	39	19	18	242,842	6,563	902-18,748
SES 2	8	5	3	74,439	9,305	8,061-16,810
SES 3	2	0	2	21,600	10,800	*
	113	60	50	673,816		

*not disclosed for privacy reasons given small sample

- v. Dates of payment vary as the payment is not made until the performance assessment has been completed – the majority of payments were made by the end of October 2004.
- vi. Payment was based on an assessment of at least fully effective in their Individual Performance Management Agreement against enhanced performance criteria as required by the AWA Remuneration Policy.
- vii. Refer to response provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on behalf of all agencies.
- viii. Refer vii. above.
- ix. Refer vii. above.
- x. Refer vii. above.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 152

Topic: Legal Services – Outsourced Expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Outsourced Expenditure – Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)

- a) What amount did the Department spend during the financial year 2004-05 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others)?
- b) What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004-05?

Legal Services – Outsourced Expenditure – FaCS Agencies

- c) What amount did the Agencies spend during the financial year 2004-05 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others)?
- d) What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004-05?

Answer:

- a) \$1,839,166 as at 14 June 2005.
- b) \$1,690,000
- c)

Australian Institute of Family Studies	\$13,996
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	\$8,519
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd	\$246,058
- d)

Australian Institute of Family Studies	\$22,000
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	\$15,000
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd	\$250,000

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 153

Topic: Legal Services – Internal Expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Internal Services – FaCS

- a) What amount did the Department spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
- b) Does the Department have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004-05 actual cost of this section?
- c) What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004-05?
- d) What is the budgeted amount for this section in 2005-06?

Legal Services – Internal Services – FaCS Agencies

- e) What amount did the Agencies spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
- f) Do the Agencies have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004-05 actual cost of this section?
- g) What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004-05?
- h) What is the budgeted amount for this section in 2005-06?

Answer:

- a) \$2,131,455 as at 14 June 2005
- b) Yes. \$2,131,455 as at 14 June 2005
- c) \$2,375,322
- d) FaCS internal departmental Budgets are currently being finalised.
- e) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** Nil; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:**\$318,243; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** Nil.
- f) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** No; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:**\$318,243; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** No.
- g) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** N/A; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:**\$364,549; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** Nil.
- h) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** N/A; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:**\$389,400; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** Nil.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 154

Topic: Legal Services - Budget

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Budget – FaCS

a) What is the total projected expenditure on legal services in 2005-06 for the Department?

Legal Services – Budget – FaCS Agencies

b) What is the total projected expenditure on legal services in 2005-06 for the Agencies?

Answer:

a) We estimate expenditure of around \$4.5 million, noting that FaCS internal budget allocations are yet to be settled.

b) Australian Institute of Family Studies:	\$ 15,000;
Social Security Appeals Tribunal:	\$404,400;
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:	\$100,000.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 155

Topic: Legal Services - Contractors

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the department in 2004-05?
- b) In each instance how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
- c) In 2004-05 did the Department contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews, etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.

Legal Services – Contractors – For FaCS Agencies

- d) Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Agencies in 2004-05?
- e) In each instance how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
- f) In 2004-05 did the Agencies contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews, etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.

Answer:

- a) and b)

The following table outlines the organisations and/or individuals who were contracted to provide legal services to the Department of Family and Community Services and how much they were paid in 2004-05:

Name of organisation/individual	Amount paid to organisation (\$)
Phillips Fox	1,067,703
Clayton Utz	341,012
Deacons	157,562
Australian Government Solicitor	802,990
Mallesons Stephen Jacques	32,515

- c) No.

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d) and e)

The following tables outline the organisations and/or individuals who were contracted to provide legal services to each of the agencies under the Family and Community Services portfolio and how much they were paid in 2004-05:

Agency	Name of Legal Service	Amount paid to organisation (\$)
Australian Institute of Family Studies	Australian Government Solicitor	13,996
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	None	n/a
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd	Australian Government Solicitor	162,490
	Minter Ellison	83,568

f) In 2004-05 none of the Agencies contracted any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews, etc).

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 156

Topic: Legal Services – Tendering Processes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Tendering Processes – FaCS

- a) Does the Department use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, page 42) when procuring legal services?
- b) If a select tendering process is used:
 - i) Which method of select tendering is used? And
 - ii) Which firms or individual are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
- c) If a multi-use list is used;
 - i) Which firms or individuals are currently on that list?
 - ii) When was the list last open for applications?

Legal Services – Tendering Processes – For FaCS Agencies

- d) Do the Agencies use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, page 42) when procuring legal services?
- e) If a select tendering process is used:
 - i) Which method of select tendering is used? and
 - ii) Which firms or individual are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
- f) If a multi-use list is used;
 - i) Which firms or individuals are currently on that list?
 - ii) When was the list last open for applications?

Answer:

- a) In the last tender for legal services let in July 2004, FaCS used a select tender process, based on the relevant responses to an earlier market testing initiative.
- b)
 - i) The last tender let in July 2004 was a restricted tender to establish a panel of legal providers.
 - ii) N/A.
- c) N/A.

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- d) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** AIFS is not subject to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:** The SSAT uses the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines when purchasing goods and services. **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** Neither. AGS has been the appointed solicitor for the company since the 1970s.
- e) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** N/A; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:** N/A; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** N/A
- f) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** N/A; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:** N/A; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** N/A

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 157

Topic: Legal Services - Procurement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Procurement – Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)

- a) In 2004-05 did the Department obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

Legal Services – Procurement – For FaCS Agencies

- b) In 2004-05 did the Agencies obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

Answer:

- a) Yes. Legal Services were obtained from Mallesons, Stephen and Jaques for the provision of legal advice regarding the FaCS Legal Services tender which was let in July 2004. The cost was \$32,515.
- b) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** No;
Social Security Appeals Tribunal: Yes. Australian Government Solicitors, legal advice for an SSAT case, cost \$8,519; and
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd: Yes; Minter Ellison; Administrative law issue; \$83,568.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 158

Topic: Legal Services Covered Procurement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Legal Services – Covered Procurement – FaCS

- a) In 2004-05 did the Department procure any legal services under the thresholds required for ‘covered procurements’ (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

Legal Services – Covered Procurement – For FaCS Agencies

- b) In 2004-05 did the Agencies procure any legal services under the thresholds required for ‘covered procurements’ (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

Answer:

- a) Not since the revised Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines came into force on 1 January 2005.
- b) **Australian Institute of Family Studies:** N/A; **Social Security Appeals Tribunal:** N/A; **Aboriginal Hostels Ltd:** No.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 159

Topic: Staffing - Linguistics

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Regarding the employees that your department has identified as having:

- a) fluency;
- b) accredited translator; and
- c) accredited interpreter;

Of these employees please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and those who were not.

Answer:

The Department currently has one person identified in the above categories (the service provided by the other employee in our original response to Question on Notice No.9, Supplementary Estimates Hearing in December 2004, is no longer required). The skills are used on a daily basis on work within the International Branch, including monitoring foreign language newspapers. The staff member has National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accreditation and receives a small allowance in recognition of the use of the skill. Managers in the area are aware of and fully utilise the skill. The Department does not pay for accreditation of its employees.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 160

Topic: Primary Customer

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

- a) Minister – why did you issue advice to FaCS staff directing that you are the primary customer of that Department?
- b) Given that FaCS and Centrelink have policy and delivery responsibilities to millions of Australians, why would the Minister of that Department be the number one customer?
- c) Does this infer that your needs are more important than those of the income support recipients?
- d) Why are FaCS staff instructed at training sessions to focus their energies on the Minister as the primary customer?

Answer:

- a) I did not advise or direct my department on this. In its own strategic planning process, the Department identified me as its primary customer for its policy services in the context of its role in serving the Government of the day.
- b) The term primary customer used in the Department's Strategic Plan simply refers to the Department's aim to ensure that I receive the best quality advice in a timely fashion to enable me to make the best decisions for the millions of Australians who benefit from the programs of the Department.
- c) No.
- d) There is no instruction from me in relation to staff training. The Department is implementing its new Strategic Framework and reinforcing key messages at training sessions.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 167

Topic: Efficiency Dividend - Increase

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What is the total value 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend that FaCS will now have to hand back to the Government in each of the next four financial years?
- b) Provide a full breakdown of how the 1.25 per cent worth of efficiencies will be funded.

Answer:

- a) A breakdown showing the approximate additional annual amount of the efficiency dividend, per year, is* :

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Administered	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-3.4
Departmental	-17.4	-17.5	-17.6	-14.1
Total	-21.4	-21.6	-21.7	-17.5

- b) A significant component of the departmental efficiency dividend relates to Centrelink and will be met by reducing payments to Centrelink. The remainder of the efficiency dividend will be funded through a variety of cost reduction strategies which the department is still considering.

* Discrepancies are due to rounding.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 168

Topic: Efficiency Dividend - Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Will there have to be any staff cuts within the Department itself? If so, please indicate how many staff will be affected?
- b) Will there have to be staff cuts in any agencies within the FaCS portfolio? If so, please indicate how many staff will be affected?

Answer:

- a) The Department is still assessing its budget position for 2005-06, including the impact of the efficiency dividend.
- b) No staff cuts are anticipated in agencies within the FaCS portfolio.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 169

Topic: Welfare Reform Task Force - FaCS Involvement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Indicate the periods in which the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) officials worked on secondment to the Welfare Reform Task Force in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- b) Provide dates for each occasion that the secondments occurred.
- c) What level were the FaCS Officials who were seconded to the PM&C taskforce?

Answer:

- a) and b)

One officer was seconded to the Task Force for the period between 24 February 2005 and 10 May 2005 inclusive.

- c) Executive Level 2.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No:170

Topic: Staffing Issues – Breakdown of Staffing Levels (update of QON 101)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Provide an update of the tables in response to QoN 101 from February estimates.

(QON 101: Please provide an update of the full breakdown of FaCS staff by level, location, gender, part time/full time status etc.)

Answer:

The following tables outline FaCS staffing as at 31 May 2005.

FaCS Staffing by Classification (Level)*

Secretary	1
SES Band 3	3
SES Band 2	8
SES Band 1	43
FACS Executive Level 2	199
FACS Executive Level 1	511
FACS Broadband 3 - APS 5/6	743
FACS Broadband 2 - APS 3/4	289
FACS Broadband 1 - APS 1/2	47
Trainee/Indigenous Cadet	2
Legal 2	8
Legal 1	8
Public Affairs Officer Grade 3	12
Public Affairs Officer Grade 2	13
Public Affairs Officer Grade 1	4
Total	1891

* The number of Graduates are included within the appropriate Broadband levels.

FaCS Staffing by Location

ACT	1297
New South Wales	122
Northern Territory	66
Queensland	127
South Australia	61
Tasmania	24
Victoria	117
Western Australia	76
Overseas	1
Total	1891

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FaCS Staffing by Gender

Female	1259
Male	632
Total	1891

FaCS Staffing by Employment Status

Ongoing Full Time	1510
Ongoing Part Time	256
Non-ongoing Full Time	90
Non-ongoing Part Time	24
Casuals	11
Total	1891

FaCS Staffing by Age Group

<20	7
20-24	74
25-29	178
30-34	222
35-39	312
40-44	326
45-49	339
50-54	267
55-59	108
60-64	46
65+	12
Total	1891

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 171

Topic: Internal Fraud Investigations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) How many cases of fraud have been investigated by the Department in each of the last three financial years?
- b) What action has the Department taken in response to cases of fraud?
- c) How are such cases investigated?
- d) Have any FaCS officials been stood aside/suspended on full pay/part pay/no pay as a result of fraud investigations? Provide details on each occasion on which this has occurred.

Answers:

- a) The following table depicts how many cases of reported fraud have been investigated by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) in each of the last three financial years:

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Cases of reported fraud</u>
2002-03	6
2003-04	6
2004-05	3

- b) In each case of reported fraud the available evidence is assessed and a decision made as to whether it will be pursued as a breach of the APS Code of Conduct a breach of the criminal law, or both.
- c) At the conclusion of internal preliminary investigations, minor breaches of the APS Code of Conduct are investigated by FaCS staff. More serious matters are referred to an external investigator.
- d) As a result of investigations over the last three financial years two officials have been suspended on full pay. One official subsequently resigned from the APS before the Code of Conduct matter was finalised. The other official remains suspended pending consideration by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions of a criminal brief of evidence and whilst FaCS conducts a Code of Conduct investigation. In both cases there was a reasonable belief the employees had breached the Code of Conduct and, it was in the public or FaCS' interest to suspend them.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 172

Topic: Internal Fraud Investigations - Prevention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What structures does FaCS have in place to handle and prevent fraud?
- b) What structures/systems does FaCS have in place to protect whistleblowers?

Answer:

- a) A Fraud Control Plan is in place that complies with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines*.

The FaCS Fraud Control Officer is responsible for the management and coordination of fraud investigations, providing fraud awareness training and advice on policy, guidelines and procedures to FaCS staff.

- b) FaCS structures in place to protect whistleblowers are compliant with the provisions of Section 16 of the Public Service Act 1999 and Division 2.2 of the Public Service Regulations 1999.

Whistleblowing Procedures are available to all staff on its Intranet site.

FaCS has in place an Employee Assistance Program that provides counselling, free of charge, to all employees (including whistleblowers) and their immediate family.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 173

Topic: Internal Fraud - Legal Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How much has FaCS spent on legal advice/representation in respect of investigations of fraud in the department? Provide this information for each case of fraud that has been investigated in each of the last three financial years.

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) is unable to provide figures for the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04, as the information is not individually recorded on our records. FaCS sought legal advice for one case during the 2004-05 financial year at a total cost of \$19,873.70.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 191

Topic: Crisis Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Has the Crisis Payment been reviewed?
- b) What was the purpose of this review?
- c) What were its main findings?
- d) What has been the Government's response?
- e) What action will be taken in response to the findings in the report?
- f) Is the Government considering whether to extend the payment to victims of violence who stay in their home after their perpetrator leaves? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a) As part of Centrelink's ongoing efforts to continuously improve its administration and delivery of Australian Government payments and services, Centrelink conducted an internal review of its administration of Crisis Payment.
- b) The review was undertaken as part of Centrelink's standard business processes.
- c) The review covers a broad range of issues and highlights areas where Crisis Payment policy and legislation could be changed to reach a wider target group.
- d) The Government has noted the findings of the review.
- e) Some of the issues raised in the review have already been addressed and others are currently being progressed.
- f) The Department of Family and Community Services is currently investigating possible options to assist victims of violence who stay in their home after the perpetrator leaves.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: T8

Topic: FaCS staff within Indigenous Coordination Centres

Hansard Page: Question taken on notice

Senator McLucas asked:

How many staff does FaCS have within Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) and where are these staff located?

Answer:

On 1 April , 2005, there were 99 FaCS positions within ICCs, including solution brokers located within or undertaking work with urban ICCs.

ICC Location	Total Pos
Alice Springs	8
Bourke	2
Brisbane	2
Broome	3
Cairns	12
Ceduna	4
Coffs Harbour	2
Darwin	1
Derby	4
Geraldton	3
Hobart	1
Kalgoorlie	5
Katherine	4
Kununurra	5
Melbourne	1
Mount Isa	4
Nhulunbuy	4
Perth	1
Port Augusta	7
Queanbeyan	2
Rockhampton	3
Roma	4
South Hedland	3
Sydney	1
Tamworth	2
Tennant Creek	4
Townsville	4
Wagga Wagga	3
Total	99

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: T14

Topic: Wadeye COAG Trial Site

Hansard Page: CA question taken on notice

Senator McLucas asked:

How much FaCS funding is going into the COAG trial at Wadeye? How many consultancies has FaCS funded for the Wadeye trial?

Answer:

Wadeye was announced as the COAG site for the Northern Territory in November 2002. On 21 March 2003, Wadeye residents, the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government signed a Shared Responsibility Agreement.

Funding was provided from the Office of Indigenous Policy Flexible Funding Pool (\$668,500 in 2003/04 and \$375,500 in 2004/05) for: assisting people at Wadeye to participate in the COAG trial; construction industry support and development of the concrete factory; corporate sponsorship development; visitor accommodation; and Rural Transaction Centre renovations.

FaCS funding for the Wadeye COAG trial site:

- Emergency Relief funding (\$3,000 for 2003-04 and 2004-05)
- Family and Community Networks Initiative funding for 2004-05 relating to family, economic money management and women initiatives (\$398,192 for 2003-04 and \$278,344)
- Youth Activities Services to support community work with youth (\$25,152 in 2003-04 and \$27,580 in 2004-05)
- Fixing Houses for Better Health project to survey housing stock, fix problems and provide the local people with skills to fix emergency problems themselves (\$818,487 in 2003-04)
- Funds announced by the Prime Minister on 6 April 2004² for intensive support playgroups (\$30,000 in 2004-05 plus \$156,000pa for each of the next three years) and a vehicle for mobile playgroup (\$130,000 in 2004-05)
- Innovative childcare project to suit local conditions and needs expressed by local parents (\$150,000 in 2004-05 plus \$140,000pa for each of the next two years)
- Stronger Families and Communities funding for the Wadeye women's group to employ a facilitator to help them plan and buy fit out equipment (eg sewing machines) for the women's center (\$25,464 in 2003-04)
- Community Infrastructure funding (\$158,300 for 2003-04 and \$135,012 for 2004-05)
- Municipal Services funding (\$330,036 for 2003-04 and \$316,963 for 2004-05)
- Family Violence funding to support the employment of social worker by Thamarrurr Council to look at models of service delivery for family well-being issues (\$21,649 for 2003-04 and \$50,000 for 2004-05)

Consultancies:

In addition to the CAEPR research consultancy, PM&D Architects was engaged as part of the Fixing Houses for Better Health 3 Projects.

² On 6 April 2005, the Prime Minister announced \$2.7 million funding package for Wadeye. The package also included projects from the Department of Education, Science and Training (\$234,000 for computer equipment for two classrooms; a cultural coordinator to manage the reintegration of children into school; and healthy morning teas and lunches) and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (\$2m for a broadband link between Daly River and Wadeye and the communities of Palumpa and Peppimenarti).

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Question No: 4

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Achievements and Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

The Wadeye Council of Australian Government (COAG) project has been running for some time now, since July 2003.

- a) What are the achievements to date as perceived by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)?
- b) Are there any concrete outcomes?

Answer:

a) and b)

Wadeye was announced as the COAG site for the Northern Territory in November 2002. On 21 March 2003, Wadeye residents, the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government signed a Shared Responsibility Agreement.

On 6 April 2005 the Prime Minister visited Wadeye and announced a package of over \$2.7 million of practical assistance. The package provides:

- \$2 million for a broadband link between Daly River and Wadeye and the communities of Palumpa and Peppimenarti;
- \$546,000 over four years to establish a new intensive support playgroup; and
- \$234,000 to assist the school at Wadeye broken down into:
 - \$80,000 to purchase computer equipment for two classrooms;
 - \$114,000 over three years for a cultural coordinator to manage the reintegration of children into school, building on the 'No School, No Pool' policy; and
 - a \$40,000 contribution in 2005 to a joint initiative of the Thamarrurr Regional Council, Mi Patha Takeaway and parents providing healthy morning teas and lunches.

There are improved relationships, lines of accountability and understanding of the issues across Australian and Northern Territory Government representatives and Wadeye residents.

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Other specific initiatives by Australian and Northern Territory Governments are:

- Initiatives at the school to increase school attendance including:
 - establishment of a Kardu Luruth Ngala Centre at the school, employing local people to assist the students to settle into school;
 - allocation of three extra teachers to establish orientation classes;
 - employment of an Education Coordinator which links the Thumarrurr Council with the school and the community;
 - roll-out of a secondary school curriculum for the first time;
 - establishment of a cultural studies curriculum involving many local people in its development; and
 - the 'No School, No Pool' policy.
- Construction of a factory to allow for all year round construction of houses.
- Funding for the Rural Transaction Centre.
- Development of a coordinated employment and training plan, resulting in up to 16 apprenticeships being offered in the construction industry.

Community engagement has also been enhanced during the trial, for example, through: discussion of issues impacting on families particularly around serious issues such as child protection; engaging the community around their interest in land and family issues; and exploration of economic development opportunities.

In 2003, Dr John Taylor from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research at the Australian National University was commissioned by the Northern Territory Government to produce a baseline profile of social and economic conditions in Wadeye at the beginning of the trial. In 2004, Dr Taylor and Owen Stanley from the James Cook University were commissioned by the Tripartite Steering Committee of the Wadeye COAG Trial (Northern Territory Government, FaCS and the Thumarrurr Regional Council) to estimate the cost to the Australian community of Indigenous socio-economic disadvantage in Wadeye.

On 17 March 2005, the Thumarrurr community wrote to the Australian and Northern Territory Governments thanking them for the work done in Wadeye. They noted:

We congratulate you both for the determination and courage shown by yourselves and your Governments in addressing the social/economic issues experienced in remote Australia... Our people are confident that continued solidarity within the COAG partnership combined with our own determination to normalise the social/economic conditions of our people will result in a commonsense, strategic approach in addressing these issues. We live in times of change and change is needed.

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Question No: 5

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Consultants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Has the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) sought any advice or support from consultants on communication with Indigenous people during the life of this trial?
- b) Have any other consultancies been funded as part of this trial?

Answer:

- a) While not engaged by FaCS, the Thamarrurr Regional Council employed Mr Domenic McCormack as an interpreter. His services have assisted communication between the Australian Government and the Thamarrurr Regional Councillors who have English as a second or third language.
- b) In 2003, Dr John Taylor of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research (CAEPR) at the Australian National University was commissioned by the Northern Territory Government to produce a baseline profile of social and economic conditions in Wadeye at the beginning of the trial.

As part of the “Fixing Houses for Better Health 3 Projects” conducted in 2003-04, PM&D Architects was engaged to assess and repair urgent safety and health faults and to help set up a system for the community to assess and repair these items on a regular basis. The total value of the consultancy was \$154,105.

In 2004, Dr John Taylor of CAEPR and Owen Stanley from the James Cook University were commissioned by the Tripartite Steering Committee of the Wadeye COAG Trial (Northern Territory Government, FaCS and the Thamarrurr Regional Council) to estimate the cost to the Australian community of Indigenous socio-economic disadvantage in Wadeye. FaCS contributed \$83,000 (plus indexation) to the research project under a multi-year research agreement with CAEPR.

In 2004, CAEPR was commissioned by FaCS to research capacity building for data management and governance purposes. This project is building the capacity of local people to understand, maintain, update and use the Thamarrurr Region Information System for governance purposes, such as planning, policy development, monitoring and evaluation. FaCS funded the capacity research under a multi-year research agreement with funding of \$83,000 in 2004 and \$55,334 (plus indexation) in 2005.

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Question No: 6

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Whole of government approach

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) How has the whole of government approach helped?
- b) What problems have been encountered with the whole of government approach?

Answer:

a) and b)

COAG has set a national framework of principles for delivering services to Indigenous Australians. Australian Government agencies are required to work together in a coordinated way to improve service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. A Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs provides leadership and strategic direction at the national level advised by the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs and the National Indigenous Council. Under the direction of the Ministerial Taskforce, agencies are also collaborating on the design of whole of government policy initiatives and proposals for the redirection of resources to priority areas and to ways of working that have demonstrated their effectiveness in achieving better outcomes for Indigenous people. A key part of the whole of government approach has also involved working closely with the Northern Territory Government. All levels of government recognise the challenge of working with Indigenous communities across bureaucratic demarcations.

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Question No: 8

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Costings

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) How much money has been spent in total on the various projects at Wadeye since this trial commenced?
- b) Can you give us a breakdown by activity for each year?
- c) Has being the lead agency incurred any additional costs for you? If so, what are they?

Answer:

a) and b)

The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) provided \$668,500 in 2003-04 and \$375,500 in 2004-05 for:

- assisting people at Wadeye to participate in the COAG trial;
- construction industry support and development of the concrete factory;
- corporate sponsorship development;
- visitor accommodation; and
- Rural Transaction Centre renovations.

The Department of Family and Community Services has contributed:

- Emergency Relief funding
- \$3,000 for 2003-04 and \$3000 2004-05;
- Family and Community Networks Initiative funding to support family, money management and women initiatives
- \$398,192 for 2003-04 and \$278,344 for 2004-05;
- Youth Activities Services to support community work with youth
- \$25,152 in 2003-04 and \$27,580 in 2004-05;
- Fixing Houses for Better Health project to survey housing stock, fix problems and provide the local people with skills to fix emergency problems themselves - \$818,487 in 2003-04;

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- Funds announced by the Prime Minister on 6 April 2004³ for intensive support playgroups
 - \$30,000 in 2004-05 plus \$156,000pa for each of the next three years and
 - \$130,000 in 2004-05 for a vehicle for mobile playgroup;
 - Innovative childcare project to suit local conditions and needs expressed by local parents
 - \$150,000 in 2004-05 plus \$140,000pa for each of the next two years;.
 - Stronger Families and Communities funding for the Wadeye women's group to employ a facilitator to help them plan and buy equipment (eg sewing machines) for the women's centre
 - \$25,464 in 2003-04;
 - Community Infrastructure funding
 - \$158,300 for 2003-04 and \$135,012 for 2004-05;
 - Municipal Services funding
 - \$330,036 for 2003-04 and \$316,963 for 2004-05; and
 - Family Violence funding to support the employment of social worker by Thamarrurr Council to look at models of service delivery for family well-being issues
 - \$21,649 for 2003-04 and \$50,000 for 2004-05.
- c) In addition to this program expenditure, FACS officers in the Northern Territory work with the OIPC to monitor and advise FaCS on issues in Wadeye. Support is also provided by FaCS National and Northern Territory Offices to brief the Secretary of FaCS in his role as lead Secretary for Wadeye.

¹ On 6 April 2005 the Prime Minister announced \$2.7 million funding package for Wadeye. The package also included projects from the Department of Education, Science and Training (\$234,000 for computer equipment for two classrooms; a cultural coordinator to manage the reintegration of children into school; and healthy morning teas and lunches) and the Department of Communications, Information and Technology and the Arts (\$2million for a broadband link between Daly River and Wadeye and the communities of Palumpa and Peppimenarti).

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Question No: 9

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – New Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Are there any new initiatives now planned?
- b) Where does this trial go from here?

Answer:

- a) Trial initiatives are ongoing as part of the Department of Family and Community Services' commitment to the Wadeye Shared Responsibility Agreement.
- b) A plan is being developed at a tripartite level to deliver on four key themes:
 - c) Institutions and economic development;
 - d) Infrastructure and construction;
 - e) Social development; and
 - Natural and cultural resources management.

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Question No: 12

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) How much has been spent on housing and how many houses built since this COAG trial began?
- b) How many bedrooms are included in those houses?
- c) Have FaCS analysed how many houses and bedrooms are still needed to achieve an occupancy level closer to the Australian norm? If so, what is that? If not, why?

Answer:

a) and b)

Over \$900,000 has been spent on housing construction and renovation since the COAG trial began.

Two houses have been renovated at a cost of \$246,500 and construction of two, four bedroom houses is underway.

- c) FaCS has worked closely with the Northern Territory Government and the Thamarrurr Regional Council to develop appropriate strategies to meet the high level of housing need in this region and to support the Council to meet its planning objectives. FaCS has used a range of sources to analyse need including the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research paper, *Social Indicators for Aboriginal Governance: Insights from the Thamarrurr Region, Northern Territory*. This paper explores the difficulties in establishing a precise measure of housing need arising from the stock and flow nature of housing assets and the impact of population mobility.

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Question No: 20

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Indigenous workers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Do you know how many Indigenous workers were involved in building these houses?
- b) Were they qualified or undergoing accredited training?

Answer:

- a) Twelve Indigenous trainees have been recruited to work on the houses now under construction. This is in addition to Indigenous workers employed by building companies contracted in Wadeye.
- b) The trainees are undertaking Certificate 2 and 3 in general house construction with the accredited training being carried out by Batchelor Institute. Two trainer builders will be on site.

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Question No: 25

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Budgeting 2005-06

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Do you know how much is budgeted for new houses or major renovations for 2005-06?

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government through the Indigenous Housing Authority of the Northern Territory has allocated \$1.35 million to the Thamarrurr Regional Council for the 2005-06 financial year to construct two, four bedroom houses and two ablution facilities for existing dwellings and to undertake two major and four minor house renovations.

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Question No: 28

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Accountability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

There are now several Government Departments supposedly working together at Wadeye to achieve positive outcomes. But to whom are these accountable – to the community or back to their own offices?

Answer:

Day to day accountability for progress in the Wadeye trial site has been given to the Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services. He is a member of the Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Issues, chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Government representatives in Wadeye work with the community and the Thamarrurr Council as part of the commitment to share responsibility for making real changes through the development of the Shared Responsibility Agreement. They have reporting obligations to their own agencies and are accountable to the Australian Parliament through their Minister in the usual manner.

The Minister with overall responsibility and accountability for the whole of government initiative is Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

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Question No: 29

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Evaluation Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Could you give us an update on progress towards an evaluation scheme for this trial?

Answer:

There is an evaluation process for all trial sites. COAG trial evaluations are being undertaken either by the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) or the lead agency for the site. In the case of Wadeye, FaCS will be managing the evaluation in full consultation with OIPC. The Wadeye evaluation will be undertaken by an independent evaluator.

The evaluation of all COAG trials has two stages. The first part is to be completed by the end of 2005 and will be a formative evaluation of individual COAG trial sites. The second part is a summative evaluation in 2007-08. Both the 2005 and 2007-08 evaluations will be followed by a meta evaluation managed by OIPC. All evaluations of the trial sites will be undertaken by independent evaluators.

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Question No: 30

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Research Report “The Opportunity Costs of the Status Quo in the Thamarrurr Region” by John Taylor and Owen Stanley

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In this it is said at page 71 that the single largest FaCS contribution has been the *Fixing Housing for Better Health Project* in 2003-04.

- a) Is this still the largest program and how much has been spent in 2004-05 and how much is budgeted in 2005-06?
- b) How many Indigenous people are employed in this program?
- c) Are they paid out of program funds or are they on CDEP?

Answer:

- a) Under the Fixing Houses for Better Health Project, Thamarrurr Regional Council received funding for the 2003-04 financial year from the Department of Family and Community Services. Fixing Houses for Better Health Projects are one-off projects. No funds were provided to Thamarrurr Regional Council for Fixing Houses for Better Health projects in 2004-05 and no funds are budgeted for 2005-06.
- b) In 2003-04, 56 Indigenous people were employed in the Fixing Houses for Better Health project in the Thamarrurr region.
- c) The 2003-04 budget for Fixing Houses for Better Health projects included funding for Indigenous community staff to be employed on survey/fix teams at a rate of \$25 per hour. Survey/fix team members were registered for CDEP wages and received “top-up” for the hours they worked.

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Question No: 32

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Wadeye COAG Project – Research Report “The Opportunity Costs of the Status Quo in the Thamurrurr Region” by John Taylor and Owen Stanley

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

The report found on page 94 among other things that there was a structural imbalance of funding at Thamurrurr with proportionately more spent on “negative” areas like justice and unemployment benefits and less on “positive” or capacity building aspects such as education, training and employment.

- a) Since that report came out in February this year has any discussion taken place about such findings?
- b) What is FaCS’ response to this claim?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) has discussed the reports findings with stakeholders including the Wadeye community, the Northern Territory Government, and other Commonwealth agencies.
- b) The Australian Government is committed to making a difference at Wadeye and has significant engagement with Wadeye through its recognition as a COAG trial site. The Prime Minister visited Wadeye on 6 April 2005, announcing a package of over \$2.7 million dollars of practical assistance.

On 17 March 2005 leaders of the Thamurrurr Council wrote to the Prime Minister and the Northern Territory Chief Minister in the context of the release of the report, congratulating them on their commitment to remote Australia and reaffirming their loyalty to the Shared Responsibility Agreement. They noted:

We congratulate you both for the determination and courage shown by yourselves and your Governments in addressing the social/economic issues experienced in remote Australia... Our people are confident that continued solidarity within the COAG partnership combined with our own determination to normalise the social/economic conditions of our people will result in a commonsense, strategic approach in addressing these issues. We live in times of change and change is needed.

The report was commissioned to attempt to cost the implications of maintaining the status quo at Wadeye. The researchers faced considerable challenges. The methodology in the report is very innovative and therefore some assumptions are contestable.

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The data is from 2003 and is not indicative of the current situation. For example, the Government has established a fledging construction industry by funding a concrete factory, meaning local people can be trained in valuable trades. Over a year ago, the Australian Government funded a swimming pool in Wadeye and the community has implemented a “No School, No Pool” rule. The Australian Government is working with the Northern Territory Government and the people of Wadeye to turn things around. Progress is being made and improvement will continue.

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Question No: 13

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy

Hansard Page: CA54

Senator Moore asked:

Can you provide a list of projects funded under the National Homelessness strategy?

Answer:

A list of projects funded under the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) is at **Attachment A**.

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NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY (NHS) - DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Project	Agency	\$	Start	Finish	Description
Priority Area One: Improving access for homeless people to the Job Network and Centrelink					
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	5/04 – 4/05		The National Homelessness Strategy is contributing funding to the evaluation of this groundbreaking project being implemented by a consortium of community agencies. The project will trial 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 will assist 240 jobseekers over three years.
Preventing Centrelink Breaches	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	65,000	6/01-1/03 Completed		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	5/03 – 1/04 Completed		Reprint of further 2,000 wall charts and 50,000 wallet cards for distribution through SAAP services.
Centrelink Community Officers	Centrelink	540,000	7/01-6/02 Completed		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.
<i>Parity</i> Edition	Council to Homeless Persons	20,000	4/01-2/02 Completed		An edition of <i>Parity</i> containing information on Centrelink and homelessness was published in August 2001.

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Project	Agency	\$	Start	Finish	Description
Cross Match Project	Hanover Welfare Services, Vic	28,140	6/01-11/01	Completed	<p>d) 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> <p>Report is available on NHS website.</p>
Working Out of Homelessness Charles O'Neil Project	St Vincent de Paul	51,370	5/01-5/02	Completed	<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 NHS website.</p> <p>http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/homelessness/\$File/Charles_ONeill_final_report.pdf</p>

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Project	Agency	\$	Start	Finish	Description
Homebound	Centrelink and SAAP Agencies	37,000	6/02-10/02	Completed	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.
Priority Area Two: Supporting Families in Housing Stress					
Uniting Families Project	Uniting Care Harrison Community Services	150,000	5/04	4/05	This project involves 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 aims to reduce youth homelessness by stabilising young people within their families. Immediate support will be offered to families in crisis. Families will be 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.
Family Makeover Project	Wesley Mission	200,000	5/04	4/05	This project will help families at risk of homelessness to develop independent living skills. They will have access to a wide range of counselling and community services while living in a community housing setting.

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Project	Agency	\$	Start	Finish	Description
Family Caravan Park Pilot	Newcastle University	153, 711 (Child care funding 842,480)	6/01-4/03	Completed	<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 NHS 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	6/02 - 2/04	Completed	<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.</p> <p>http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-national_family_homelessness_project.htm</p>

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Priority Area Three: Developing a Strategic direction to prevent Indigenous Homelessness				
Development of Training Materials for Use in Rural and Remote Regions	Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	100,000	5/04 – 6/05	This project will implement 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 will develop the materials to support this training, which will be delivered by experts from the homelessness sector in rural and remote regions around Australia. First-to-know agencies include hospitals, health centres and schools. There will be a strong Indigenous component in this project.
Indigenous Families Pilot Homeless and Parenting Program Initiative (HAPPI)	Centacare SA	160,071	7/01 – 6/02 Completed	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	7/02 – 6/03 Completed	Extension for further 12 months approved due to the projects success in engaging Indigenous families. Ongoing funding to be provided by SA government. 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	11/01 – 10/03 Completed	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/_md1nna5r55lmm2r3gc40iqrlehl62sj15pk78r8_
Traditional Living Transitional Lifestyle Project	Adelaide Central Community Health Services	107 500	5/04 – 6/05	Trial of the model developed in the above project.

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Indigenous Safe Houses Pilot	QLD Dept of Families	100,000	6/02 - 2/04 Completed	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	6/02 – 3/03 Completed	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-iipd.htm
Priority Area Four: Developing information and education tools for young people				
Schools Research Project	NFO CM Research	86,138	3/01 – 6/01 Completed	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	6/02 – 5/03 Completed	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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Roofs for Youths	Youth Affairs Council of WA	53,293	6/02 -1/04 Completed	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
Waarvah	Pierson Services QLD	110,000	5/02 - 6/04 Completed	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
The Lighthouse Model of Care	Lighthouse Foundation	100,000	9/04-5/05	The project will further develop the Lighthouse Model of Care by strengthening the Light4ce element through the development of accredited education course. It will also develop an intranet site which will facilitate both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Lighthouse Model of Care. This site will then be used to undertake qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the model.

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Priority Area Five: Developing strategies to prevent people exiting institutional care from becoming homeless				
Young Offenders Support Program (YOSP)	Anglicare TAS	70,000	6/01 – 3/03 Completed	<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)
Youth Action Housing Options (YAHO)	SEMYA	70,000	6/01 – 10/02 Completed	<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>
Housing Options for People with a Mental Illness	Top End Association for Mental Health Inc NT	118,000	6/02 - 2/04 Completed	<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>

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Priority Area Six: Developing strategies to prevent young people who have been in care from becoming homeless				
No projects funded to this date				
Other Projects				
Family and Community Network Initiative	Mission Australia	250,000	5/04 – 6/05	Mission Australia are 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.
Wrestling Wicked Problems	Northside Community Service	5,000	Ending 6/04 Completed	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	5/04 - 4/05	This project involves a partnership between private legal firms and community agencies. Private legal practitioners will provide targeted legal information, advice and representation to homeless people. Six law firms and five host welfare agencies have committed to participating in the pilot project. The project will be implemented using an action research model, with the service delivery model regularly reviewed and adapted over the life of the project. The project will identify the legal issues faced by homeless people and recommend how these can be resolved.
Best Practice Report on Sentencing Alternatives for Homeless People	Queensland University of Technology	3,000	Ending 6/04 Completed	This research project will examine 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)

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Older Persons Project	Wintringham	82,110	5/02 - 5/04 Completed	This project provides 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 will be available on the FaCS Website.
Counting the Cost of Homelessness - A systematic review of primary studies of pathways into homelessness	AHURI	20,000	6/02 – 8/03 Completed	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
National Dissemination Project	University of Newcastle		1/02 - 6/03 Completed	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	40,000	Completed	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	40,000	Completed	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
No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)	Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services	50,000	9/04-5/05	Funding to support a National Coordinator for the NILS scheme.

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Question No: 14

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Unmet demand for homelessness services

Hansard Page: CA60

Senator Moore asked:

How often are surveys done on unmet demand for homelessness services?

Answer:

Surveys on unmet demand for homelessness services funded under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program are undertaken twice a year and then collated to provide an annual figure for unmet demand. As a result of the cycle of demand collections data is usually published about 12 months after the collection year. As such 2002-03 is currently the most recent data, with 2003-04 being available in two to three months.

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Question No: 15

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: AIHW SAAP reports

Hansard Page: CA60

Senator Moore asked:

How often are the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) reports published?

Answer:

The AIHW publishes two reports on SAAP each year. The reports are the:

- SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report; and
- Demand for SAAP Assistance by Homeless People Report.

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Question No: 16

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Accompanied children presented at SAAP services

Hansard Page: CA65

Senator Moore asked:

How many children accompanied by an adult, have presented at Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services?

Answer:

There were 52,700 children accompanying an adult or adults who were assisted by SAAP services in 2003-04.

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Question No: 17

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness

Hansard Page: CA57

Senator Moore asked:

How many times has the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) met?

Answer:

The new committee is taken to refer to the committee appointed in February 2004. During the period February 2004 to February 2005 CACH has met twice (March and August 2004). Since the appointment of the new CACH Chair, Mary Wooldridge, in February 2005, the committee has met once (in April 2005) and has two further meetings scheduled (August and October 2005).

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Question No: 18

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness

Hansard Page: CA57

Senator Moore asked:

Is there a quorum for the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH)?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) operates under a set of Operating Guidelines. In relation to a quorum, the Guidelines state:

“A quorum for a meeting is two thirds of the membership of the CACH.”

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Question No: 21

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: CA47

Senator Bartlett asked:

Can we provide the number and reasons for Rent Assistance reviews and appeals as referred to on p17 of the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)?

Answer:

The question refers to the PBS for 2005-06 therefore the actual number of Rent Assistance appeals for the forward year is not available.

An average of over 951,000 individuals and families are in receipt of Rent Assistance each fortnight (current for the financial year 2004-05). For the financial year 2004-05 to date, the number of Rent Assistance appeals and decisions is provided in the following tables.

Centrelink Area Review Officer (ARO):

Month	Original Decision Affirmed	Original Decision Set Aside	Original Decision Varied	Withdrawn	Total
Number	166	84	38	6	294
% of ARO appeals	56.5%	28.6%	12.9%	2%	100%

- In the PBS for 2004-05, the **estimated** percentage of ARO appeals where the original decision would be changed was 40 per cent.
- For July 2004 to May 2005, **41.5 per cent** of original decisions were **actually** changed following ARO appeals.

Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT):

Month	Original Decision Affirmed	Original Decision Set Aside	Original Decision Varied	Dismissed	Total
Number	29	19	2	5	50
% of SSAT appeals	58%	38%	4%	10%	100%

- In the PBS for 2004-05, the **estimated** percentage of SSAT appeals where the original decision would be changed was 30 per cent.
- For July 2004 to May 2005, **42 per cent** of original decisions were **actually** changed following appeals to the SSAT.

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Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT):

Month	Original Decision Affirmed	Original Decision Set Aside	Dismissed (by Consent or Withdrawn)	Total
Number	4	3	6	13
% of AAT appeals	31%	23%	46%	100%

- In the PBS for 2004-05, the **estimated** percentage of AAT appeals where the original decision would be changed was 50 per cent.
- For July 2004 to May 2005, **23 per cent** of original decisions were **actually** changed following AAT appeals.

Reasons for the appeals and/or decisions are not available.

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Question No: 38

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) - Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The Department of Family and Community Services website identified four elements to the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP):

- Housing;
- Infrastructure;
- National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS); and
- Program Support.

Provide an estimated breakdown of funding to each element of the program for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Answer:

The estimated breakdown of CHIP funding to each element of the program for 2004-05 as at 31 May 2005 is as follows:

	2004-05 (million)
• Housing and related Infrastructure	\$147.6
• Municipal Services	\$ 45.8
• National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) includes Aboriginal Army Community Assistance Program (AACAP)	\$ 56.4
• Fixing Houses for Better Health	\$ 3.0

The 2005-06 figures are not available at this point in time as they are subject to the finalisation of the strategy for the next round of National Aboriginal Health Strategy projects and other projects funded through CHIP. However, 2005-06 allocations will be guided by the 2004-05 allocations outlined above.

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Question No: 58

Output Group: 2.1 Practical support and sharing responsibility

Topic: Community Housing and Infrastructure Housing (CHIP) – Policy and Consultation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) What is the process for developing the new Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure policy, which is due to be completed by December 2005?
- b) How will Indigenous people and organisations be involved in developing the new policy?
- c) How will states and territories be consulted?

Answer:

- a) The process for reviewing the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) policy will include consideration of the CHIP Guidelines. At this stage it is expected that the review will be completed during 2006, as it will include consideration of the impact of the new Indigenous affairs arrangements and the Machinery of Government changes.
- b) It is expected that Indigenous people and organisations will be involved in the review of the CHIP policy through a consultation process that will include Indigenous housing advisory committees established under the State and Territory Indigenous Housing Agreements.
- c) State and territory governments will be consulted during the review of the CHIP policy through the Indigenous housing advisory committees established under the State and Territory Indigenous Housing Agreements.

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Question No: 61

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility

Topic: National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Does this description of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS), in past tense, imply that this is no longer how the program operates? If so, please explain how the program currently operates and, in particular, how priorities for funding are identified?

The description on the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) website indicates, in relation to NAHS, that "stringent eligibility criteria and rigorous assessment of priorities including Health Impact Statements, ensured (sic) the highest need communities were (sic) funded. The scheme has been administered on a state-wide basis by external program managers who have construction management and engineering expertise."

Answer:

The description on the FaCS website does not imply that NAHS no longer operates in this way.

NAHS continues to operate using stringent eligibility criteria and rigorous assessment of priorities including Health Impact Statements to ensure that communities with the highest needs are funded.

Priorities for funding are still identified through Health Impact Statements and it continues to be administered on a state-wide basis by external program managers who have construction management and engineering expertise.

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2005-06 Budget Estimates, May 2005

Question No: 62

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: La Perouse - Correspondence

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

A letter and petition sent to Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone on 1 February 2005 sought her assistance in making a representation to Senator the Hon Kay Patterson to release National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) funding for repair and upgrade of homes in the La Perouse Aboriginal community.

- a) Did Senator Patterson receive a copy of this petition? If so, has a response been sent?
- b) Provide a copy of any correspondence with the La Perouse community or ATSIC Sydney Regional Council on this matter since July 2004.

Answer:

- a) Yes, Senator Patterson received the petition and accompanying letter on 17 February 2005, through referral by Senator Vanstone. The response is attached (**Attachment B**).
- b) The following correspondence with the residents of the La Perouse mission since July 2004, is attached.
 - Copy of the letter dated 1 February 2005, together with a response dated 11 March 2005 from the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) NSW State Manager (**Attachments A and B**).
 - Notice from Manager Social Housing Group (FaCS NSW State Office) of a proposed Meeting to be held on 22 March 2005 with agenda, dated 11 March 2005 (**Attachment C**).
 - Follow-up letter from Manager Social Housing Group (FaCS NSW State Office) dated 18 April 2005, providing information that NAHS was now in a position to commence (**Attachment D**).
 - Letter dated 12 May 2005, but received late May, from La Perouse Residents Advisory Group, expressing concerns regarding delays and limitations of NAHS funding. A response is being prepared (**Attachment E**).

There has been no correspondence to or from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Sydney Regional Council in respect of the La Perouse housing repair and upgrade project since July 2004.

[Note: the attachments have not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

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Question No: 64

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: La Perouse – Funding Allocation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is it the case that the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) funding was set aside a number of years ago for the repair and upgrade of homes in La Perouse?
- b) If so, when was the funding allocated and why has this project not been undertaken?
- c) Has NAHS funding now been allocated to improve the condition of the housing in La Perouse? If so, how much funding has been allocated, when will the project commence and what is it expected to achieve? If no funding has been allocated, why not?

Answer:

- a) Yes, funding was set aside for the repair and upgrade of homes in La Perouse.
- b) In 1995-96, a notional \$3.6 million was allocated to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC) from the NAHS program. The allocation was subject to an assessment of the capacity of the LPLALC to meet the standard funding requirements of the programme. This assessment found that the LPLALC did not qualify as a grantee under the NAHS program guidelines. As a consequence, the funding was not offered at that time.
- c) In February 2004, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission funded and engaged a community development facilitator to assist the LPLALC to work through issues blocking its capacity to meet funding requirements for the NAHS program.

In August 2004, the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council appointed an Administrator because of the LPLALC's failure to comply with its statutory obligations.

These developments provided the surety for the Department of Family and Community Services to offer NAHS funding of \$1.45 million to the LPLALC in April 2005. The purpose of the funding was to rectify major community infrastructure defects and undertake housing and infrastructure improvements for those residents of the La Perouse community who had demonstrated compliance with their tenancy responsibilities.

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On 24 May 2005, the Administrator advised by letter that he is not able to accept the offer because of limitations under the New South Wales Land Rights Act relating to Australian Government requirements to protect its capital investment in community managed housing funded through NAHS.

At this time the offer has still not been accepted but discussions to resolve these issues are continuing.

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Question No: 72

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

**Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement –
Rent Collection/Payment Improvements**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What action had been taken by the South West Queensland Aboriginal Cooperative Community Advancement Society Ltd (SWACCAS) and the Cunnamulla community to improve the payment/collection of rent and management of properties by SWACCAS before the local Indigenous Coordination Centre became involved?

Answer:

The Cunnamulla community made attempts to rejuvenate the management and governance of SWACCAS including discussions with the Paroo Shire Council, ATSSIS and the Department of Family and Community Services about entering into alternative arrangements to improve housing management and rent collection prior to the involvement of the ICC in late 2004.

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Question No: 82

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement – Rent Statistics

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) What proportion of tenants are currently paying rent through a direct debit scheme?
- b) What proportion of tenants overall are now paying their rent consistently?

Answer:

- a) This information is not available. Direct debit schemes are an arrangement between the individual and the Indigenous community housing organisation that is managing the housing. An external contractor collects rent in the Cunnamulla community. Some tenants may have arrangements to direct debit their rent through the Centrelink CentrePay facility.
- b) The Department of Family and Community Services understands that the proportion of tenants currently paying their rent on a consistent basis is approximately 87 per cent.

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Question No: 83

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support And Shared Responsibility

Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement –Budgeting Courses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Who suggested that it would be appropriate to force all tenants to attend budgeting/financial management courses provided by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) before they can have air-conditioners installed?
- b) What evidence is there that it is necessary for those people who are already paying their rent consistently to attend a budgeting/financial management course?
- c) How much are the budgeting/financial management courses expected to cost?
- d) Has FaCS done any analysis of whether this is the best use of this funding within the Cunnamulla community?

Answer:

- a) The possibility of financial counselling on a voluntary basis is one of the considerations being discussed under the Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) exposure draft. The terms of the Cunnamulla SRA will be tailored to the identified needs of the community.
- b) Budgeting/financial management courses recognise the potential change in some tenants financial circumstances in terms of balancing living expenses, including the payment of rent and running air conditioning. If the Cunnamulla community identifies a need for such courses, the terms of attendance will be negotiated on the basis of that need.
- c) and d)

The terms of the Cunnamulla SRA will be tailored to the identified needs of the community. These terms are still being negotiated with the Cunnamulla community.

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Question No: 84

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement – Assessment and Support

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Who will assess whether tenants' yards and houses are being kept "in good order"?
- b) What will happen to tenants who are deemed not to be complying with this requirement?
- c) Will they be provided with support to address other issues that may be contributing, such as drug and alcohol abuse?

Answer:

a) and b)

It is not possible to provide an answer at this time, since the terms of the Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) will be tailored to the identified needs of the community. These terms are still being negotiated with the Cunnamulla community.

- c) Tenants have access to the existing local and regional support services on the same basis as other community members to address other issues such as drug and alcohol abuse.

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Question No: 85

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement – Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is alcohol abuse a significant problem in the area?
- b) Is it assessed as a contributing factor to the low proportion of people paying rent in previous years? If so, why does the Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) contain no measures to address this as a cause of the current housing problems?

Answer:

- a) The extent of alcohol abuse in the Cunnamulla community is a matter for the Department of Health and Ageing.
- b) The terms of the Cunnamulla SRA will be tailored to the identified needs of the community. These terms are still being negotiated with the Cunnamulla community.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No: 86

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement – Priority Funding
Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The draft Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) indicates that the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) will provide approximately \$1 million under the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) to upgrade houses to the required standard. Was Cunnamulla identified as a priority for NAHS funding under the rigorous assessment process described on the FaCS website, or under a new process if applicable? If not, where would funding be reallocated from the meet FaCS' commitment under the SRA?

Answer:

Negotiations have not been finalised regarding the level of NAHS or other program funds to be provided by FaCS. Cunnamulla is identified as a priority for NAHS funding under the NAHS assessment process.

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Question No: 87

Output Group: 2.1 Practical Support and Shared Responsibility

**Topic: Proposed Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement –
Worker Qualifications**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Are the 10-16 people from the community who would participate in the project to upgrade two houses the same as the ten Community Development Employment Projects workers who would be undertaking house and yard maintenance?
- b) What qualifications are expected to be achieved by this group or groups?
- c) Why is no commitment made in the draft Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) to work towards Australian Quality Framework qualifications for these people?

Answer:

a), b) and c)

The terms of the Cunnamulla SRA will be tailored to the identified needs of the community. These terms are still being negotiated with the Cunnamulla community.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 1

Topic: Health Care Cards

Hansard Page: CA16

Senator McLucas asked:

What is the difference in terms of access to the health care card and the pensioner concession card for someone who is on a pension as opposed to being on an allowance?

Answer:

The Health Care Card (HCC) is generally issued to income support recipients of allowances (rather than pensions), and to other people with low incomes. The Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) is targeted to pensioners and certain older long-term social security allowees.

Qualification for an income support payment usually results in a customer receiving an associated concession card. However, in certain circumstances the HCC can also be claimed by people who receive income support allowances that do not automatically attract a card.

An HCC is issued automatically to people who receive:

- certain social security benefits (for example Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance and Partner Allowance); and
- certain social security supplementary payments, or are in specific circumstances, such as those receiving the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A by instalment, parents caring for children with certain illnesses/disabilities and receiving Carer Allowance (child), or Mobility Allowance recipients who do not already hold a PCC.

Low-income earners and foster children can also obtain specific types of HCCs.

A PCC is automatically issued to:

- all social security pensioners and Department of Veterans' Affairs service pensioners and war widows receiving income support supplement;
- certain older benefit recipients, ie Mature Age Allowance recipients, and long-term income support recipients aged over 60, who are in receipt of Newstart Allowance, Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, Parenting Payment (single), Sickness Allowance and Special Benefit;
- part-rate pensioners who are participating in the Pension Loans Scheme; and
- certain Community Development Employment Project participants.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No :2

Topic: Concession Cards

Hansard Page: CA18

Senator McLucas asked:

Does a person moving to enhanced newstart have access to a pensioner concession card?

Answer:

From 1 July 2006, people receiving Newstart Allowance who either have a disability and an assessed work capacity of between 15 and 29 hours a week, or are single parents with a youngest child aged six years or more, will receive pensioner concession cards under the changed provisions announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

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Output Group:3.1 - Support for the Aged

Question No: 23

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: CA68

Senator McLucas asked:

How many people are receiving the Australian Age Pension who are also receiving an overseas pension who are not covered by the measure?

Answer:

There will be around 201,000 customers who have declared an overseas pension that will be not be covered by this measure.

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Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 24

Topic: Detection and Correction of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: CA74

Senator Moore asked:

At what stage is the system upgrade at?

Answer:

At this point Centrelink is preparing the detailed business requirements for the system enhancements needed for this measure. The December 2005 quarterly systems release will contain the system enhancements.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 88

Topic: Seniors Card Holders Concessional Fares

Hansard Page: CA78

Senator McLucas asked:

The budget papers show about \$6.2 million to \$6.5 million a year would have been the cost to the Commonwealth for funding the states had they all come to the party. What is the breakdown of that for each of the states?

Answer:

The proposed breakdown of the Administered funds by state for the financial year 2005-06 was as follows:

	Proposed Funding 2005-06
NSW	\$4,209,000
Victoria	\$839,000
Queensland	\$357,000
South Australia	\$121,000
Western Australia	\$415,000
Tasmania	\$53,000
Northern Territory	\$53,000
ACT	\$53,000
Total	\$6,100,000

The total listed in the Budget Papers include Departmental funding.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 165

Topic: Concessions – Withdrawal of offers to states

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

Turning to the withdrawal of offers to states regarding extending concessions to Commonwealth Seniors Holders - which you announced as an election promise four years ago - it is not true that you had not actually negotiated those agreements at the time of announcing them. Is the withdrawal of the offer leaving the Government with egg on its face because there never was any guarantee that states would extend the concessions?

Answer:

The announcement of this measure in the 2001 Budget stated *the Commonwealth will open negotiations with State and Territory Governments to see if some or all of the concessions that are currently available to pensioners and certain allowees can be extended to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders.*

The Australian Government has negotiated in good faith since this time. Generous funding offers, of 60 per cent of the cost of extending these concessions, have been on the table for over three years. However as most states and territories have not indicated any interest in taking up the Australian Government's offer, and some have refused the offer outright, the funding offers have been withdrawn.

Instead, the Government has provided significant support directly to older Australians through the provision of the Seniors Concession Allowance.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 166

Topic: One-off payments to retirees

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

Do you think it is actually appropriate that retiree couples with income more than \$80,000, should have one-off payments from the public purse because the states do not accept they should qualify for concessions?

Answer:

It is assumed that this question refers to the payment of the *Seniors Concession Allowance* to holders of the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

Income limits for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card are \$50,000 (single cardholder) and \$80,000 (couple, combined income). The only couples able to qualify for the card with income above these limits are those that are separated by illness, respite care or in gaol, in these cases the 'single' income limits apply to each partner.

The *Seniors Concession Allowance* is not a one off payment. It is an ongoing payment, paid at a rate of \$200 per year in two instalments made in June and December each year. The first instalment of \$100 was paid in December 2004. The second (June 2005) and subsequent instalments will be adjusted to upward movements in the Consumer Price Index.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 174

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

We know from the Minister's Press Release that pensioners receiving pensions from Italy will be first but what is the timetable for the introduction of this measure in regard to the other national groups affected?

Answer:

Subject to arrangements being put in place it is expected that Italy, Germany, and Malta will commence in July 2006 followed by The Netherlands, Ireland and Spain in July 2007.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 175

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Do we have numbers on how many other pensioners are receiving foreign pension, the indexations to which are not reducing their Australian pensions, and from which countries those pensions are being received?

Answer:

There will be around 201,000 customers who have declared an overseas pension that will not be covered by this measure.

Of these approximately 168,000 receive pensions from the United Kingdom (UK). There is no social security agreement between Australia and the UK and so no exchange of data has been agreed to. However, because UK pensions paid to individual residents in Australia are not indexed, automatic updating is not needed.

Approximately 20,000 Age Pension customers who have declared an overseas pension and whose overseas pension is paid by a country with which Australia has a social security agreement are not affected by this measure because the exchange of data has not been agreed to. However, these customers will be encouraged to advise Centrelink of changes in their overseas pension by the education campaign proposed as part of the measure. This includes:

Austria	6,400 (approx)
Canada	4,100
Cyprus	2,000
Croatia	1,000
Portugal	1,600
United States	3,400

In addition to the customers receiving pensions from the UK or agreement countries, there are around a further 13,000 Age Pension customers who have declared an overseas pension whose pension is paid by a country with which Australia does not have a social security agreement and who therefore will not be affected by this measure. They will be encouraged to advise Centrelink of changes in their overseas pension by the education campaign. This includes:

China	4,000 (approx)
France	1,800
Switzerland	1,300
Sri Lanka	900
Greece	800

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 176

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Indicate how many Australian pensioners also receive pensions from overseas countries. Break this information up by country and class of pension/payment.

Answer:

Approximately 336,000 Australian pensioners receive pensions from overseas of which 201,000 customers will not be covered by this measure. For further details see QON 175.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 177

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Will the new arrangements be retrospectively applied to any pensioners? For example, if it is found that an age pensioner has been overpaid the Australian Age Pension since 2000 because they did not declare increases in their overseas pension since that time, will a debt be raised against that person? Or will only future payments to that person be affected?
- b) If debts will be retrospectively applied how far back will the new systems go to determine overpayments because people have not reported indexation in the past?
- c) If debts are to be retrospectively applied how many of the 135,000 pensioners to whom the new arrangements apply will have a debt raised against them for past overpayments?
- d) If applicable, what is the estimated size of these debts?

Answer:

- a) Consistent with normal practises Centrelink will investigate cases where a large discrepancy is found between the overseas pension rate and the amount that has been declared to Centrelink as overseas income. These cases could involve overpayments for some time if the customer has failed to advise on any changes in overseas pension.
- b) In order for debts to be raised Centrelink will need information from the overseas country in order to calculate the overpayment. If that information is not available from the overseas country then Centrelink will not be able to calculate the overpayment.
- c) It is estimated that of the 135,000 customers who will have their rate adjusted about 12 per cent will have a debt.
- d) The average value of the debt is estimated at \$780.

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Output Group: 3.1 - Support for the Aged

Question No: 178

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) If applicable, what arrangements will be made for the repayment of debts raised as a result of this initiative?
- b) Were debt repayments by Dutch Pensioners pegged at \$25 per fortnight?
- c) Will a similar arrangement be made for those effected by the new budget measure?

Answer:

- a) The standard rate of withholdings from Age Pension payments is 14 per cent of the basic rate of payment plus additional amounts where there is any income. If the customer cannot afford the withholding rate the customer can contact Centrelink and negotiate a suitable repayment arrangement. Special arrangements for the repayment of debts for this group have not been considered at this point because the estimated number of debts from this measure is quite small and the average debt value is much smaller than those in the Dutch pilot.
- b) No. An agreement was made that repayments would be pegged at \$50 per fortnight. If the customer cannot afford the repayment amount they can contact Centrelink and negotiate a suitable repayment arrangement.
- c) See answer to part a).

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 179

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What schemes have been put in place over previous years to educate and inform people about their obligations to declare indexation changes in their overseas pensions?
- b) Will debts be raised against people in regard to overseas pension indexation changes, which took place prior to this information campaign?

Answer:

- a) All customers have an obligation to notify Centrelink of changes that may effect their payments. News for Seniors, formerly Age Pension News, has regularly included advice to customers that they must tell Centrelink if their financial circumstances change, including changes to overseas pensions.

In addition, customers are sent notices and letters to advise them to tell Centrelink if their financial circumstances change.

- b) Centrelink will investigate cases where a large discrepancy is found between the overseas pension rate and the amount that has been declared to Centrelink as overseas income. These cases could involve overpayments for some time if the customer has failed to advise on any changes in overseas pension.

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Output Group: 3.1 Support for the Aged

Question No: 192

Topic: Pharmaceutical Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nettle asked:

- a) How much will the Government spend on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Allowance in 2005-06?
- b) How does this compare with spending in 2004-05?
- c) How many people does the Department estimate will be eligible to receive the Pharmaceutical Benefits Allowance in 2005-06?
- d) How does this compare with the number of eligible recipients in 2004-05?
- e) Was the Pharmaceutical Benefit Allowance increased in line with CPI in January 2005? If not, why not?
- f) Is the government considering abolishing the Pharmaceutical Benefit Allowance?

Answer:

- a) Forward estimates are not available for expenditure on Pharmaceutical Allowance in 2005-06. Pharmaceutical Allowance is paid as a component of a social security pension or allowance and is not separately appropriated.
- b) As at 10 June 2005 the annual expenditure on Pharmaceutical Allowance for 2004-05 was approximately \$382 million.
- c) Forward estimates are not available for the number of people that may be eligible for Pharmaceutical Allowance in 2005-06. Pharmaceutical Allowance is paid as a component of a social security pension or allowance and is not separately appropriated.
- d) As at 10 June 2005 the number of customers receiving Pharmaceutical Allowance was approximately 3.2 million.
- e) An indexation process was carried out on 1 January 2005, to see whether the rate of Pharmaceutical Allowance should be increased. The result of the process was that there was no actual increase in the rate of Pharmaceutical Allowance for 2005. This was due to a combination of the current rate of Pharmaceutical Allowance, the size of the Consumer Price Index rise and the rounding rules that specify the indexation calculation be rounded down to the nearest 10 cents.
- f) There is no consideration of, or plan to abolish Pharmaceutical Allowance.

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Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 196

Topic: Detection and Prevention of Incorrect Payments Arising from Overseas Income – Netherlands

Hansard Page: CA68

Senator McLucas asked:

Where does the Netherlands sit in the timetable for introducing the measure?

Answer:

It is expected that automatic record updating will commence from 1 January 2006 provided data integrity issues are resolved by October 2005. If this October deadline cannot be met, it will start from the next cost of living indexation of Dutch payments in July 2006.

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Output Group: 3.2

Question No: T10

Topic: Employment Assistance Services

Hansard Page: Question taken on notice

Senator McLucas asked: Can we provide a dissection of the \$223 million for 2005-06 into its component parts?

Answer: The estimated component parts of the Employment Assistance and Other Services appropriation for 2005-06 are as follows:

	<u>\$m</u>
Employment Assistance (Business Services)	171.1
Business Services Assistance Package (2004-05 Budget Measure)	20.5
Advocacy Services	12.5
Respite Services	5.6
Print Disability Services	1.4
Information and Captioning Services	0.3
Postal Concessions for the Blind	7.2
Peak Body & Advisory Structures	1.7
Research Projects	0.2
Community Awareness Strategies	0.6
Conference Funding	0.3
Not yet allocated	<u>2.0</u>
TOTAL	223.4

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Question No: 77

Output Group: 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities

Topic: Output Group 3.2 Appropriations

Hansard Page: CA86

Senator McLucas asked:

As for the employment assistance and other services appropriation 2005-06 can you provide the same level of detail for all appropriation 1 and 2 items in FaCS.

Answer:

The following additional Department of Family and Community Services appropriation items are included in Output Group 3.2 Appropriation Bill (No.1) and Appropriation Bill (No.2) for 2005-06:

Appropriation Bill (No.1):

- **Auslan Interpreting Services \$4.556 million**

In 2004-05, the Government provided funding over four years to meet the cost of providing accredited Auslan interpreter services to deaf people attending Medicare related consultations. Auslan interpreters assist communication between deaf people and health professionals. The new National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service was launched on 28 January 2005. The Wesley Mission Brisbane was selected to establish and deliver the new service.

Appropriation Bill (No.2):

- **Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) \$605.101 million**

This appropriation is a Special Purpose Payment made by the Commonwealth to the states and territories. The payment assists state and territory governments to meet their responsibilities under the Agreement for specialist disability accommodation support services to people with disabilities.

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Output Group: 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities

Question No: 89

Topic: FaCS/DEWR Split

Hansard Page: CA78

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide a split of disability programs between FaCS and DEWR and the amount of money that had been split up until that stage and then transferred to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Answer:

Responsibility for Supported Employment (Business Services), Advocacy, Print Disability and Information funding programs remained with the Department of Family and Community Services.

Responsibility for Open Employment services and employer incentive programs (including Wage Subsidies, Supported Wages System, Workplace Modifications Scheme and the Disability Recruitment Coordination Service) moved to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The part-year appropriation made to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations from 1 December 2004 to 30 June 2005 (7 months) was \$103.898 million.

The appropriation for 2004-05 made to the Department of Family and Community Services was \$316.801 million – this includes expenditure related to programs now with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for the period 1 July to 30 November 2004 totalling \$85.562 million. The net 2004-05 appropriation to the Department of Family and Community Services was therefore \$231.239 million.

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: T12

Topic: Lists of Recognised Disabilities (Carer Allowance Child)

Hansard Page: question on notice

Senator McLucas asked:

Please provide a copy of the Lists of Recognised Disabilities (Carer Allowance child) before and after recent review?

Answer:

This information is attached.

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Guide to the Revised Lists of Recognised Disabilities **(After Review)**

(Based on a future Determination to be approved by the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services)

Part 1 List of Recognised Disabilities

1. Moderate to severe multiple disability or moderate to severe physical disability (including neurological disability) where the child is, or is likely to be, dependent for mobility indoors and outdoors from the age of 3 onwards.

Example: A child who has cerebral palsy, lower limb deficiencies or spina bifida and is dependent on a stroller, wheelchair, crutches or walking frame.

2. Severe multiple or physical disability (including uncontrolled seizures) requiring constant care and attention where the child is less than 6 months of age.

3. Epilepsy (uncontrolled while on medication).

4. Chromosomal or syndromic conditions that are not specified elsewhere and where there is moderate or severe intellectual disability and/or multiple, major and permanent physical abnormalities as diagnosed by a paediatrician, paediatric subspecialist or clinical geneticist.

Examples of chromosomal or syndromic conditions include:

- Cri du chat syndrome
- Rett syndrome
- Angelman syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Edwards syndrome (Trisomy 18)
- Williams syndrome
- Patau syndrome (Trisomy 13)
- Coffin-Lowry syndrome
- Congenital rubella syndrome
- Cornelia de Lange syndrome
- Kabuki Make-up syndrome
- Larsen syndrome
- Opitz G syndrome
- Pallister-Killian syndrome
- Seckel syndrome
- Smith-Magenis syndrome
- CHARGE association

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5. Down syndrome.
6. Fragile X syndrome.
<p>7. Neurometabolic degenerative conditions where there is moderate or severe intellectual and/or moderate or severe physical disability and where the condition is diagnosed by a paediatrician, paediatric sub-specialist or clinical geneticist:</p> <p>(a) Lysosomal storage disorders. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Metachromatic Leukodystrophy - Tay Sach's disease - Krabbe disease - Pompe disease - Mucopolysaccharidoses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hurler syndrome (MPS 1) - Hunter syndrome (MPS 2) - San Filippo syndrome (MPS 3) - Morquio syndrome (MPS IVA) - Maroteaux-Lamy syndrome (MPS VI) <p>(b) Neurometabolic conditions: Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesch Nyhan syndrome - Menkes disease - Zellweger syndrome and related peroxisomal disorders - Some mitochondrial respiratory chain disorders
<p>8. Neurodegenerative disorders where there is moderate or severe intellectual and/or moderate or severe physical disability and where the condition is diagnosed by a paediatrician, paediatric sub-specialist or clinical geneticist.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ataxia Telangiectasia - Unclassified Leukodystrophies
<p>9. Any of the following neuromuscular conditions:</p> <p>a) Duchenne (or Becker) muscular dystrophy;</p> <p>b) Autosomal recessive muscular dystrophy;</p> <p>c) Spinal muscular atrophy conditions (e.g. Werdnig-Hoffman);</p> <p>d) Friedreich's ataxia.</p>
10. Moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability where IQ is less than 55, (including a child with a known syndrome).

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11. Autistic Disorder or Asperger's Disorder (not including Pervasive Developmental Disorder not otherwise specified) when diagnosed:

- (i) by a psychiatrist, developmental paediatrician, or a psychologist experienced in the assessment of Pervasive Developmental Disorders; and
- (ii) using the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

12. The following conditions diagnosed by a psychiatrist using the current DSM:

- a) Child Disintegrative Disorder;
- b) Major depression of childhood;
- c) Childhood schizophrenia.

13. Any of the following sensory impairments:

- a) Bilateral blindness where:
 - i) visual acuity is less than or equal to 6/60 with corrected vision; or
 - ii) visual fields are reduced to a measured arc of less than 10 degrees;
- b) Hearing loss - a 45 decibels or greater hearing impairment in the better ear, based on a 4 frequency pure tone average (using 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000Hz);
- c) Deaf-blindness - diagnosed by a specialist multidisciplinary team, including a professional audiological and ophthalmological evaluation.

14. The following dermatological conditions:

- a) Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica;
- b) The following types of Ectodermal Dysplasias:
 - i) Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (synonym: anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia);
 - ii) Hay Wells syndrome (syn: ankyloblepharon, ectodermal dysplasia and clefting [AEC] syndrome);

(Note: These are specific terms and do not apply to other ectodermal dysplasia which may have some degree of reduced sweating.)

- c) The following severe congenital ichthyoses:
 - i) Lamellar ichthyosis;
 - ii) Harlequin ichthyosis;
 - iii) Sjogren Larsson syndrome;

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- | |
|---|
| iv) Netherton syndrome;
v) Severe congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma;
vi) Generalised bullous ichthyosis (syns: bullous ichthyosiform erythroderma, epidermolytic hyperkeratosis). |
|---|

15. Phenylketonuria (PKU).

16. Other inborn errors of metabolism not specified elsewhere that are treated by medically prescribed diet to prevent neurological disability and/or severe organ damage.
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Examples include:

- Organic acidaemias
- Urea cycle defects
- Galactosaemia
- some fatty acid or oxidation defects

17. Cystic Fibrosis.

18. Moderate to severe Osteogenesis Imperfecta with two or more fractures per year and/or significant pain that significantly limits activities of daily living.
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Part 2 List of Recognised Medical Conditions

1. Chronic or end stage organ failure where the child is receiving organ specific treatment and/or awaiting transplant.
2. HIV/AIDS where the child is symptomatic (in addition to having lymphadenopathy) and requires treatment with a three or more drug antiviral regimen.
3. Immunodeficiency where the child requires regular immunoglobulin infusions.
4. The following Haematological/Oncological Conditions: a) Leukaemia, Haemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis and other childhood malignancies where the child is undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy or palliative care; b) Haemophilia with Factor VIII or Factor IX deficiency (less than 10%); c) Thalassaemia or Haemoglobinopathy requiring chelation therapy; d) Chronic Transfusion Dependent Anaemia requiring chelation therapy; e) Langerhan Cell Histiocytosis: disseminated (multi-organ) disease requiring chemotherapy for longer than 6 months; (f) Severe congenital Neutropenia (Kostman's variant, dependent on Filgrastin).
5. The following Chronic Respiratory Conditions: a) Chronic Respiratory Disease requiring home oxygen; b) A condition where the child is dependent for his or her health on an external apparatus/machine called a ventilator to assist with breathing, either on a continuous or intermittent basis; c) Long term tracheostomy where the child is cared for at home.
6. Severe atopic dermatitis which involves at least 75% of the body surface and which has required two or more hospitalisations of at least 5 days duration in the previous calendar year, and/or the use of immunosuppressive therapy.
7. Significant burn where more than 30% of body surface area is affected, or a lesser burn where there is significant impairment of function of the hands or feet or assistance is required with feeding or toileting to a greater degree than is age appropriate for the child.
8. Gastroenterological condition or other medical condition requiring total parenteral nutrition for an extended period, with medical treatment and medical supervision required for at least 12 months.

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9. Final stage of Ulcerative Colitis where the condition is no longer responding to medical treatment and where a sub-total colectomy and ileo-rectal anastomosis with formation of a J-pouch is required.

10. Polyarticular course Juvenile Arthritis requiring regular multi-disciplinary therapy, including immunosuppressive medication.

Lists of Recognised Disabilities (Before Review)

(Schedule 3, Child Disability Assessment Determination)

Part 1 Severe Disabilities

1. Severe multiple disability or severe physical disability (including neurological disability) where the young person is, or is likely to be, totally dependent for mobility indoors and outdoors from the age of 3 years onwards
Example
A young person who has cerebral palsy, lower limb deficiencies or spina bifida and is dependent on a stroller, wheelchair, crutches or walking frame.
2. Any of the following genetic or chromosomal disorders:
 - (a) Down syndrome
 - (b) Fragile X
 - (c) Cri du chat syndrome (Deletion 5)
 - (d) Rett syndrome
 - (e) Angelman syndrome
 - (f) Prader-Willi syndrome
 - (g) Edward syndrome (Trisomy 18)
 - (h) Williams syndrome
 - (i) Patau syndrome (Trisomy 13)
 - (j) Cystic Fibrosis
 - (k) Phenylketonuria
3. Moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability where IQ is less than 55 (including a young person with a known syndrome)
4. Autism (not including Asperger or Pervasive Developmental Disorder (not otherwise specified)) diagnosed by:
 - (a) a specialist multidisciplinary team; or
 - (b) a psychiatrist using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM IV), as in force when this determination commences
5. Any of the following sensory impairments:
 - (a) bilateral blindness where:

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- (i) visual acuity is less than 6/60 with corrected vision; or
 - (ii) visual fields are reduced to a measured arc of less than 10 degrees;
 - (b) a three frequency average hearing loss (at 500, 1000 and 2000Hz) of 70 decibels or more in the better ear;
 - (c) deaf-blindness diagnosed by a specialist multidisciplinary team, including a professional audiological and ophthalmological evaluation
6. Any of the following neurometabolic degenerative conditions:
- (a) metachromatic leukodystrophy;
 - (b) the following mucopolysaccharidoses:
 - (i) MPS 1 (Hurler syndrome);
 - (ii) MPS 2 (Hunter syndrome);
 - (iii) MPS 3 (San Filippo syndrome);
 - (iv) MPS IVA (Morquio syndrome);
 - (v) MPS VI (Maroteaux-Lamy syndrome);
 - (c) Tay Sachs disease;
 - (d) Krabbe disease;
 - (e) Pompe's disease
7. Any of the following neuromuscular conditions:
- (a) Duchenne (or Becker) muscular dystrophy;
 - (b) Autosomal recessive muscular dystrophy;
 - (c) Spinal muscular atrophy conditions;
 - (d) Friedreich's Ataxia

Example for paragraph (c)

Werdnig-Hoffman is an example of a spinal muscular atrophy condition.

8. Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica
9. Severe multiple or physical disability (including uncontrolled seizures) requiring constant care and attention where the young person is less than 6 months of age
10. The following conditions diagnosed by a psychiatrist using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM IV), as in force when this determination commences:
- (a) Child Disintegrative Disorder;
 - (b) Major depression of childhood;
 - (c) Childhood Schizophrenia
11. Epilepsy (uncontrolled while on medication)

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Part 2 Chronic Medical Conditions

1. Chronic Renal Failure where the young person is receiving dialysis or awaiting transplant
2. End stage organ failure where the young person is awaiting transplant
3. Leukaemia and other childhood malignancies where the young person is undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy or palliative care
4. HIV/AIDS Category IV
5. Immunodeficiency where the young person requires regular immunoglobulin infusions
6. Chronic Respiratory Disease requiring home oxygen
7. A condition where the young person is dependent for his or her health on an external apparatus/machine called a ventilator to assist with breathing, either on a continuous or intermittent basis
8. Haemophilia with Factor VIII or Factor IX deficiency (less than 10%)
9. Thalassaemia Major
10. Significant burn where more than 15% of total body area is affected and where the young person requires skin grafts and intensive therapy for more than 12 months from the time of incurring burn

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for carers

Question No: T13

Topic: List of Recognised Disabilities

Hansard Page: CA question on notice

Senator McLucas asked:

Were submissions to the review of the Lists of Recognised Disabilities invited or advertised?

Answer:

On 8 November 2003 the Department of Family and Community Services placed an advertisement in a major newspaper in each capital city inviting submissions to the review.

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Question No: 26

Topic: Carer Allowance – Expected Saving

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) What is the expected saving from the carer payments for carers of children?
- b) Could you disaggregate that for the cost to:
 - i. carer allowance;
 - ii. care of children;
 - iii. care of adults; and
 - iv. where the savings will actually be?

Answer:

- a) The expected total administered savings over four years from changes to the Carer Allowance backdating period for carers of children is \$75.564 million. Carer Payment does not have backdating provisions.
- b)
 - i. Total administered savings over four years from changes to the Carer Allowance backdating period for all carers is \$109.260 million.
 - ii. Total administered savings over four years from changes to the Carer Allowance backdating period for carers caring for children is \$75.564 million.
 - iii. Total administered savings over four years from changes to the Carer Allowance backdating period for carers caring for adults is \$33.696 million.
 - iv. The savings will arise from Carer Allowance customers who may have qualified under the current rules for a period of backdating in excess of 12 weeks.

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Question No: 27

Topic: Carer Allowance – Backdated Payments

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide the percentage of Carer Allowance (adult) and Carer Allowance (child) customers receiving the full backdated payment.

Answer:

This information is not readily available. Centrelink advises that extraction of this data would require significant effort and analysis and the Minister for Human Services is not prepared to authorise the expenditure of resources and effort that would be involved.

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for Carers

Question No: 161

Topic: Carers - Backpayments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

In relation to carers – what research was conducted before deciding to restrict the backpayment to just 12 weeks. Given that the more generous backpayment provisions were specifically put into place to cover instances where the onus of new caring was simply too great to enable carers to turn their mind or energies to filling out copious forms:

- a) Why has this rationale changed?
- b) How does a communication strategy alleviate carers struggle in coping with new caring responsibilities?

Answer:

a) The previous Carer Allowance backdating arrangements were not put in place to cover instances where the onus of new caring was simply too great to enable carers to turn their mind or energies to filling out copious forms. Rather they reflected the provisions of one of the two payments that were abolished in the creation of Carer Allowance, ie the Child Disability Allowance. Under this superseded payment, diagnosis or cause of the condition needed to be determined and in some cases this took some time.

Current assessment for Carer Allowance eligibility relies on a measure of the care receivers' actual functional ability or care needs. A diagnosis or cause of the condition is no longer necessary. As a result, eligibility for Carer Allowance can be established quickly. A backdating provision of 12 weeks allows sufficient time for people to apply for the payment and obtain the assessment of functional ability or care needs.

b) The purpose of the communication strategy is to advise people who care for an adult or child with a disability or medical condition of the changed backdating arrangements that will come into effect on 1 July 2006.

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Question No: 162

Topic: Carers – Allowance eligibility

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

What is the outcome of last year's changes to carer allowance. Is it not a fact that despite the recent amendments to carer allowance qualifications, many people are still excluded because of the restrictive 20 hour personal care requirement which simply does not recognise actual care responsibilities?

Answer:

According to Centrelink data, as at 10 June 2005 at least 6,800 care receivers had qualified their carer, who they do not live with, for Carer Allowance. However, data available from Centrelink is incomplete because of a delay in completing the management information conversion so it is likely the number of carers now eligible for Carer Allowance who were not eligible prior to the change will be greater than 6,800.

The changes to Carer Allowance qualification require the care provided by a non co-resident carer to be personal care.

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for Carers

Question No: 163

Topic: Carer Bonus Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

Why will you not pay the full \$1000 carer bonus to other pension recipients – such as age pension – despite the fact that many were on Carer Payment and were moved over to age pension because of FaCS policies?

Answer:

The carer bonus is specifically intended for individuals who are receiving Carer Payment or Carer Allowance. There is no Department of Family and Community Services policy that requires that a person receiving Carer Payment needs to move onto Age Pension once they reach Age Pension age. Nevertheless, a person who is not receiving Carer Payment may still be eligible for the \$600 carer bonus if they were receiving Carer Allowance on Budget night 2005.

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Output Group: 3.3 – Support for Carers

Question No: 164

Topic: Carer Bonus Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Allison asked:

Will people on Age Pension but who devote their entire life to caring for their aged and infirm partner be able to claim the \$400 difference under your Ministerial discretion?

Answer:

No. However, a person who is not receiving Carer Payment may still be eligible for the \$600 carer bonus if they were receiving Carer Allowance on Budget night 2005.

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Output Group: 3.4

Question No: T9

Topic: Reconnect Service Providers

Hansard Page: Written question taken on notice

Senator Crossin asked: Please provide a list of Reconnect service providers?

Answer:

See Attachment A.

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RECONNECT SERVICES

CODE	Auspice name	Service Suburb	Service State	Geographic Coverage	2004-2005 Funding Levels GST exclusive
ACT001	Centacare Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn	Manuka	ACT	Canberra	\$184,183.37
ACT201	Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation	Erindale Centre	ACT	Canberra	\$173,143.32
NSW001	The Samaritan Foundation	Gateshead	NSW	Newcastle, Lake Macquarie	\$188,518.45
NSW002	Southern Youth and Family Services	Wollongong	NSW	Wollongong, Shellharbour, Dapto, Ulladulla, Nowra	\$389,411.23
NSW003	Northern Rivers Social Development Council	Lismore	NSW	Tweed Heads, Byron Bay, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Casino, Richmond river, Uralla, Nymboida, Maclean, Grafton	\$368,809.34
NSW004	Wesley Dalmar Nepean	Penrith	NSW	Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Penrith	\$200,778.08
NSW005	The Twenty Ten Association	Newtown	NSW	State wide New South Wales	\$182,605.60
NSW007	St Vincent De Paul Deniliquin Emergency Accommodation Program	Deniliquin	NSW	Deniliquin, Wakool, Murray, Hay, Windouran, Conargo	\$188,293.36
NSW008	Uniting Care Burnside	Campbelltown	NSW	Camden, Wollondilly, Campbelltown	\$181,640.33
NSW009	Mission Australia/Salvation Army/Wesley Mission	Strawberry Hills	NSW	Inner City Sydney, City of Sydney and South Sydney LGA's	\$210,470.86
NSW101	Skills Training Employment Program Inc. Trading as Auswide Projects.	Bega	NSW	Bega Valley	\$206,943.91
NSW201	Centacare Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn	Manuka	ACT	Cowra, West Wyalong, Grenfell, Booroowa, Blayney, Molong	\$183,187.80
NSW202	Salvation Army (NSW) Property Trust	Fairfield West	NSW	Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Doonside	\$203,196.10
NSW203	Newtrain Inc	West Tamworth	NSW	Tamworth, Narrabri, Gunnedah	\$180,777.86
NSW204	Grace Shire Cottage	Dubbo	NSW	Dubbo LGA	\$181,151.20

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NSW205	St George Youth Workers Network	Rockdale	NSW	Hurstville, Rockdale, Kogarah	\$176,714.40
NSW206	Barnardos	Sydney	NSW	Wellington, Narromine, Gilgandra	\$173,143.32
NSW207	Barnardos	Sydney	NSW	Mudgee, Rylstone, Coolah	\$173,143.32
NSW208	Barnardos	Belmore	NSW	Marrickville, Canterbury	\$173,143.32
NSW209	Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society	Cabramatta	NSW	Fairfield, Liverpool	\$202,886.19
NSW210	Mission Australia Punchbowl	Punchbowl	NSW	Bankstown, Auburn	\$175,528.37
NSW211	Broken Hill and District Family Support Services	Broken Hill	NSW	Central Darling Area, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Mennindee, Ivanhoe	\$187,211.22
NSW212	Regional Extended Family Services	Armidale	NSW	Kempsey, Hastings	\$188,192.72
NSW213	Barnardos	Cobar	NSW	Cobar	\$312,577.80
NSW214	Coonabarabran Aboriginal Lands Council	Coonabarabran	NSW	Coonabarabran	\$203,295.27
NSW301	The Samaritan Foundation	Kurri Kurri	NSW	Cessnock, Maitland	\$194,741.87
NSW302	The Salvation Army Oasis Youth Support Network	Sutherland	NSW	Sydney State Wide	\$190,457.65
NSW303	Miimali Mates	St Mary's	NSW	Penrith, Mt Druitt	\$195,617.45
NSW304	Regional Extended Family Services	Armidale	NSW	Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes, Inverell, Tenterfield, Tingah, Wialda, Bingara, Ashford	\$175,473.18
NSW305	Uniting Care Burnside Wyong and Gosford	Parramatta	NSW	Gosford, Wyong	\$207,408.38
NSW306	Nambucca Valley Children's Group	Urunga	NSW	Bellingen, Nambucca, Dorrigo	\$178,033.67
NSW307	Campbell Page Employment and Training	Batemans Bay	NSW	Eurobodalla Shire	\$246,981.91
NT001	Anglicare Top End	Winnellie	NT	Darwin urban area	\$189,375.51
NT201	Anglicare Top End	Winnellie	NT	Palmerston and Darwin rural area covered by Litchfield Shire and the community councils of Belyuen, Cox Peninsula and Coomalie including the township of Adelaide River	\$181,396.85

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NT202	Gap Youth Centre	Alice Springs	NT	Alice Springs Town and Town Camps area including Amoonguna in the south, Jay Creek and Outstations in the west, Yambah Station to the north and Mt Undoolya Station and Whitegate Camp to the east.	\$187,211.22
NT301	Waltja	Alice Springs	NT	ATSIC Apatula Region	\$384,368.09
NT302	Anglicare Top End	Nhulunbuy	NT	East Arnhem region, specifically Nhulunbuy and surrounding communities including Yirrkala	\$247,926.10
QLD001	Mercy Family Services	Zillmere	QLD	Inala, Ipswich, Goodna, Brassell, Redbank Plains, Oxley, Riverview	\$215,271.26
QLD002	Gold Coast Family Connections Inc.	Gold Coast Mail Centre	QLD	Gold Coast	\$217,335.99
QLD003	Roseberry Youth Services Inc.	Gladstone	QLD	Gladstone	\$174,026.35
QLD004	Integrated Family and Youth Service	Maroochydore	QLD	Caloundra, Kawana, Golden Beach	\$181,395.76
QLD201	Lutheran Community Care	Browns Plains	QLD	Logan, Marsden, Browns Plains	\$189,677.43
QLD202	Community Connect Fraser Coast	Hervey Bay	QLD	Hervey Bay, Maryborough	\$191,756.23
QLD203	Centacare Catholic Family Services	Hyde Park	QLD	Mount Isa	\$176,606.19
QLD204	Queensland Youth Services, Inc	Townsville	QLD	Thuringowa, Kelso, Mt Luisa	\$178,337.62
QLD205	Mercy Family Services	South Brisbane	QLD	South Brisbane, Dutton Park, West End, Highgate Hill, Woolloongabba, Annerley, Kangaroo Point, East Brisbane	\$213,182.71
QLD206	Community Living Association Inc	Nundah	QLD	North Brisbane, Zillmere, Nudgee, Northgate, Windsor, Nundah, Chermside, Bowen Hills, Albion, Kelvin Grove, Newmarket, Wilson, Wavell Heights, Wooloowin, kedron	\$173,143.32

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QLD207	South Burnett CTC Inc	Murgon	QLD	Murgon, Cherbourg	\$175,014.35
QLD208	Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee	Rockhampton	QLD	Rockhampton	\$238,970.25
QLD302	Mission Australia	Toowoomba	QLD	Toowoomba, Warwick, Gatton, Dalby	\$221,270.41
QLD303	Sisters Inside Inc.	South Brisbane	QLD	South East Queensland	\$218,319.66
QLD304	Open Doors Youth Service Inc	Fortitude Valley	QLD	Greater Brisbane Area	\$188,442.70
SA001	Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc.	Adelaide	SA	Salisbury	\$178,554.05
SA002	Uniting Care Wesley Port Pirie	Port Pirie	SA	Port Pirie, Mt Remarkable, Kanyank, Quron, Port Augusta	\$182,839.35
SA003	Mission Australia	Adelaide	SA	Onkaparinga LGA	\$176,714.40
SA004	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Port Adelaide	SA	LGA of Port Adelaide/Enfield	\$175,307.61
SA201	Anglicare SA Inc	Elizabeth	SA	Playford City Council Area	\$161,811.09
SA202	Anglican Community Care Inc	Mount Gambier	SA	Murray Mallee Region	\$205,607.69
SA203	Kumangka Aboriginal Youth Service	Hindmarsh	SA	Adelaide Metropolitan Area	\$185,944.57
SA301	Multicultural Council of SA Inc	Adelaide	SA	Adelaide Metropolitan Area	\$193,785.25
SA302	Centacare	Adelaide	SA	Adelaide Metropolitan Area	\$206,689.84
SA303	Tender process underway (provider not yet funded)	Whyalla	SA	Whyalla and Upper Eyre Peninsula	\$178,733.69
SA304	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Corporation (NPYWC)	Alice Springs	NT	Docker River, Finke	\$371,959.39
TAS001	Colony 47 Inc.	North Hobart	Tas.	Greater Hobart	\$177,414.55
TAS002	Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	Devonport	Tas	Burnie, Devonport	\$183,687.75
TAS201	Colony 47 Inc.	North Hobart	Tas.	Hobart, Kingston, Brighton, New Norfolk, Sorell, and the Huon Valley to Cygnet	\$169,896.88
TAS202	Relationships Australia, Tasmania	Launceston	Tas	Greater Launceston, Scottsdale, Deloraine	\$172,797.03
TAS301	Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	South Burnie	Tas	Rural and remote Tasmania	\$177,078.00
VIC001	Nillumbik CHC	Eltham	Vic	LGA of Banyule and Nillumbik	\$173,143.32
VIC002	Regional Extended Family Services Inc.	Ringwood	Vic	Knox	\$172,626.06
VIC004	Quantum Support Services Inc.	Morwell	Vic	Gippsland including La Trobe Valley and Baw Baw	\$183,502.70

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VIC005	Melbourne City Mission	Footscray	Vic	LGA of Maribyrnong, Brimbank and Moree Valley	\$173,143.32
VIC006	MacKillop Family services	Nth Geelong	Vic	Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast, Colac-Otway	\$198,317.28
VIC201	Uniting Care	Werribee	Vic	Hobsons Bay, Wyndham	\$194,786.24
VIC202	Nth East Support & Action for Youth	Wangaratta	Vic	Delatite, Wangaratta, Alpine	\$179,903.49
VIC203	Lisa Lodge Hayeslee	Ballarat	Vic	Ballarat, Moorabook, Hepburn, Golden Plains	\$173,143.32
VIC204	Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues	Carlton	Vic	Dandenong and Glenroy	\$183,964.78
VIC205	Salvation Army	Brunswick	Vic	Hume, Moreland	\$182,682.44
VIC206	Kildonan Child and Youth Services	Epping	Vic	Darebin, Yarra, Whittlesea	\$172,398.80
VIC207	Salvation Army	Mornington	Vic	Frankston, Mornington Peninsular	\$175,214.54
VIC208	Uniting Care Connections	Narre Warren	Vic	Greater Dandenong, Casey	\$175,478.59
VIC209	Lakes Entrance Community Health Centre	Lakes Entrance	Vic	East Gippsland	\$173,143.32
VIC210	St Lukes Anglicare	Bendigo	Vic	Central Goldfields, Bendigo, Mt Alexander	\$169,912.03
VIC301	Melbourne City Mission	Melbourne	Vic	Melbourne CBD	\$198,081.37
VIC302	Youth Substance Abuse Service	Fitzroy	Vic	Whitehorse, and Monash LGA's	\$216,198.18
VIC303	Regional Extended Family Services	Ringwood	Vic	State wide Victoria	\$200,235.92
VIC304	Melton Shire Council	Melton	Vic	Shire of Melton	\$194,153.18
WA001	Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc (ASWA)	Bunbury	WA	Bunbury, Capel, Busselton, Dunsborough, Margaret River, Augusta, Nannup, Collie, Harvey, Donnybrook, Brunswick and Australind	\$173,143.32
WA002	Mercy Community Services	Jolimont	WA	Central North Metropolitan Perth	\$165,716.55
WA003	Mercy Community Services	Jolimont	WA	South East metropolitan Perth	\$165,716.55
WA201	Burdekin - Youth in Action	Broome	WA	Broome area with emphasis on locations within the Shire of Broome	\$157,958.65
WA202	Mercy Community Services	Jolimont	WA	North West Coastal Metro Perth	\$165,763.09

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WA203	Mercy Community Services	Jolimont	WA	South West Coast Metropolitan Perth	\$234,555.09
WA204	Parkerville Children's Home	Parkerville	WA	North East Metropolitan Perth	\$173,143.32
WA301	Outcare	East Perth	WA	Perth	\$160,638.04
WA302	Mercy Community Services	Jolimont	WA	Rural Western Australia	\$179,874.27
WA303	Mission Australia	Mandurah	WA	Mandurah and Peel	\$166,073.66

\$19,052,121.44

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Question No: 31

Topic: Mentor Marketplace

Hansard Page: CA4-5

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) When was the programme implemented?
- b) Please provide a state-by-state breakdown of the funding allocated from the Mentor Marketplace programme since implementation.
- c) Please provide the committee with a copy of the formal evaluation of the Mentor Marketplace programme.

Answer:

- a) The Mentor Marketplace programme was implemented in June 2003.
- b) A state-by-state breakdown of funding for Mentor Marketplace from implementation in June 2003 to 30 June 2005 is as follows:

State	2002-03 \$	2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	Total \$
National Service Providers	634,272	410,460	593,538	1,638,270
New South Wales	75,000	232,698	417,976	725,674
Queensland	-	205,874	392,805	598,679
Western Australia	-	170,568	352,459	523,027
South Australia	-	103,850	188,423	292,273
Victoria	-	93,067	192,270	285,337
Northern Territory	-	63,300	92,000	155,300
Tasmania	-	28,545	96,690	125,235

- c) A copy of the evaluation of the Mentor Marketplace programme is at **Attachment A**.

[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

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Question No: 33

Topic: Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Crossin asked:

How many young people have been assisted to date by financial year?

Answer:

2003-04 - 450

2004-05 - (to end of March) 583

Total grants YTD 1033

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Question No: 34

Topic: Transition to Independent Living Arrangements (TILA)

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Crossin asked:

Can you provide a list of the administrative providers for Transition to Independent Living Arrangements (TILA)?

Answer:

List of administrative providers for TILA

State	Name	Service Area
ACT	Richmond Fellowship, ACT	Territory wide (ACT) and Jervis Bay (NSW)
NSW	Biripi Aboriginal Corporation (Marungbai)	Statewide NSW
	Centacare Newcastle	Central Coast, Newcastle and Hunter Region
	Centacare Sydney	Sydney Metro (including Sydney City, Redfern and Darlinghurst). Metro South East Sydney (including Bondi, Maroubra, Sutherland, St George and Rockdale). Inner West (including Marrickville, Strathfield, Lakemba, Glebe, Newtown and Ashfield).
	Clarence Valley Community Programmes Inc	Northern NSW – New England (including Armidale and Moree), Mid North Coast (including Kempsey and Coffs Harbour) and Far North Coast (including Lismore, Byron Bay and Tweed Heads)
	Relationships Australia	Metro North Sydney (including Hornsby, Chatswood, Ryde, Epping and the Northern Beaches). Metro West Sydney (including Parramatta, Blacktown, Auburn and Penrith). Central Coast (including Gosford and Wyong). Blue Mountains
Uniting Care Burnside NSW	Metro South West Sydney (including Canterbury, Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, and Macarthur). Southern Regions (including Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Wollongong, Southern Highlands, Goulburn, Cooma and Yass). South East Regions (including Eurobodalla Shire and Bega Valley Shire)	

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NSW	Uniting Care Burnside Western NSW	Dubbo and Far West, Central West including Lithgow, Riverina and Albury, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Rylstone, Temora, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Wakool, Walgett, Warren, Weddin, Wellington, Wentworth, Windoura
NT	Centacare NT	Territory wide (NT)
QLD	Salvation Army QLD	State-wide (QLD)
SA	Baptist Community Services	Metro Southern Area (including Marion, Holdfast Bay and Onkaparinga). Country Area (including Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Cleve, Cummins, Elliston, Coffin Bay, Ceduna, Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie)
	Lutheran Community Care	Northern and North-West Metro Adelaide (including Port Adelaide, Enfield, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully and Playford). Adelaide Hills (including Adelaide Hills and Murray Lands). South East Region (including Mt Gambier, Grant DC and Wattle Range)
	Service to Youth Council	Adelaide Metro (including Mitcham, Unley, Burnside, West Torrens, Thebarton, Charles Sturt, Prospect, Walkerville, Adelaide, Norwood, Payneham, St Peters and Campbelltown). Country Area (including Coober Pedy and Riverland)
TAS	Anglicare	South Tasmania
	Glenhaven Family Care Inc.	North and North-West Tasmania
VIC	Salvation Army VIC	State-wide VIC
WA	Mission Australia Bunbury	South West Western Australia (including Bunbury, Collie, Busselton, Margaret River, Manjimup, Katanning, Gnowangerup and Albany)
	Salvation Army WA	State-wide (WA) except for those areas covered by other services (refer to Wanslea Family Services and Mission Australia [Bunbury])
	Wanslea Family Services	Includes the Peel region and Rockingham south of Safety Bay Road

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Question No: 35

Topic: Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Crossin asked:

What is the average Transition Independent Living Allowance payment to a young person?

Answer:

The average payment is \$963.43.

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Question No: 36

Topic: Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Hansard Page: CA9

Senator Crossin asked:

How many administration payments have been made?

Answer:

There have been 804 administration payments claimed to date by eight of the administering organisations.

The remaining 229 administration payments that can be claimed (to the end of March 2005) are currently in the process of being claimed by the remaining 11 administering organisations.

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Question No: 37

Topic: Youth Activity Services/Family Liaison Worker (YAS/FLW)

Hansard Page: CA9

Senator Crossin asked:

Has the working party been established as per recommendation two of the 2000 review?

Answer:

The 2000 review of YAS/FLW was an internal review only. The working party recommended in that review was not established.

The department commissioned an independent review in 2003. This was completed in 2004 and the Department of Family and Community Services is currently consulting with the sector on the recommendations from that review. The 2004 review will be released on the FaCS website by August 2005.

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Question No: 39

Topic: Newly Arrived Youth Support Services (NAYSS) – Breakdown of Funding

Hansard Page: CA10

Senator Crossin asked:

Please provide a list of providers for the Newly Arrived Youth Support Services (NAYSS) Program Phase 1 and a line by line breakdown of the programs that have been funded since last year.

Answer:

The list of providers for the NAYSS Program Phase 1 are as follows:

- Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI), South East Melbourne
- Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI), National lead provider
- Anglicare SA Incorporated, Adelaide Metro
- Multi Link Community Services, South East and South West Brisbane Gold Coast
- Colony 47 Incorporated, Tasmania
- Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre, ACT, Queanbeyan, Goulburn
- Mission Australia, Toowoomba

It is not possible to provide breakdowns of program budget in advance of expenditure occurring. The Department of Family and Community Services commits to the delivery of the particular program outcomes, within the allocated appropriation, and reports to Parliament after it has been expended.

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Question No: 40

Topic: Newly Arrived Youth Support Services – Timeline for Review

Hansard Page: CA11

Senator Crossin asked:

What is the timeline for establishing the review committee for the Newly Arrived Youth Support Services?

Answer:

The measure will be evaluated by an independent consultant in 2007-08 and be considered by the Australian Government in the 2008-09 Budget context, in line with existing practices.

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Question No: 41

Topic: National Youth Roundtable - Funding

Hansard Page: CA13

Senator Crossin asked:

Why has funding for the National Youth Roundtable increased over recent years?

Answer:

National Youth Roundtable (NYR) funding has not changed significantly over recent years.

NYR Expenditure (GST exclusive) by Financial Year

Financial Year	NYR Expenditure
2002-03 *	\$420,001
2003-04 **	\$460,365
2004-05 ***	\$189,911

* Includes the final meeting of NYR 2002 and the first meeting of NYR 2003.

** Includes the final meeting of NYR 2003 and the first meeting NYR 2004.

*** Includes the final meeting of NYR 2004 (held in December 2004) and expenditure to date relating to the first meeting of the NYR 2005 to be held in September 2005. Only one meeting was held in 2004-05 due to the Federal election. The NYR is moving from a calendar year to a financial year basis.

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Question No: 42

Topic: National Youth Roundtable - Participants

Hansard Page: CA13-14

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Has the number of participants increased?
- b) How many young people applied for the National Youth Roundtable in 2004?
- c) What formal steps have been taken to analyse why there has been a decrease in the number of young people applying for the National Youth Roundtable?

Answer:

- a) No. The number of participants for National Youth Roundtable (NYR) 2005 will be 30 comprising 25 new members and five members from NYR 2004. Previously 50 young people participated in the NYRs.
- b) NYR 2004 attracted 650 applications.
- c) Since its establishment the following numbers of applications for the NYR have been received: 1999 – 919; 2000 – 1012; 2001 – 673; 2002 – 593; 2003 – 787; 2004 – 652; and 2005 – 450.

The National Youth Roundtable (NYR) has always attracted sufficient high quality applications to fill the positions required and as such the general falls in numbers of applications has not been a significant operational concern. For example for NYR 2004 the ratio of applications for each position available was 12:1, for 2005 it was 18:1 for new members. The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) monitors the applications and their demographics for possible impact on NYR outcomes.

Since NYR's inception in 1999 FaCS has consistently advertised for applications through advertisements placed in major newspapers, *the Source* Internet web site and direct mailing to educational institutions, community organisations and requests from young people. Anecdotally, we understand that in some years, some schools had been quite active in promoting and encouraging applications while in other years schools may only advertise the Roundtable.

While NYR 2005 attracted a lower number of applications the quality of applications was easily sufficient to fill the positions. We consider the fall of 200 applications to 2005 to be as a result of the application process being disrupted by the Federal Election. NYR 2005 was first launched in early August 2004 and then suspended two weeks later due to the announcement of the Federal Election. It was relaunched in January 2005 (during school holidays) and closed in March 2005. Consistent timing of NYR advertising campaigns will also help to ensure that young people have an awareness of the call for applications.

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Question No: 43

Topic: National Youth Roundtable – Selection Committee

Hansard Page: CA15

Senator Crossin asked:

Who is on the youth roundtable selection committee?

Answer:

Membership of the independent selection committee for 2005-06 is:

Daniel Bouchier	NT Young Australian of the Year NT Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians
Iktimal Hage-Ali	Deputy Chair, NSW Youth Council National Youth Week Planning Group
Andrew Higgs	Ship for World Youth National Youth Roundtable
Jessica Kiely	Co-Director, Youth2Youth Co-Founder, FRANK magazine
Nelson Leon	National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group OXFAM International Youth Parliament

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Output Group: 3.4 – Support for Youth

Question No: 44

Topic: National Youth Roundtable – Selection Committee

Hansard Page: CA 15

Senator Crossin asked:

Please provide a line by line break down of the costs of the National Youth Roundtable in 2004.

Answer:

The National Youth Roundtable (NYR) is moving from a calendar year to a financial year basis. The information provided below relates to the 2004-05 financial year.

National Youth Roundtable Expenditure (GST Exclusive) for 2004-05

Travel and Accommodation *	\$53,475
Catering and Venue Hire **	\$2,745
Publicity and Promotion ***	\$32,345
Contract Payments #	\$84,916
Program Planning and Support for Members ^	\$16,431
Total	\$189,911

(Note: the above figures relate to expenditure for one meeting of the NYR 2004-05, which included 50 participants in December 2004. It also includes expenditure to date in preparation for the first meeting of the NYR 2005-06, which is planned for September 2005.)

* Includes fares, accommodation, meals and Cabcharge costs.

** Includes catering and venue hire at Parliament House.

*** Includes videography, photography and advertisements announcing the call for applications.

Includes facilitator, guest speaker and temporary staff costs.

^ Includes all running costs relating to the delivery of the NYR.

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Question No: 45

Topic: National Youth Roundtable

Hansard Page: CA15

Senator Crossin asked:

Are young people involved in selecting the themes for the youth roundtable?

Answer:

Prior to 2004, members of the National Youth Roundtable came with their own projects to undertake. In 2004, young people were placed in a topic team based on the key interests that the young people had notified in their application. In 2005, five previous Roundtable members will be involved in the selection of themes.

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Output Group: 3.4 – Support for Youth

Question No: 46

Topic: National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group

Hansard Page: CA15

Senator Crossin asked:

Is a summary available of the nomination process and the reasons for low uptake?

Answer:

National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group (NIYLG) participants are selected through a national nomination process. The call for nominations are announced through a media release, a national mailout to appropriate government, business and community organisations, advertisements in select national newspapers, the Australian Government's youth website *the Source* and appropriate email networks.

This year, the call for nominations was advertised through the following publications:

- The Australian
- The Koori Mail
- The National Indigenous Times
- The Torres News

The Torres News was used for the first time this year to extend the reach to more potential Torres Strait Islander applicants.

The use of email networks was introduced for NIYLG 2004-05. The call for applications was announced through the following email networks:

- FaCS National Office Indigenous Network;
- Past NIYLG members; and
- Youth.Comm.

Since 2003, applications for the NIYLG have steadily increased.

NIYLG Application Rates

NIYLG Year	Applications
2003	41
2004-2005	50
2005-2006	63 (as at 31 May 2005)

Given that there are only 15 positions available on NIYLG, these numbers are sufficient for a selection exercise.

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Question No: 47

Topic: Australian Forum of Youth Organisations

Hansard Page: CA16

Senator Crossin asked:

Please provide a break down of the costs of the last meeting for the Australian Forum of Youth Organisations (AFOYO)?

Answer: The last meeting of AFOYO was held on 1 April 2004.

A break down of costs for that meeting is:

Catering	\$1,430
Accommodation	\$2,090
Airfares	\$7,500
Taxis and Petrol Reimbursement	\$1,500
Total	\$12,520

(Note: the previous meeting for 2003-04 was held on 12 Sept 2003.)

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Question No: 48

Topic: Youth Advisory and Consultative Forum

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Crossin asked:

When was the last meeting held of the Youth Advisory and Consultancy Forum and who are the members?

Answer:

The last meeting of the Youth Advisory and Consultative Forum (YACF) was held on 25 May 2004.

Membership of YACF is:

Ms Narelle Clay	CEO, Southern Youth & Family Services Association Inc
Mr Chris De Araugo	Lead On Australia Ltd
Ms Pauline Frick	Manager Family and Relationship Services Unit, Centacare Adelaide
Ms Sue Ham	CEO, Colony 47 Inc
Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds	National Director, UnitingCare Australia
Ms Rachel Hillman	Youth Representative and former National Youth Roundtable member
Ms Barbara Holborow	Retired Children's Court Magistrate and Author
Ms Erica Lewis	Policy and Research Officer, YWCA Australia
Mr Michael O'Meara	Select Action Pty Ltd
Mr Peter Sandeman	Director, Office of the North
Mr Jim Stynes	Co Founder, The Reach Foundation

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Output Group: 3.5 - Support for Women

Question No: 49

Topic: Women's Safety Agenda

Hansard Page: CA25

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide a breakdown of notional estimates spending for the upcoming agenda over the next four years.

Answer:

Under the Women's Safety Agenda, a total of \$75.7 million was agreed in the 2005-06 Budget for funding over four years.

Details of notional budgets used in formulating new policy proposals are part of the confidential budget development process within government and it is not possible to provide this information.

As explained at Senate Estimates, budgets have not yet been set for the various elements of the Women's Safety Agenda. However, the government has clearly committed to delivering, within the funding envelope, on the seven elements listed at page 24 of the Women's Budget Statement: *What the Australian Government is Doing for Women*.

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Output Group: 3.5 Support for Women

Question No: 50

Topic: Partnerships Against Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: CA30

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide a financial accrual for all the programs and projects funded during phases one and two.

Answer:

Attached are tables with the titles of projects funded under the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* (1997 – 2005).

Business Sector	Funding
Economic costs of domestic violence to the Australian economy	\$128,575
Partnerships Against Domestic Violence: A Business Approach	\$700,000
Total	\$828,575

Children	Funding
Domestic violence and child protection project	\$80,000
Kids and Domestic Violence Project	\$200,000
Kids and domestic violence training initiative including the diversity training project	\$150,000
Knowing mothers: Safe young children – A peer support program to address the impact of domestic violence on the health and wellbeing of children	\$102,000
National Conference: The Way Forward: Children, young people and domestic violence	\$191,000
Shaping the Future	\$390,000
Training for school communities in relation to child witnesses to domestic violence	\$50,000
Working with Children and Young People	\$150,000
Total	\$1,313,000

Community	Funding
Community Action Project	\$20,000
Community Awareness Campaign	\$14,693,283
Consultation Project	\$80,000
Lifeline	\$500,000
Measuring family violence in Victoria	\$240,000
Partners for Prevention: A community consultation approach	\$57,000
Personal Safety Survey	\$731,623
Prevent Domestic Violence Programme	\$38,500
Routine screening to determine whether patients of specified NSW Health Services experience domestic violence	\$227,800
Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal	\$150,000
Total	\$16,738,206

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Elderly	Funding
Two Lives - Two Worlds: Older people and domestic violence	\$88,220
Home is Where the Hurt Is	\$2,500
Total	\$90,720

Indigenous Projects	Funding
Aboriginal Cultural Family Mediation Project	\$115,000
Atunypa Wiru Tji Tji Uwanaraku -Good Protection for All Children	\$145,000
Booklets on Family Violence	\$18,000
Building a Better Community	\$101,860
Capacity Building for Family Well Being	\$30,000
Changing Our Ways	\$155,160
Children's Drop in Centre	\$105,000
Child protection and family violence services strategy	\$100,000
Coffs Harbour Indigenous Family Violence Programme	\$50,000
Community Family Violence Programme	\$13,480
Community Wellbeing	\$109,000
Community Wellbeing II	\$45,000
Cultural Training on Family Violence	\$15,600
Development of pilot counselling programs for mandated and non-mandated Indigenous men responsible for family violence	\$250,000
Dharriwaa Walaay	\$142,000
Evaluation of a coordinated community intervention project (Moe Family Violence Project)	\$30,000
Families Against Violence - Bloodwood	\$29,700
Families Against Violence - Intjartnama	\$30,000
Family and Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Programme	\$70,000
Family education as family healing: education workshop activities for the whole family	\$85,800
Family Income Management Scheme	\$850,000
Families In Focus	\$124,230
Family Support Workers to assist in issues, community education referral and co-ordination	\$95,000
Family Violence Advocacy Services	\$1,040,000
Family Violence in the Kutjungka Region.	\$61,955
Family Violence- Service Model Assessment	\$80,000
Healing Our Families Our Way	\$147,000
Hear Me Now	\$100,000
Helping Ourselves Community Based Outreach	\$129,000
Indigenous Family Relationships Pilot project	\$620,000
Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Initiative	\$200,000
Indigenous Family Violence Strategy (Koori Family Strengthening)	\$45,000
Indigenous Men's Psychological Health	\$44,000
Inter-agency Family Violence Intervention Project (Phase I and II)	\$718,500
Jinda's Talking Against Violence	\$31,230

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Indigenous Projects	Funding
Kamilaroi Music Against Violence	\$72,000
Keeping Our Families Together	\$28,300
Keeping Our Families Together II	\$101,820
Koe-wore Morom (Healed Soul)	\$29,300
Koori Domestic Violence Inter-agency Group and Working with Children who have Experienced Domestic Violence	\$10,000
Kunta Wia – No Shame	\$95,000
Lajamanu Community	\$85,000
Leadership Forums and Best Practice Models	\$30,000
Let's Not Blame	\$70,000
Looking After Our Own	\$30,000
Mama Mukulya Tjifjiku (Concerned Fathers for Children)	\$75,300
Mapping pathways: Enhancement of family violence protocols and interagency linkages	\$40,000
Measuring the effectiveness of a mandated program for Indigenous family violence offenders	\$250,000
Mee Wee Domestic Violence Programme	\$37,730
Menindee Family Violence Project	\$150,000
Mentoring and Evaluation for Indigenous projects	\$480,395
Meriba Buai Giz-Phase II	\$30,000
Message Prints	\$146,500
Models of intervention at the point of Aboriginal Family Violence	\$53,000
Mount Barker Family Conflict Project	\$82,280
National Family Violence and Child Abuse Community Awareness and Prevention Campaign	\$98,680
Nunga Child's Play	\$34,790
Parameters of Indigenous family violence and capacity building within the Tasmanian Aboriginal community	\$110,000
Pilot Northern Territory mandated court-referred programme for offenders of domestic and Aboriginal family violence	\$218,850
Prevent Domestic Violence Programme	\$38,500
Promoting Life for Indigenous Young People Living with Family and Community Violence in the Kimberley Region of WA	\$95,400
Rekindle the Flame	\$30,000
Rekindling Family Relationships Forum	\$431,674
Remote Communities Women's Workshop	\$35,000
Remote Night Patrol Support	\$110,000
Remote Night Patrol Support II	\$47,300
Resources for Aboriginal communities	\$18,000
Respecting Others Respecting Yourself	\$29,500
Respect Project	\$83,840
Safe Families Project	\$90,000
Safety in Families	\$80,000
Safe Living in Aboriginal communities	\$210,000
Shield of Strength	\$2,700
Strengthening Community	\$143,300

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Indigenous Projects	Funding
Strengthening Families	\$17,480
Strengthening Family within the Community	\$28,150
Strengthening Koori Families	\$127,000
Strengthening the Heart	\$99,840
Stepping Up	\$148,800
Strong Families, Strong Community, Strong Culture	\$115,930
Supporting children and young people who have experienced family violence	\$45,000
The Countrymen Programme	\$100,000
The Countrymen Programme II	\$24,700
The Cycle of Violence	\$33,250
Tiwi Family Violence Prevention Project	\$120,000
Torres Strait Islander community education initiative	\$110,000
Training for Agencies Working with indigenous Women	\$60,000
Walking into Doors - Indigenous family violence communication campaign	\$300,000
Western Arrente Families Against Violence –Relahka Project	\$130,000
Women and Children Learning Development Centre	\$32,890
Women's Recreation	\$29,500
Working with Indigenous Men, Families and Communities	\$250,000
Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre, Kutta Kutta – No Excuse	\$148,800
Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre, Kutta Kutta – No Excuse II	\$53,000
Yoorana Gunya – needs assessment and feasibility plan	\$30,000
Youth Camp	\$14,550
Yugar Bumi – Through Empowerment, Self Healing	\$130,000
Total	\$11,879,564

Information and Research Dissemination	Funding
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse	\$1,695,100
Evaluation and Reports of the Partnerships Taskforce	\$694,000
PADV Showcasing (P1 and P2)	\$500,000
PADV Printing, Distribution, Website and Secretariat (P1 and P2)	\$641,024
Total	\$3,530,124

Men	Funding
Comparative Assessment of Good Practice in Programs for Men who use violence against female partners	\$450,000
Country men's use of crisis services	\$116,000
Evaluation of perpetrator programmes for mandated and voluntary participants in Western Australia	\$77,000
Evaluation of the family violence perpetrator program	\$10,000
Feasibility study implementing men's behaviour change programmes in Victoria	\$100,000
Men and Family Relationships Initiative	\$5,000,000
Men and Relationships: Partners in Progress Forum	\$187,518

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Men	Funding
Men's Line Australia	\$1,000,000
National Review of Integrated Programs for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence	\$300,000
Scoping study for a Tasmanian state-wide perpetrator program	\$69,000
Total	\$7,309,518

Multicultural	Funding
A community education campaign for ethnic communities on domestic violence laws	\$45,000
Domestic violence and criminal violence history of migration sponsors	\$44,600
Evaluation of Indigenous and NESB community awareness activities	\$160,000
National domestic violence campaign targeting non-English speaking background communities	\$500,000
Domestic Violence resources for the Polish Community	\$5,000
Regional multi-cultural access project	\$101,000
Research into community awareness of domestic violence in the diverse Australian community	\$105,330
Resources for Multicultural communities	\$10,000
Total	\$970,930

Professional Practitioners and Service Providers	Funding
Criminal Justice System inter-agency guidelines for responding to domestic violence	\$50,000
Domestic violence integrated information project	\$191,689
Identifying Family Violence resource kit and training programme for General Practitioners in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne	\$60,000
National Competency Standards	\$250,000
National domestic violence competency standards: Scoping and development	\$308,800
National Training Audit	\$100,000
Point of Contact (all community sectors)	\$550,000
Research into good practice models to facilitate access to civil and criminal justice system by people experiencing domestic violence	\$106,325
Training for service delivery	\$54,000
Validation of clinical tool for routine identification of domestic violence in hospital emergency departments	\$158,000
Total	\$1,828,814

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Rural	Funding
Domestic violence in rural and remote communities	\$534,000
Domestic violence training model for rural health workers	\$250,000
Model for an integrated response to domestic violence in Dubbo	\$80,000
Promoting Healthy Relationships: Grafton	\$74,000
Regional court support feasibility study	\$72,000
Rural and regional crisis intervention partnership: A model of best practice for rural and regional domestic violence intervention	\$400,000
Rural and remote domestic violence initiative	\$3,200,000
Tamworth domestic violence project	\$60,000
Total	\$4,670,000

Victims with Disabilities	Funding
Information for women with disabilities: It's not okay. It's violence	\$186,080
Total	\$186,080

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Women	Funding
Across the Lifespan: Violence throughout the lives of women and girls: conference	\$214,500
Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health	\$800,000
Big hART domestic violence prevention film project	\$58,200
Document exemplars of best practice of integrated approaches in local service networks that work collaboratively to support women affected by domestic violence	\$450,000
Domestic violence accredited training modules	\$68,000
Domestic violence screening and pregnancy project	\$20,000
Early Intervention Project: Working with families	\$1,500,000
Examine progress in accommodation and outreach options for women affected by domestic violence	\$120,000
Improving Women's Safety	\$100,000
Keeping and open mind: Domestic violence and the needs of women with mental health problems	\$68,000
Out of Sight: Not Out of Mind	\$290,000
Pathways and turning points: How women survive violent partners	\$159,000
Recovery from grief and trauma experienced by women affected by family violence	\$310,000
Women's Projects Advising Consultancy	\$40,000
Women and Policing Conference	\$20,000
Women, men and domestic violence	\$6,479
Young pregnant women and parents: Support, education and healthy relationships	\$150,000
Young Women's Relationship pilot project	\$300,000
Total	\$4,674,179

Youth	Funding
Domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault intervention project for young people – Stop it...Before it starts.	\$250,000
Domestic violence Education Package for young people: Be Cool...Not Cruel.	\$250,595
Early Intervention: Working with adolescent boys experiencing domestic violence	\$500,000
Making Noise project	\$650,000
National research on young people's attitudes to and experience of domestic violence	\$200,000
No Violence in Schools (NOVIS): Building healthy relationships for young people	\$138,000
Peer education for young people at risk: Relationships Violence – No Way!	\$21,000
Website project for young people	\$30,000
Workshops for Young people	\$705,712
Total	\$2,745,307

TOTAL EXPENDITURE : \$56,765,017

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Question No: 51

Topic: WESNET

Hansard Page: CA32

Senator Crossin asked:

When will the Executive Summary of the WESNET Report be put on the website?

Answer:

This is yet to be determined.

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Question No: 52

Topic: Lifeline - Referral Agencies

Hansard Page: CA34 and CA35

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Provide a list of Lifeline's referral agencies by state.
- b) Provide details of which agencies have received the \$100 referral payment.

Answer:

- a) As explained during the Senate Estimates hearings, it would be inappropriate to provide information that would identify specific referral agencies as this might compromise the safety of people who seek assistance from the Helpline. However, in each state and territory, most referrals are made to domestic violence helplines and related services, followed by referrals to sexual assault services.
- b) All organisations that have referrals recorded by the Helpline are eligible for funding except where an organisation is an Australian, state or territory government department or instrumentality, unless that organisation is a specialist domestic violence or sexual assault service. Lifeline is not paid for referrals made in-house. The state break down of paid referrals during the period June - November 2004 is:

State	Number
Victoria	2451
New South Wales	1913
Queensland	1355
Western Australia	668
South Australia	535
ACT	380
Tasmania	130
Northern Territory	43
Total	7475

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Question No: 53

Topic: Lifeline – Helpline Evaluation

Hansard Page: CA35-37

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Provide a copy of the contract for the evaluation of the helpline.
- b) Who will be consulted in the evaluation?
- c) Will the user satisfaction be assessed?

Answer:

- a) A copy of the Official Order is attached.
- b) Various stakeholders have been invited to participate in the evaluation, including domestic violence and sexual assault service providers who received referrals from the helpline.
- c) The evaluation is to analyse data generated through the Helpline and evaluate the performance of the Helpline, counselling and referral service. Under the terms of the contract, callers to the Helpline remain anonymous and, consequently, as users, they cannot be included in the evaluation process.

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Australian Government
Department of Family and Community Services

OFFICIAL ORDER No. FACS2830

1. Date

This Official Order is executed on 23/5/2005.

2. Contract Services

2.1 The Contractor will;

- Undertake an analysis of Helpline usage, performance and effectiveness from its commencement (6 June 2004) to 31 January 2005. This analysis would cover available statistical data, counsellor call records and case notes and either one on one interviews or focus groups, or a combination of these, with helpline counsellors and other 'experts' including specialist service providers who received referrals from the Helpline.
- Provide a report detailing the quantitative and qualitative analysis of key findings addressing, but not limited to, the following elements:

Usage

- ◇ origin of calls – rural, regional, metro
- ◇ types of callers – victim, perpetrator, family, concerned friend
- ◇ special needs of callers – to what extent did callers access translating and interpreting services, did callers express a preference for a particular type of counsellor (female/male/indigenous/young/mature)
- ◇ abandoned call rate – what was it and what were the reasons for calls being abandoned
- ◇ definitions – how were the telephone counsellors defining domestic violence versus sexual assault for the purposes of recording and coding call information

Issues raised/reason for call

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- ◇ what prompted the call and which messages had the greatest impact
- ◇ why did the caller chose the Helpline
- ◇ what sort of counselling was required – crisis, talking through issues
- ◇ what did counsellors find was the most effective approach/response to callers
- ◇ what type of assistance offered had the highest take up rate
- ◇ why did male callers select the Helpline
- ◇ had callers previously used telephone counselling services

Referral process

- ◇ were appropriate services available to refer callers to
- ◇ were there issues of access to particular services
- ◇ were any particular geographical areas more difficult for referrals
- ◇ how were issues such as no available service or no access to appropriate services managed
- ◇ how did callers respond to the offer of referral
- ◇ was the data base of services an easy and appropriate method of referral
- ◇ were there any needs that could not be met by available services

Operational issues

- ◇ What worked and what could have worked better in relation to infrastructure and support

3. Endorsement

- 3.1 This Official Order is placed pursuant to and subject to the terms and conditions of the Deed Number FACS **FaCS/SPA/1147** between the Department and Urbis Keys Young dated 16 May 2002

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4. Term

4.1 This Official Order will commence on 23 May 2005 and expire on 30 June 2005.

5. Contract Personnel

- 5.1 Deborah Corrigall – Senior Social Researcher
- 5.2 Claire Grealy – Senior Social Researcher
- 5.3 Duncan Rintoul – Senior Social Researcher
- 5.4 Samantha Ross – Social Researcher
- 5.5 Beth Tayler – Social Researcher

6. Fees

6.1 \$45,220 plus GST of \$4,522

7. The Project Officer

7.1 Tracy Gerholt

8. Times for Delivery

8.1 23 May 2005 – 30 June 2005

9. Payment Arrangements

9.1 Invoice upon delivery of final milestone

Milestone Details	Milestone Date	Milestone Payment
Contract period commences	23 May 2005	\$13,566 plus \$1,356.60 GST
Initial scoping, consultation with the Department and Lifeline	23 May 2005	0
Finalisation of interview schedules and other research instruments	25 May 2005	0
Key informant interviews/focus groups	24 May – 3 June 2005	0
Collation and analysis of data, documents, reports, service information	6 June to 14 June 2005	0
Top line presentation	16 June 2005	\$18,088 plus

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		\$1,808.80 GST
Final Report	30 June 2005	\$13,566 plus \$1,356.60 GST

9.2 Submission of Invoices:

- (i) The Contractor will only be entitled to render an invoice for an amount that is due for payment under the Contract.
- (ii) The Contractor will submit invoices to Tracy Gerholt.
- (iii) The due date for payment will be 30 days after delivery of a correctly rendered invoice to the Department following acceptance by the Department of the Contract Services.
- (iv) An invoice will be taken to be correctly rendered if:
 - (a) it contains:
 - the full title of the Contract Services
 - the name of the Project Officer
 - the FaCS Contract Number
 - the Contractor's ABN (if applicable)
 - the Contractor's bank account details
 - Bank details (if electronic payment is being used); and
 - (b) the amount claimed in the invoice is:
 - in accordance with the Contract Services for which payment is claimed; and
 - the Contract Services have been performed to the satisfaction of the Department and accepted by the Department;
 - (c) the invoice is accompanied, where required, by documentation that provides evidence that the Contract Services have been performed or, where the Contractor is invoicing the Department for an instalment, that the relevant part of the Contract Services have been performed, and provides detail of the hours worked for which fees are charged;
 - (d) the amount claimed in the invoice is due for payment; and
 - (e) the invoice is a valid tax invoice and complies with the requirements of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*.

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10. Contract Material

10.1 Top Line Presentation and a Final Evaluation Report.

11. Commonwealth Material

11.1 Any material provided to the contractor in relation to the provision of the contract services will be considered Commonwealth material.

12. Restrictions

12.1 Commonwealth material shall only be used by the contractor for the provision of the contract services.

13. Confidential Information of the Parties

13.1 Commonwealth's Confidential Information

(a) Contract Provisions/Schedules/Items

Provision/Schedule/Item	Rationale	Period of Confidentiality
Not Applicable.		

(b) Contract-related material

Item	Rationale	Period of Confidentiality
Not Applicable.		

13.2 Contractor's Confidential Information

(a) Contract Provisions/Schedules/Items

Provision/Schedule/Item	Rationale	Period of Confidentiality
Not Applicable.		

(b) Contract-related material

Item	Rationale	Period of Confidentiality
Not Applicable.		

14. Other Conditions

14.1 Not Applicable.

15. Notices

15.1 Department Contact Details:

Tracy Gerholt
Office for Women
PO Box 7788
CANBERRA MC ACT 2610
PH 02 6212 2411
FAX 02 6212 2497
EMAIL tracy.gerholt@facs.gov.au

Jeannine Bevan
Office for Women
PO Box 7788
CANBERRA MC ACT 2610

PH 02 6212 2410
FAX 02 6212 2497
EMAIL jeannine.bevan@facs.gov.au

Contractor Contact Details:

Deborah Corrigan
Urbis Keys Young
Level 18, 60 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

PH 02 8233 9919
FAX 02 9223 0990
EMAIL dcorrigan@urbisjhd.com

Beth Tayler
Urbis Keys Young
Level 18, 60 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

PH 02 8233 9900
FAX 02 9223 0990

SIGNED by the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

acting through and represented by the Department of Family and Community Services
by

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(Name of Commonwealth
Representative)

(Signature of Commonwealth
Representative)

IN THE PRESENCE OF

(Name of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

OPTION 3: Where the Company is NOT affixing its Common Seal

SIGNED for and on behalf of

(Name of Company)

(ACN/ABN Number)

(Name of Director)

(Signature of Director)

(Name of Director/Secretary)

(Signature of Director/Secretary)

IN THE PRESENCE OF

(Name of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

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Question No: 92

Topic: Lifeline – Tendering Process

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Crossin asked:

Who were the four organisations that were considered in the tendering process for Lifeline's?

Answer:

The four organisations that were considered in the tendering process to deliver a national counselling helpline for 2004-05 were Lifeline, Mission Australia, Relationships Australia and Kids' Helpline.

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Question No: 93

Topic: Lifeline – Statistics on Domestic Violence related calls

Hansard Page: CA38

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide statistics on the number of calls that are domestic violence related.

Answer:

According to Lifeline's national call data base, the Client Services Management Information System (CSMIS), the greatest percentage of calls (23 per cent) received by its telephone counselling service during 2003/04, dealt with family and relationships issues. Of these, approximately 6 per cent of calls related to violence and abuse.

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Question No: 55

Topic: Lifeline – Preferred Referral Services

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Crossin asked:

Is there a list of preferred referral services used by Lifeline?

Answer:

There is no list of preferred referral services used by Lifeline. Calls are assessed on an individual basis and determined by the needs of the caller. Lifeline counsellors can consult the 'Justlook' database *www.justlook.org.au*. Any service can submit their details to this database for inclusion.

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Question No: 56

Topic: Lifeline – Location of Helpline staff

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Crossin asked:

Where are the Helpline offices located?

Answer:

Under a decentralised model, Helpline services are currently located in Sydney and its surrounding areas at Gordon, Balgowlah, Wollongong and Strawberry Hills.

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Question No: 57

Topic: Lifeline – Counsellor Training

Hansard Page: CA42

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Provide an outline of the training given to the counsellors and explain what qualifications are required.
- b) Is it a requirement that counsellors have knowledge of each state's child protection laws and reporting requirements?

Answer:

- a) Lifeline counsellors, most of whom have tertiary qualifications in relevant disciplines, receive between 90-125 hours of training in telephone counselling. This training is an accredited course leading to a Certificate IV in Telephone Counselling.

In addition to this, all counsellors working on the Helpline were required to undertake further training covering sexual assault, post traumatic stress disorder and domestic violence. The package used for Helpline training was developed in conjunction with Lifeline Adelaide (which runs the state domestic violence Helpline) and it incorporated material from a number of domestic violence and rape crisis centres.

The training package was reviewed by a clinical psychologist from the NSW Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) and it covered topics such as:

- What is domestic violence?;
- Rights of those subjected to family violence;
- Engaging Men who have been abusive towards their Women Partners;
- Needs of Children;
- Telephone Counsellor Responses;
- What is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?;
- Changes experienced following a traumatic event;
- What is Sexual Assault?;
- The law;
- Psychological effects;
- Sexual assault and people with intellectual disability;
- Myths about childhood sexual assault; and
- Incest.

Once the Helpline had begun operating, ongoing training was provided to counsellors through a full time mentor from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sexual Assault Unit. The mentor and an ECAV clinical psychologist also provided additional support and supervision to the senior supervising Helpline staff.

- b) Yes, it is a requirement that all counsellors have knowledge of the child protection laws and reporting requirements for each state and territory. Supplementary material on relevant state and territory legislation is provided to counsellors with their training package.

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Question No: 54

Topic: Lifeline – Script for Helpline Counsellors

Hansard Page: CA43

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide a copy of the script the Helpline counsellors use to answer calls regarding domestic violence.

Answer:

There is no set script for answering domestic violence calls. In consultation with a number of specialist government and non-government domestic violence and sexual assault services including the NSW Department of Community Services, the SA Domestic Violence Crisis Service, sexual assault counsellors at Westmead and Royal Prince Alfred hospitals and the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence, Lifeline developed a detailed set of protocols and procedures for answering calls to the Helpline.

Lifeline has advised that its telephone counsellors (TCs) use the following procedures when dealing with calls, including domestic violence calls:

- Answer with prescribed welcome “Hello this is the Confidential Helpline. How can I help”?
- Record time call is received.
- Early in the conversation ask “May I ask which State you are calling from?” Record information on call sheet.
- Offer a female counsellor in line with policy or if requested or assessed as appropriate.
- Engage in the counselling process with focus on assessment of need or risk, namely:
 - Risk Assessment – Conduct an immediate risk assessment to determine if it is a crisis situation or if the client is at risk.
 - Crisis Response Process – Determine if the client is at risk. If yes, then refer to the Crisis Response Process. If no, proceed with counselling.
 - Domestic Violence – In the event of a caller being involved in an attack or abuse in progress, dial 000 and provide details to Police.
 - Recent Sexual Assault – When handling a caller alleging recent sexual assault refer to the guidelines.
 - Suicide in Progress – Refer to specified procedures TCs must initiate when handling a Suicide in Progress call.
 - Call Tracing – TCs are encouraged to initiate a malicious call trace on suspect calls received.

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- Child Protection – Refer to specified procedure for handling child protection callers.
 - Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) – If the caller can only communicate in another language then check if a TC is currently working that can speak the language. If there is not, contact the TIS using the specified procedure.
 - National Relay Service – If the caller is hearing impaired, please note that a Telephone Typewriter (TTY) officer will be relaying information to and from the client.
 - Malicious Call – If a malicious call is received, keep the caller on line and advise the Supervisor immediately.
 - Nuisance Call – If a nuisance call is received, the call should be terminated immediately and recorded on the call sheet.
 - Call Referral Process – The criterion for making a referral is that the telephone counsellor determines the caller needs help that the counsellor/Helpline is unable to provide. Refer appropriately to other organisations using Lifeline's *Justlook* referral database and the referral process.
- Complete the call sheet as the call progresses.
 - Consult with the Supervisor in all cases where emergency intervention may be required.

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Question No: 59

Topic: National Women’s Secretariats

Hansard Page: CA47

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide a list of organisations under each secretariat.

Answer:

As at May 2005 there are currently 62 members of the National Secretariats (with nine organisations represented on more than one Secretariat, indicated by **). The Secretariats are encouraged to include an Indigenous perspective. Two Secretariats do not have an Indigenous women’s organisation as a member but ensure they have an Indigenous perspective by having “An Indigenous Woman” as a member (marked with a #). Consortium members are:

Australian Women’s Coalition Inc (AWC). (15 members)

Current members are:

- Australian Church Women
- Australian Federation of Medical Women**
- Council of the Ageing
- Guides Australia**
- Soroptimist International**
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Australia**
- Zonta International - District 23 and 24
- Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women’s Association of Australia
- Catholic Women’s League Australia**
- Salvation Army (women)
- National Council of Jewish Women of Australia
- National Council of Women of Australia
- Muslim Women’s National Network of Australia
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc**
- Conflict Resolving Women’s Network Australia Inc

National Rural Women’s Coalition Inc (NRWC). (7 members)

Current members are:

- Australian Women in Agriculture
- Country Women’s Association of Australia
- Women’s Industry Network Seafood Community
- Australian Local Government Women’s Association
- National Rural Health Alliance
- Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women
- An Indigenous woman#

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WomenSpeak Network – YWCA Australia as agent. (37 members)

Current members are:

- Soroptimist International**
- Guides Australia**
- Catholic Women's League of Australia**
- International Women's Development Agency
- National Foundation for Australian Women**
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Children by Choice
- Australian Federation of Medical Women**
- National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence
- Australian Women's Health Network
- Australian Federation of University Women**
- National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children
- Public Health of Australia (Women's Special Interest Group)
- UNIFEM Australia**
- Amnesty International Women's Human Rights Team
- United Nations Association of Australia Status of Women Network
- Women's Electoral Lobby
- Working Against Sexual Harassment
- Australian Bahai Community – Office of Equality
- Migrant Women's Lobby Group of South Australia
- Project Respect
- Union of Australian Women
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women Coalition**
- Women with Disabilities Australia
- Women's Economic Think Tank (WETTANK)
- Body Image and Eating Disorders Network of South Australia
- National Union of Students (Women's Department)
- National Council of Churches in Australia (Gender Commission)
- National Liaison Committee for International Students in Australia (Women's Department)
- Australasian Council of Women and Policing
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc**
- Multicultural Women's Advocacy
- Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Gender Equity Working Group
- Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA)
- Women in Adult & Vocation Education (WAVE)**
- An Indigenous woman#
- YWCA Australia

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Security 4 Women – Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Australia) as agent. (13 members)

Current members are:

- Association of Women Educators
- Australian Federation of University Women**
- Certified Practising Accountants (Women)
- View Clubs Australia
- Koori Women Mean Business
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition**
- National Association of Women in Construction
- Women in Adult and Vocational Education
- The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia
- National Foundation for Australian Women**
- Women in Mortgage Broking Network
- QLD Working Women's Network
- BPW Australia

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Output Group: 3.5 - Support for Women

Question No: 91

Topic: Appropriations

Hansard Page: CA22

Senator Crossin asked:

What is the annual budget allocated to Office for Women?

Answer:

The annual budget allocated to the Office for Women from departmental resources is \$4.517 million in 2005-06.

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Output Group: 3.5 – Support for Women

Question No: 94

Topic: Funding for Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) In the Department of Health and Ageing there is no additional \$3.2 million promised to the Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Is the Office for Women aware of this?
- b) Why is this funding commitment (also announced in "Australian Women – Opportunities for Life") not in the budget?
- c) Does Office for Women facilitate a policy role of providing a high level (policy and other) advice to the Minister Assisting the PM for Womens Issues?
- d) Why has Office for Women not played a role in making sure this study is funded?
- e) Would you agree that a lack of funding allocated for a twenty year study would impede on the success of a study such as this?

Answer:

- a) The Government announced in the 2004-05 Budget that an additional \$3.2 million over four years is to be committed for the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (the Study). This measure will allow increases in the costs and scope of the study to be met.

This initiative was highlighted in the Office for Women's 2005 *What the Australian Government is Doing for Women* publication (p42). It was also highlighted in the 2004 edition of *What the Australian Government is Doing for Women*.

- b) Funding of \$3.2 million over four years was announced in the 2004-05 Budget.
- c) Yes. The Office for Women provides policy and other advice to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues.
- d) The Office for Women is actively engaged with the Study and is a member of the Study's Advisory Committee.

The Study has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing since 1995. In 2003-04 and 2004-05, the Office for Women and the Department of Health and Ageing jointly funded the Study, with Office for Women providing \$0.8 million (GST exclusive) over the two years from the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence funding. The Australian Government announced in the 2004-05 Budget an additional \$3.2 million over four years to cover increases in the cost and scope of the Study.

- e) The Department of Health and Ageing has been funding the study since 1995. The 2004-05 Budget measure secured confirmed funding until 2007-08, allowing for increases in the cost and scope of the study to be met.

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Output Group: 3.5 Support for Women

Question No: 95

Topic: Women's Fitness Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Are Office for Women aware of any money being allocated in the Department of Family and Community Services or Department of Health and Ageing for the *Women's Active Living Kits (WALK)* \$1,500 community grants?
- b) Why is this funding commitment (also announced in "Australian Women – Opportunities for Life") not in the budget?
- c) Do you know if these grants will be funded, if so where from?
- d) Why has Office for Women not played a role in making sure these grants are funded?

Answer:

- a) Yes. Funding has been allocated in the Department of Family and Community Services, Office for Women, budget for the *Women's Active Living Kits (WALK)* initiative.
- b) The funding commitment was included in the budget, see "What the Australian Government is doing for Women 2005" (page 22).
- c) The *Women's Active Living Kits (WALK)* initiative is being funded as a pilot from the Office for Women's Leadership and Development Programme.
- d) The *Women's Active Living Kits (WALK)* initiative has been funded and the Office for Women will be implementing it.

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Output Group: 3.5 – Support for Women

Question No: 96

Topic: Personal Safety Survey

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- a) Please provide an update on the survey?
- b) How did the dress rehearsal go in March-April 2005?
- c) Could you please provide an outline of the questions that will be asked in the survey?

Answer:

- a) and b)

The survey will report on data regarding violence against men and women and will build on data collected during the 1996 Women's Safety Survey. The Pilot was successfully conducted in NSW earlier this year, verifying the questions to be included in the survey and the training to be given to the interviewers.

- c) The specific questions to be included in the survey are not released before the survey is undertaken to ensure the safety of both interviewers and interviewees.