

**Community Affairs
Legislation Committee**

Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006

Additional Information Received

VOLUME 5

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

FaCS Outcomes: Cross Outcome, Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5

Aboriginal Hostels Limited & Australian Institute of Family Studies agencies

FEBRUARY 2006

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF 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 supplementary hearing on 3 November 2005

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 5 Page No.
Moore	T1	Department of Family and Community Service Certified Agreement 2005-2008	1
Conroy	1,	Outsourced ICT - spending	2
Conroy	2, 3, 4	Outsourced ICT projects; failed projects/abandoned projects	3-5
Conroy	5, 6,	Contract negotiations/training – Senate Order	6-7
Murray	7	Procurement guidelines	8-9
Murray	8	ANAO audits	10
Evans	11	Staffing issues – update to Budget QON 170	11-12
Fielding	12	Portfolio airfares	13-14
Evans	13	Indigenous staffing	15
McLucas	128	One FaCS	16
Moore	129	Crisis payment review	17
Outcome 2: Output group 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility			
Carr	T2	Housing support and Indigenous housing and infrastructure staff classifications	18
Carr	T3	SAAP expenditure	19-26
Carr	14	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement - underspend	27
Carr	15	Tasmanian Government housing plan	28
Carr	17, 20	Rent assistance recipients payment	29-32
Carr	19	Rent assistance eligibility criteria	33
Carr	21	Rent assistance review – terms of reference	34
Carr	22	Rent assistance review – tender documentation	35-38
Carr	23	SAAP services – domestic violence	39
Carr	24	Functions of housing programs	40-41
Siewert	25	Cunnamulla SRA - conditions	42
Fielding	26	CSHA – client satisfaction survey	43
Carr	27	Indigenous housing programs	44
Carr	28	CHIP underspend	45
Carr	29	CHIP increase in budget	46
Carr	30	CHIP breakdown of funding	47
Carr	31	National housing strategy - themes	48
Carr	32	National housing strategy - focus	49
Carr	33	National housing strategy – strategic framework	50
Carr	34	National housing strategy - administration	51
Carr	35	Coordination of response to homelessness	52
Carr	36	National homelessness strategy – service delivery	53

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

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 2: Output group 2.1 – Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility [contd]	Vol. 5 Page No.
Carr	37	National homelessness strategy – initiatives	54
Carr	38	National homelessness strategy – funding round	55
Carr	39	Demonstration project funding	56
Carr	40	CACH – focus and guidelines	57
Carr	41	Expressions of interest for demonstration projects	58
Carr	42	National homelessness strategy - extension	59
Carr	43	National homelessness strategy – communications strategy	60
Carr	44	National homelessness strategy - budget	61
Carr	45	Advisory committee	62
Carr	46	Advisory committee membership	63
Crossin	47	CHIP – breakdown and municipal services	64
Crossin	48	1 per cent efficiency dividend applied to housing funds	65
Crossin	49	ARHP – funding confirmation	66
Crossin	50	Review of allocated funds for Indigenous housing	67
Crossin	51	Housing Ministers' meeting	68-70
Crossin	52	Review of the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program	71
Crossin	53	Indigenous housing – needs analysis	72
Crossin	54	CHIP and municipal services - outlays	73
Siewert	55	National housing policy	74
Siewert	56	Advisory body on housing	75
Siewert	57-59	Indigenous housing programs	76-78
Carr	60	Rent assistance	79
Carr	61	Rent assistance – Indigenous tenants	80
Evans	62	National priorities funds NHS – Indigenous component	81
Carr	124	RA recipients breakdown by income payment	82-85
Evans	125	Relationships between Indigenous and housing branches	86-87
Fielding	126	CSHA report	88
Outcome 3: Output group 3.1 – Support for the Aged			
McLucas	63	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - evaluation	89
McLucas	64	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - leaflets	90
McLucas	65	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - report	91-92
McLucas	66	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - demographics	93
Moore	67	Property valuations – AVO changes	94
Moore	68	Property valuations - appeals	95
Evans	70	Age pension	96-99
Evans	71	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	100
Evans	72	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card – compliance checks on self-funded retirees	101
McLucas	127	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - targetting	102
Moore	130	Property valuations – savings	103
Moore	131	Health Care Card for Retirees	104

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

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 3: Output group 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities	Vol. 5 Page No.
McLucas	73	ANAO report – CSTDA data collection	105
Siewert	74	CSTDA – policy priorities	106-107
Siewert	75	CSTDA – unmet need	108
Siewert	76	ANAO report – development of measures	109
Outcome 3: Output group 3.3 – Support for Carers			
Moore	77	Carer payment (child) expanded eligibility criteria	110
McLucas	78	Carer payment – disaggregation of claims	111
McLucas	79	Carer payment (adult) – three month group	112
McLucas	80	Carer payment (child - applications)	113
McLucas	81	Carer payment - appeals	114
McLucas	82	National family carers voice – total allocation	115
McLucas	83	National family carers voice – consultant fees	116
McLucas	84	Access Economics report on informal care	117-118
Siewert	85	Tax free threshold carer payment and carer allowance	119
Evans	86	Carer allowance (child) - breakdown	120
Evans	87	Carer payment (child) – claims and rejections	121
Evans	88	Carer payment (child) – expanded eligibility criteria	122
Outcome 3: Output group 3.4 – Support for Youth			
Fielding	89	Open Doors Queensland	123
Outcome 3: Output group 3.5 – Support for Women			
Moore	90	Women's safety agenda	124-125
Evans	91	Indigenous women's activities	126-127
Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Support for Families			
Moore	75*	Family relationship centre tenders [*this answer relates to Budget Estimates hearings May 2005]	128
Fielding	92	Family relationship services – list of providers	129
Siewert	93	Family relationship services – tender documentation	130
Evans	94	FTB appeals	131
Evans	95	Maternity payment	132-138
Evans	96	Family tax benefit reconciliation	139-140
Evans	97	Family tax benefit – reconciliation update of budget QON 183	141-165
Evans	98	Average incomes of family tax benefit recipients	166-172
Evans	99	FTB recipients – actual annual taxable income	173-178
Evans	100	Spending on administration of family assistance	179
Evans	101-103	Health care cards for FTB recipients	180-182

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

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Support for Families [contd]	Vol. 5 Page No.
Evans	104	Family relationship services program	183
Evans	105	Contact orders program - FaCSLink	184
Evans	106	Family relationships services program – listing and servicing	185-186
Evans	107	FRSP additional funding	187
Evans	148	Waived debts	188
Evans	149	\$600 per child supplement	189
Outcome 4: Output group 4.3 – Child Care Support			
Evans	108	Child care benefit reconciliation	190
McLucas	109	In home care program	191
Moore	110	State child care regulations	192-193
Evans	111	Child care benefit reconciliation	194-198
McLucas	132	In home care – parents of children with disabilities	199
Siewert	147	Welfare to work child care arrangements – allocation of funds	200-201
Outcome 5: Output group 5.1 – Supporting Communities and Delivering Local Solutions			
Evans	112	Volunteer small equipment grants	202-203
Evans	113	COAG trial Wadeye - spending	204-205
Evans	114	COAG trial – evaluation of interventions	206
Evans	115	Community organisations – one off grants	207
Evans	116	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye - initiatives	208-209
Evans	117	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye - costings	210
Evans	118	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye – baseline data	211-212
Evans	119	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye – performance indicators	213
Evans	120	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye - evaluations	214
Evans	121	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye - OIPC	215
Evans	122	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye – visits to trial site	216
Evans	123	COAG Indigenous community trial in Wadeye – Departmental staffing	217
Aboriginal Hostels Limited			
Murray	10	ANAO audits	218
Conroy	137	Outsourced ICT - spending	219
Conroy	138-140	Outsourced ICT projects;- failed projects/abandoned projects	220-222
Conroy	144-145	Contract negotiations – Senate order	223-224
Murray	146	Procurement guidelines	225-226

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

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Murray	9	ANAO audits	227
Conroy	133	Outsourced ICT - spending	228
Conroy	134-136	Outsourced ICT projects;- failed projects/abandoned projects	229-231
Conroy	141	Contract negotiations – Senate order	232
Conroy	142	Contracts training – Senate order	233
Conroy	143	Procurement guidelines	234

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

Output Group: Cross..... **Question No:** T1

Topic: Department of Family and Community Services Certified Agreement 2005-2008

Hansard Page: Taken on Notice

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide a copy of FaCS' Certified Agreement

Answer:

A copy of the FaCS Certified Agreement is attached. An electronic version of the report will be provided to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Secretariat for distribution.

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

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

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 001

Topic: Outsourced ICT - spending

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.
- b) Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).
- c) Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12-month period? If not, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - ii. Details of specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - iii. The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12-month period.

Answer:

The answer supplied is based on clarification received that the question asked by Senator Conroy relates purely to outsourcing between 1 December 2004 and 30 November 2005.

- a) The total departmental spending on outsourced ICT products and services between 1 December 2004 and 30 November 2005 was \$5,725,026.
- b) This amount can be broken down into management and delivery of desktop and IT infrastructure services \$3,999,400; telephone management services \$283,073; and management and support of SAP infrastructure \$1,442,553.
- c) Yes.

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

Output Group: Cross

.....**Question No: 002**

Topic: Outsourced ICT - Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).
- b) For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent of any delay;
 - ii. The reasons these projects were not completed on time;
 - iii. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).

Answer:

The answer supplied is based on clarification received that the question asked by Senator Conroy relates purely to outsourcing between 1 December 2004 and 30 November 2005.

- a) Nil
- b) There were no such projects.

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

Output Group: Cross

.....**Question No: 003**

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Failed Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

Answer:

The answer supplied is based on clarification received that the question asked by Senator Conroy relates purely to outsourcing between 1 December 2004 and 30 November 2005.

Nil.

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

Output Group: Cross

.....**Question No: 004**

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Abandoned Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.
- b) For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
 - Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
 - Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

The answer supplied is based on clarification received that the question asked by Senator Conroy relates purely to outsourcing between 1 December 2004 and 30 November 2005.

- a) Nil.
- b) There were no such projects.

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

Output Group: Cross

.....**Question No: 005**

Topic: Contract Negotiations – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

What guidance is provided to staff with responsibilities for contract negotiations specifically about the requirements of the Senate Order? If relevant guidance is not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

Departmental staff with responsibilities for contract preparation, negotiation and management have access to a range of guidance (including on Senate Order requirements) which includes access to internal and external tools such as:

- a link from the FaCS Intranet site to the Department of Finance and Administration's guidance material on meeting the requirements of Senate Order 192
- internal publications - the FaCS 'Practical Guide to Program Administration' and the 'Staff Guide to Purchasing'
- the provision of detailed guidance material to Branches on reporting requirements and links to the Department of Finance and Administration guidance, provided twice per annum in line with Senate Order 192
- advice to Branch Heads on the recommended treatment of confidentiality provisions in contracts
- training to Branches which includes Senate Order reporting obligations
- Contract Management training courses which include Senate Order 192 obligations, and
- a dedicated helpdesk to advise on procurement matters.

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

Output Group: Cross Question No: 006

Topic: Contracts Training – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

What training and awareness sessions are provided, either in-house or through other training providers (eg. Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA), Australian Public Service (APS) Commission or private firms) in respect of the Order? Please provide a list of the dates, the identity of the training providers and the content of the training that staff attended in 2005. If training and awareness sessions are not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

The Order is addressed in contract management courses and Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines awareness sessions.

Contract Management Courses

Training courses in contract management are run by Shane Carroll - a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Mr Carroll is contracted to present this program through the APS Commission.

The main focus of the course is to:

- adopt a systematic approach to understanding issues of contract management
- help participants to prepare strategies to develop and negotiate contracts
- help participants to plan and manage a tendering process, and
- help participants develop strategies to assist in future contract management activities.

Course participants in considering confidentiality issues look at Senate Order 192 itself, then at the Freedom of Information Act in relation to what is commercial in confidence. This information is then applied by working through an example of what is, and what is not commercial in confidence.

Course Dates (all courses of 2 days duration)

02/08/2005 Contract Management

06/06/2005 Contract Management - Funding Agreement & Commercial Supplies Services

10/06/2005 Contract Management - Funding Agreement & Commercial Supplies Services

02/08/2005 Getting That Contract Right

25/08/2005 Contract Management - Funding Agreement & Commercial Supplies Services

06/09/2005 Contract Management

08/09/2005 Contract Management

26/09/2005 Contract Management - Funding Agreement & Commercial Supplies Services

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

Output Group: Cross

.....**Question No: 007**

Topic: Procurement Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

Has the department/agency revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2005, particularly with respect to the confidentiality elements contained in those guidelines? If so, when did this occur and can a copy be provided? If not, what is the cause of the delay and when will the revision occur?

Answer:

The department has revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect on 1 January 2005.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO



2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005
Australian Government

Department of Family and Community Services

STAFF GUIDE TO COMMERCIAL PROCUREMENT

2nd Edition
(December 2005)

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

Business Support Branch

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

Output Group: Cross Question No: 008

Topic: ANAO Audits - FaCS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audits for the last three years have revealed a consistently low level of compliance across most agencies with Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) confidentiality criteria (February 2003) for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential. The ANAO's latest report on the Order (No.11 2005-06, September 2005) states that departments and agencies need to give higher priority with this important requirement of the Senate Order.

- a) What specific measures have been or will be taken to address this problem, give it higher priority and raise compliance levels?
- b) What guidance and training are provided to staff about the confidentiality criteria and the four tests employed to determine whether information should be protected?
- c) What internal auditing or checking is performed to test compliance in this area? If none is performed, why not and is the agency considering the adoption of internal controls and checks?
- d) What problems, if any, has the agency and/or relevant staff experienced in complying with the Senator Order? What is the nature and cause of any problems? What measures have been, or could be, adopted to address these concerns?

Answer:

- a) The Department is reviewing its staff procurement manual to upgrade the level of information provided on Senate Order 192. The launch of the upgraded manual will be accompanied by updated information on the FaCS Intranet site.
- b) Guidance on the four tests has been provided directly through written advice to Branch Managers and senior managers. FaCS staff can use links on the FaCS Intranet site to the DoFA guidance on applying the confidentiality tests. In addition, training to staff provides specific guidance on the application of confidentiality provisions in contracts. A dedicated helpdesk also provides procurement related advice to staff.
- c) Progress against the ANAO findings are reported to an internal audit committee on a regular basis.
- d) Problems generally relate to misunderstandings of the detailed requirements for reporting confidentiality and difficulties in reconciling contract information recorded on different internal systems. Measures adopted to address these problems are outlined in answers to earlier parts of the question.

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

Output Group: Cross.....Question No: 011

Topic: Staffing Issues – Update to Budget QoN 170

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide an update of the tables provided in response to QoN 170 from May 2005 Estimates.

(QON 170: 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 3 November 2005.

FaCS Staffing by Classification (Level)

Secretary	1
SES Band 3	3
SES Band 2	7
SES Band 1	43
FACS Executive Level 2	198
FACS Executive Level 1	541
FACS Broadband 3 - APS 5/6	725
FACS Broadband 2 - APS 3/4	259
FACS Broadband 1 - APS 1/2	36
Trainee/Indigenous Cadet	2
Legal 2	7
Legal 1	8
Senior Public Affairs Officer Grade 1	1
Public Affairs Officer Grade 3	14
Public Affairs Officer Grade 2	11
Public Affairs Officer Grade 1	4
Total	1860

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

FaCS Staffing by Location

ACT	1323
New South Wales	109
Northern Territory	50
Queensland	122
South Australia	60
Tasmania	24
Victoria	99
Western Australia	72

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

Overseas	1
Total	1860

FaCS Staffing by Gender

Female	1244
Male	616
Total	1860

FaCS Staffing by Employment Status

Ongoing Full Time	1489
Ongoing Part Time	251
Non-ongoing Full Time	94
Non-ongoing Part Time	21
Casuals	5
Total	1860

FaCS Staffing by Age Group

<20	5
20-24	68
25-29	167
30-34	208
35-39	326
40-44	320
45-49	343
50-54	259
55-59	110
60-64	45
65+	9
Total	1860

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

Output Group: Cross.....Question No: 012

Topic: Portfolio Airfares

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

- a) How much money has the portfolio spent on domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
- b) How much money has the portfolio spent on overseas airfares for each of the last three financial years?
- c) How much money has the portfolio spent on economy class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
- d) How much money has the portfolio spent on business class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
- e) How much has the portfolio spent on first class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
- f) What would be the estimated financial year dollar saving if all public servants in the portfolio traveled economy class for flights of less than one and a half hours duration?

Answer:

- a) The total spent on domestic airfares for each of the financial years was:

2002-03 - \$3,861,327

2003-04 - \$7,783,958

2004-05 - \$5,036,371

- b) The total spent on overseas airfares for each of the financial years was:

2002-03 - \$551,107

2003-04 - \$577,214

2004-05 - \$491,821

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

- c) The total spent on economy class domestic airfares for each of the financial years was:

2002-03 - \$2,729,231
2003-04 - \$5,818,666
2004-05 - \$3,500,188

- d) The total spent on business class domestic airfares for each of the financial years was:

2002-03 - \$1,132,096
2003-04 - \$1,965,292
2004-05 - \$1,536,183

- e) The total spent on first class domestic airfares for each of the financial years was:

2002-03 - Nil
2003-04 - Nil
2004-05 - Nil

- f) This information is not readily available and we are unable to accurately provide an estimate.

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

Output Group: Cross Question No: 013

Topic: Indigenous Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Provide the number and percentage of Indigenous staff in the Department in 2004 and 2003?
If the number has decreased, please explain the reason.

Answer:

The following table shows the number of FaCS staff who had self-identified as Indigenous on FaCS' Human Resource Management System (IMPACT) as at 30 June 2004 and 2003.

	Number of Indigenous Staff	Percentage of Total Staff (%)
@30 June 2004	24	1.27
@30 June 2003	19	0.98

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

Output Group: Cross Outcome Question No: 128

Topic: One FaCS

Hansard Page: CA45

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide a written brief explaining what One FaCS is going to be, what the consultation is going to be, how long it will go for and what the milestones are.

Answer:

The One FaCS approach will streamline processes within the department and make it easier for community organisations to work with FaCS by reducing red tape.

Between December 2005 and June 2006 a number of round table discussions will be held with a range of service providers across Australia to hear their ideas about cutting red tape while maintaining appropriate standards of transparency and accountability. Input will also be gained from peak representative organisations and other FaCS consultative forums. All service providers are also being provided with the opportunity to contribute ideas and suggestions via email. A report will be provided to the Minister following completion of the consultations.

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

Output Group: Cross.....Question No: 129

Topic: Crisis Payment Review

Hansard Page: CA52

Senator Moore asked:

- a) Can FaCS clarify whether they stimulated the Crisis Payment review?
- b) Did FaCS have any involvement with the review?

Answer:

- a) FaCS did not stimulate the Crisis Payment review.
- b) During the course of the review, Centrelink sought advice from FaCS in relation to policy and legislation. FaCS was not formally involved in the review process.

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

Output Group: 2.1 Question No: T2

Topic: Housing Support and Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Staff Classifications

Hansard Page: Tabled at hearing

Senator Carr asked:

List the classifications of staff in Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch and Housing Support Branch.

Answer:

Full Time Equivalent staffing levels for both branches as at 3 November 2005 are:

Level	HSB	IHIB	Total
SES	1	1	2
EL2	5	6	11
EL1	15	15	30
APS 5/6	17.6	10	27.6
APS 3/4	4	1	5
APS 1/2	0	0	0
Total	42.6	33	75.6

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

Output Group: 2.1

Question No: T3

Topic: SAAP Expenditure

Hansard Page: Tabled at Hearing

Senator Carr asked:

Provide breakdown in the proportion of Commonwealth v State SAAP funding over the last five agreements

Answer:

Breakdown is attached.

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

Funding Percentages for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) by States/Territory and Commonwealth

	Commonwealth	States/Territories
	%	%
SAAP I (1985-90)	59.19	40.81
SAAP II (1990-95)	56.41	43.59
SAAP III (1995-00)	55.96	44.04
SAAP IV (2000-05)	57.20	42.80
SAAP V (2005-10)	51.42	48.58

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005

COMMONWEALTH Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Total Funding (\$'000)											
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL	OTHER	TOTAL
1984-85	10,130	4,812	4,288	2,991	2,901	1,390	666	852	28,030		28,030
SAAPI											
1985-86	10,255	4,721	4,552	4,110	3,915	1,902	991	1,139	31,585		31,585
1986-87	12,855	8,923	7,389	4,689	4,543	2,212	1,251	1,433	43,295		43,295
1987-88	15,608	10,984	8,566	5,375	5,066	2,566	1,335	1,744	51,244		51,244
1988-89	21,047	13,445	9,700	6,031	5,719	2,907	1,583	2,047	62,479		62,479
1989-90	25,359	15,257	10,911	6,733	6,378	3,185	1,804	2,287	71,914	0	71,914
Total SAAP I	85,124	53,330	41,118	26,938	25,621	12,772	6,964	8,650	260,517	0	260,517
SAAP II											
1990-91	29,968	18,495	13,052	7,967	7,531	3,592	2,200	2,711	85,516		85,516
(Includes	32,245	20,677	14,516	8,453	9,032	3,409	2,466	3,005	93,803		93,803
YJSJS*)	33,825	22,802	16,011	8,907	9,513	3,477	2,573	3,195	100,303		100,303
1993-94	37,672	24,416	16,491	9,288	9,950	3,664	2,705	3,334	107,520		107,520
1994-95	38,133	26,015	16,766	9,621	10,096	3,739	2,757	3,432	110,559		110,559
Total SAAP II	171,843	112,405	76,836	44,236	46,122	17,881	12,701	15,677	497,701	0	497,701
SAAPIII											
1995-96	38,838	26,496	17,177	9,863	12,221	3,838	2,827	3,519	114,779		114,779
1996-97	42,253	27,849	17,925	10,073	12,486	5,468	2,892	3,598	122,544		122,544
1997-98	43,014	28,350	18,249	10,255	12,711	5,566	2,944	3,663	124,752		124,752
1998-99	44,244	29,135	18,908	10,719	13,322	5,862	3,298	3,742	129,230		129,230
1999-00	44,908	29,572	22,939	13,580	13,522	5,950	3,762	3,798	138,031		138,031
Total SAAP III	213,257	141,402	95,198	54,490	64,262	26,684	15,723	18,320	629,336	0	629,336
SAAP IV											
2000-01	50,798	33,763	25,942	15,275	14,952	6,696	4,454	5,333	157,213		157,213
2001-02	52,271	34,742	26,884	16,012	15,386	6,890	4,583	5,488	162,256		162,256

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005

2002-03	53,927	35,843	27,744	16,523	15,873	7,108	4,728	5,662	167,408	167,408
2003-04	55,167	36,667	28,387	16,906	16,238	7,271	4,832	5,792	171,260	171,260
2004-05	56,270	37,400	28,957	17,245	16,563	7,416	4,929	5,908	174,688	174,688
Total SAAP IV	268,433	178,415	137,914	81,961	79,012	35,381	23,526	28,183	832,825	0 832,825
SAAP V	2005-06 (Est)	57,508	38,223	29,594	17,624	16,927	7,579	5,037	6,038	178,530
	2006-07 (Est)	58,773	35,721	28,914	17,330	16,300	7,446	4,899	5,873	175,256 7,202 182,458
	2007-08 (Est)	60,066	36,507	28,268	16,938	15,948	7,277	4,791	6,002	175,797 10,674 186,471
(includes I&I	2008-09 (Est)	62,327	40,440	31,311	18,657	17,889	8,022	5,327	6,410	190,383
Fund**)	2009-10 (Est)	63,636	41,290	31,969	19,049	18,265	8,191	5,439	6,545	194,384
	Total SAAP V	302,310	192,181	150,056	89,598	85,329	38,515	25,493	30,868	914,350 17,876 932,226

* YSJS -- Youth Social Justice Services; **Innovation and Investment Fund -- For 2006-07 and 2007-08 the funding is shown separately as the State/Territory allocation has not yet been finalised.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005

STATE/TERRITORY	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL
1984-85	4,400	1,496	926	674	838	371	374	208	9,287
SAAPI									
1985-86	11,886	4,179	2,285	2,186	2,203	925	779	681	25,124
1986-87	12,315	4,437	2,822	2,957	2,595	1,125	1,005	980	28,236
1987-88	14,330	6,181	4,970	3,560	3,095	1,440	1,005	1,262	35,843
1988-89	14,330	7,958	6,193	4,122	4,215	2,225	1,594	1,526	42,163
1989-90	18,353	9,328	6,938	4,798	3,642	2,354	1,080	1,752	48,245
Total SAAP I	71,214	32,083	23,208	17,623	15,750	8,069	5,463	6,201	179,611
SAAP II (Includes YSJS*)									
1990-91	26,005	12,229	9,046	5,923	4,641	2,714	1,436	2,145	64,139
1991-92	28,890	14,080	10,299	6,333	5,796	2,518	1,662	2,725	72,303
1992-93	29,850	16,147	11,063	6,723	6,144	2,587	1,733	2,903	77,150
1993-94	33,599	17,691	11,488	7,053	6,647	2,725	1,857	3,039	84,099
1994-95	34,092	19,207	11,679	7,260	6,825	2,854	1,892	3,131	86,940
Total SAAP II	152,436	79,354	53,575	33,292	30,053	13,398	8,580	13,943	384,631
SAAPIII									
1995-96	34,723	19,562	12,655	7,441	8,240	2,929	1,938	3,210	90,698
1996-97	37,859	20,555	13,194	7,623	8,417	4,198	1,981	3,343	97,170
1997-98	38,540	20,925	13,432	7,760	8,569	4,273	2,017	3,403	98,919
1998-99	39,406	21,355	13,705	7,930	8,745	4,360	2,060	3,476	101,037
1999-00	39,997	21,675	16,463	10,149	8,876	4,425	2,367	3,528	107,480
Total SAAP III	190,525	104,072	69,449	40,903	42,847	20,185	10,363	16,960	495,304
SAAP IV									
2000-01	41,055	22,207	16,767	10,398	9,093	4,533	2,717	4,303	111,073

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005

2001-02	42,246	22,851	17,703	10,896	9,357	4,664	2,796	4,428	114,941
2002-03	54,454	23,574	18,264	11,245	9,654	4,812	2,884	4,568	129,455
2003-04	55,706	24,116	18,684	11,504	9,876	4,923	3,103	4,673	132,585
2004-05	56,820	24,598	19,058	11,734	10,074	5,021	3,165	4,766	135,236
Total SAAP IV	250,281	117,346	90,476	55,777	48,054	23,953	14,665	22,738	623,290
SAAP V	58,070	25,139	25,280	11,992	10,295	6,223	3,535	4,884	145,418
2006-07 (Est)	59,348	35,721	33,084	14,401	13,336	6,836	3,708	5,963	172,397
2007-08 (Est)	60,654	36,507	35,075	16,842	15,948	7,332	4,791	6,171	183,320
(includes 2008-09 (Est)	61,928	37,274	35,804	17,219	16,284	7,798	4,892	6,387	187,586
I&I Fund**) 2009-10 (Est)	63,228	38,056	36,560	17,605	16,626	8,286	4,994	6,610	191,965
Total SAAP V	303,228	172,697	165,803	78,059	72,489	36,475	21,920	30,015	880,686

* YSJS -- Youth Social Justice Services; **Innovation and Investment Fund

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

TOTAL Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Funding (\$'000)												
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL	OTHER	TOTAL	
1984-85	14,530	6,308	5,214	3,665	3,739	1,761	1,040	1,060	37,317		37,317	
SAAP I												
1985-86	22,141	8,900	6,837	6,296	6,118	2,827	1,770	1,820	56,709		56,709	
1986-87	25,170	13,360	10,211	7,646	7,138	3,337	2,256	2,413	71,531		71,531	
1987-88	29,938	17,165	13,536	8,935	8,161	4,006	2,340	3,006	87,087		87,087	
1988-89	35,377	21,403	15,893	10,153	9,934	5,132	3,177	3,573	104,642		104,642	
1989-90	43,712	24,585	17,849	11,531	10,020	5,539	2,884	4,039	120,159	0	120,159	
Total SAAP I	156,338	85,413	64,326	44,561	41,371	20,841	12,427	14,851	440,128	0	440,128	
SAAP II												
1990-91	55,973	30,724	22,098	13,890	12,172	6,306	3,636	4,856	149,655		149,655	
1991-92	61,135	34,757	24,815	14,786	14,828	5,927	4,128	5,730	166,106		166,106	
1992-93	63,675	38,949	27,074	15,630	15,657	6,064	4,306	6,098	177,453		177,453	
1993-94	71,271	42,107	27,979	16,341	16,597	6,389	4,562	6,373	191,619		191,619	
1994-95	72,225	45,222	28,445	16,881	16,921	6,593	4,649	6,563	197,499		197,499	
Total SAAP II	324,279	191,759	130,411	77,528	76,175	31,279	21,281	29,620	882,332	0	882,332	
SAAP III												
1995-96	73,561	46,058	29,832	17,304	20,461	6,767	4,765	6,729	205,477		205,477	
1996-97	80,112	48,404	31,119	17,696	20,903	9,666	4,873	6,941	219,714		219,714	
1997-98	81,554	49,275	31,681	18,015	21,280	9,839	4,961	7,066	223,671		223,671	
1998-99	83,650	50,490	32,613	18,649	22,067	10,222	5,358	7,218	230,267		230,267	
1999-00	84,905	51,247	39,402	23,729	22,398	10,375	6,129	7,326	245,511		245,511	
Total SAAP III	403,782	245,474	164,647	95,393	107,109	46,869	26,086	35,280	1,124,640	0	1,124,640	
SAAP IV												
2000-01	91,853	55,970	42,709	25,673	24,045	11,229	7,171	9,636	268,286		268,286	

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005

2001-02	94,517	57,593	44,587	26,908	24,743	11,554	7,379	9,916	277,197	277,197
2002-03	108,381	59,417	46,008	27,768	25,527	11,920	7,612	10,230	296,863	296,863
2003-04	110,873	60,783	47,071	28,410	26,114	12,194	7,935	10,465	303,845	303,845
2004-05	113,090	61,998	48,015	28,979	26,637	12,437	8,094	10,674	309,924	309,924
Total SAAP IV	518,714	295,761	228,390	137,738	127,066	59,334	38,191	50,921	1,456,115	0 1,456,115
SAAP V	2005-06 (Est)	115,578	63,362	54,874	29,616	27,222	13,802	8,572	10,922	323,948
	2006-07 (Est)	118,121	71,442	61,998	31,731	29,636	14,282	8,607	11,836	347,653
	2007-08 (Est)	120,720	73,014	63,343	33,780	31,896	14,609	9,582	12,173	359,117
	2008-09 (Est)	124,255	77,714	67,115	35,876	34,173	15,820	10,219	12,797	377,969
	2009-10 (Est)	126,864	79,346	68,529	36,654	34,891	16,477	10,433	13,155	386,349
Total SAAP V		605,538	364,878	315,859	167,657	157,818	74,990	47,413	60,883	1,795,036
										17,876 1,812,912

* YSJS -- Youth Social Justice Services; **Innovation and Investment Fund -- For 2006-07 and 2007-08 the funding is shown separately as the State/Territory allocation has not yet been finalised.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 014

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement - Underspend

Hansard Page: CA10

Senator Carr asked:

In the previous estimates the department advised there was an underspend in 2003-04 due to the minister not approving the \$345,000 towards the Aboriginal Housing services state plan for Tasmania. What happened to the money?

Answer:

In 2003-04, the Minister had the authority to provide Tasmania with up to \$696,000 in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) through the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. Of this allocation, \$345,000 was withheld due to the submission of an unsatisfactory annual plan.

At the end of 2003-04, the authority for that expenditure lapsed. As such, the \$345,000 was reported as an underspend against planned expenditure. Any underspends in SPP administered funds are not retained within the program.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 015

Topic: Tasmanian Government Housing Plan

Hansard Page: CA10

Senator Carr asked:

Has there been a reassessment of the Tasmanian Government's Housing Plans?

Answer:

2003-04 was the third consecutive year that the Tasmanian annual plan had been received too late in the year to allow further negotiations to occur regarding its acceptability.

The Department of Family and Community Services worked with the Tasmanian Government to ensure the development of a satisfactory annual plan for 2004-05.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 017

Topic: Rent Assistance Recipients Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Provide the following data on people paying more than 50 per cent and more than 30 per cent of their income on rent after receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

- Types of households
- Location
- Types of accommodation they are living in
- By income support payment

Answer:

Information about the proportion of income spent on rent is available only for income units, not households. Centrelink does not record the type of accommodation Rent Assistance recipients are living in. Income units may consist of a person, their partner and any children for whom the person or partner receive Family Tax Benefit. The most up-to-date information available about the proportion of income spent on rent available is for 4 March 2005.

Income units paying more than 30 per cent and 50 per cent of income on rent by income unit

type (per cent)

Income Unit Type	Income units paying over 30% of income in rent (%)	Income units paying over 50% of income in rent (%)
Single, no dependent children	67.0	76.0
Couple, no dependent children	7.1	6.9
Single, 1 or 2 dependent children	16.5	9.4
Single, 3 or more dependent children	1.8	0.6
Couple, 1 or 2 dependent children	6.3	6.3
Couple, 3 or more dependent children	1.2	0.8
All income unit types	100.0	100.0

Note: Dependent children are those for whom the person or partner receives Family Tax Benefit.

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

Income units paying more than 30 per cent and 50 per cent of income on rent by location (per cent)

Location	Income units paying over 30% of income in rent (%)	Income units paying over 50% of income in rent (%)
Sydney	24.8	31.7
Rest of NSW	13.6	11.0
Melbourne	16.5	17.7
Rest of VIC	4.5	3.6
Brisbane	10.7	9.5
Rest of QLD	13.3	12.8
Perth	5.8	4.7
Rest of WA	1.3	0.9
Adelaide	5.0	4.1
Rest of SA	0.9	0.7
Hobart	0.9	0.7
Rest of TAS	0.9	0.6
ACT	1.1	1.5
Darwin	0.4	0.4
Rest of NT	0.1	0.1
Australia	100.0	100.0

Income units paying more than 30 per cent and 50 per cent of income on rent by primary payment type (per cent)

Primary Payment Type	Income units paying over 30% of income in rent (%)	Income units paying over 50% of income in rent (%)
Newstart Allowance	27.5	36.5
Disability Support Pension	17.1	12.4
Parenting Payment (Single)	16.4	7.8
Age Pension	15.0	12.0
Youth Allowance	12.8	17.5
Family Tax Benefit (only)	3.3	4.0
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	3.0	3.4
Widow Allowance	2.1	3.2
Carer payment	0.9	0.8
Special Benefit	0.7	0.7
Mature Age allowance	0.5	0.5
Sickness Allowance	0.5	0.9
All payment types	100.0	100.0

Members of a couple may receive different forms of assistance, and Rent Assistance may be paid either with a social security payment or with Family Tax Benefit (FTB). For each income unit a primary payment type is worked out having regard to the types of benefit received. Priority is given to pensions, then other social security income support payments then FTB. The primary payment is reported as Parent Payment (partnered) only if neither member of the couple receives a social security income support payment.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 020

Topic: Rent Assistance Recipients Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Provide a detailed profile of the 32 per cent of persons who are not in housing stress as a result of income support payment.

Answer:

Information about the proportion of income spent on rent is available only for income units. Income units may consist of a person, their partner and any children for whom the person or partner receive Family Tax Benefit. The most up-to-date information available about the proportion of income spent on rent available is for 4 March 2005. At that date, if Rent Assistance had not been payable, 32.3 per cent of those income units actually paid Rent Assistance would have been paying less than 30 per cent of their income on rent.

Income units paid Rent Assistance that would have paid less than 30 per cent of income on rent (without Rent Assistance) by income unit type

Income Unit Type	%
Single, no dependent children	27.4
Couple, no dependent children	11.3
Single, 1 or 2 dependent children	25.4
Single, 3 or more dependent children	5.7
Couple, 1 or 2 dependent children	20.2
Couple, 3 or more dependent children	10.0
All income unit types	100.0

Note: Dependent children are those for whom the person or partner receives Family Tax Benefit.

Income units paid Rent Assistance that would have paid less than 30 per cent of income on rent (without Rent Assistance) by location

Location	%
Sydney	14.2
Rest of NSW	16.4
Melbourne	13.5
Rest of VIC	7.7
Brisbane	10.9
Rest of QLD	14.5
Perth	7.4
Rest of WA	2.9
Adelaide	6.0
Rest of SA	2.3

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

Hobart	1.1
Rest of TAS	1.9
ACT	0.7
Darwin	0.4
Rest of NT	0.2
Australia	100.0

Income units paid Rent Assistance that would have paid less than 30 per cent of income on rent (without Rent Assistance) by primary payment type

Primary Payment Type	%
Parenting Payment (Single)	25.8
Family Tax Benefit (only)	24.5
Age Pension	18.2
Disability Support Pension	13.4
Newstart Allowance	8.0
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	3.8
Youth Allowance	3.6
Carer payment	1.9
Widow Allowance	0.3
Special Benefit	0.2
Mature Age allowance	0.2
Sickness Allowance	0.1
All payment types	100.0

Members of a couple may receive different forms of assistance, and Rent Assistance may be paid either with a social security payment or with Family Tax Benefit (FTB). For each income unit a primary payment type is worked out having regard to the types of benefit received. Priority is given to pensions, then other social security income support payments then FTB. The primary payment is reported as Parent Payment (partnered) only if neither member of the couple receives a social security income support payment.

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

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 019

Topic: Rent Assistance Eligibility Criteria

Hansard Page: CA13

Senator Carr asked:

What are the eligibility criteria for Rent Assistance?

Answer:

To be eligible for Rent Assistance a person must be receiving one of the following:

- a pension, benefit or allowance (excluding Austudy)
- a service pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and/or
- more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A if there are dependent children.

The person must also meet residence requirements and be paying more than a certain amount for:

- rent (other than for public housing), for example, this is currently \$220.47 per fortnight for a single person without dependents; and \$271.69 per fortnight for a single person with one or two children (20 September – 31 December 2005 payment rates)
- service and maintenance fees in a retirement village
- lodging (if a customer pays for board and lodging, two thirds of the amount will be accepted as being for lodging)
- fees paid to use a site for a caravan or other accommodation which is occupied as the person's principal home, and/or
- fees paid to moor a vessel occupied as the person's principal home.

Rent Assistance is not payable if rent is paid directly to state or territory housing authorities, that is, for public housing tenants.

Homeowners are generally not eligible for Rent Assistance. However, residents of retirement villages and granny flats are not regarded as homeowners if they pay an Entry Contribution fee of \$113,500 or less. Where this is the case, Rent Assistance may be payable.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 021

Topic: Rent Assistance Review – Terms of Reference

Hansard Page: CA16

Senator Carr asked:

Provide the terms of reference under the Rent Assistance Review.

Answer:

The question refers to the ‘no commitment consideration of the Rent Assistance programme in the context of housing affordability’, as agreed to at the Housing Ministers’ meeting on 3 December 2004.

There are no specific terms of reference for the “no commitment” consideration, however Rent Assistance and other housing measures are being considered as part of the development of a Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing. Issues being considered include:

- the main barriers to housing affordability and access
- the extent to which barriers to housing occupancy relate simply to inadequate financial resources and to what extent are other factors significant, and
- how do existing Australian Government, and state and territory government programmes deal with access and affordability issues

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 022

Topic: Rent Assistance Review – Tender Documentation

Hansard Page: CA16

Senator Carr asked:

Provide the tender documents for the Rent Assistance Review.

Answer:

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

The Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (the Department) is seeking a service provider for the provision of consultancy services on affordable housing with a particular focus on Australian Government assistance.

Pursuant to Deed of Agreement *{insert number}* we would like to invite *{insert name}* to provide a quotation for the services described in Statement of Requirement at **Attachment A** to this RFQ.

It is anticipated that the services will be required between 21 June 2005 and the end of August 2005.

Broadly the requirement of the services is to:

- hold a series of targeted stakeholder consultations on affordable housing with a focus on Australian Government assistance;
- analyse and synthesise the information received; and
- provide a written report to the Department.

A more detailed description of the requirement, along with the evaluation criteria to be used for evaluating your quotation, is provided in **Attachment A**.

The Department reserves the right to:

- (a) vary the process and timetable relating to this process in its absolute discretion;
- (b) vary the terms of the RFQ;
- (c) cease the RFQ process;
- (d) accept or reject any Quotes whether or not they are compliant;
- (e) seek additional information or clarification from Respondents (including their sub contractors or agents);
- (f) select and negotiate with more than one Respondent; or
- (g) cancel, add to or amend the information, requirement, terms, procedures or processes set out in this RFQ.

Neither the issue of this RFQ by the Department or any response to it by any party commits, obligates or otherwise creates a legal relationship between the Commonwealth and that party.

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

The Department does not guarantee, warrant or otherwise represent that any business, revenue or other benefit or any minimum volume or value of business, revenue or other benefit will be earned or received by the successful Tenderer(s).

ATTACHMENT A: STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT

A1 Background

At the Housing Ministers' Conference (HMC) on 11 April 2003 Housing Ministers confirmed their commitment to promote a 'national, strategic, integrated and long term vision for affordable housing in Australia through a comprehensive approach by all levels of government'. As part of the work being undertaken by HMC, Minister Patterson, Minister for Family and Community Services has undertaken to look at impact on housing affordability through programmes under her portfolio.

The Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) defines housing affordability in terms of the bottom 40 to 50 per cent of the income scale paying less than 30 per cent of their households' gross income on housing. It is sometimes defined in terms of 25 per cent of income, which is the measure used to set rents in public housing. Whichever measure is used, a household is considered in housing stress if they pay more than this proportion.

Rent Assistance (RA) is part of the Australian Government's broad welfare housing policy agenda to assist low and moderate income households to access appropriate affordable housing. The programme is integral to this agenda as a means of reducing housing stress for individuals and families on low incomes, and represents the largest welfare housing investment by the Australian Government, with over one million individuals assisted.

The payment is provided through both the social security and family assistance systems, and complements other Government housing support programmes, such as the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA), and is an important pathway to housing independence for homeless and other vulnerable customers.

RA is a supplementary payment to customers in recognition of the relatively higher costs faced in the private rental market. Private rent can include amounts paid for site fees, mooring fees, board and lodgings, some retirement village fees and fees paid to occupy a non Commonwealth funded bed in an aged care facility such as a hostel or nursing home.

To receive RA, a person needs to pay a minimum amount of rent, called the rent threshold. Rent thresholds and maximum rates of RA vary depending on the recipients family circumstances, that is, whether they are single or partnered and the number of dependent children. For singles without children, the maximum rate may vary according to whether or not accommodation is shared with others. For recipients not affected by the sharers initiative, RA is then paid at the rate of 75 cents for each dollar above the rent threshold, up to a maximum rate. Sharers receive a reduced amount.

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

Thresholds and the maximum rates of assistance are indexed every 20 March and 20 September in line with changes in the Consumer Price Index. These changes are designed to assist RA to keep pace with the cost of living and that assistance is directed to those in most need.

As RA involves the direct provision of financial assistance to meet rental costs it is important to note that this financial assistance also has an impact on a wide variety of other aspects of social and economic life. Key examples of non shelter impacts include: participation in the labour market and in education and training; positive impact on early childhood outcomes; individual mental and physical health and wellbeing; and social cohesion.

A2 Contract Services/Outcomes Required

The purpose of consultation is to seek input on how RA is contributing to housing affordability, where there could be improvements and relationships with other state/territory/local government initiatives.

In order to achieve the objectives stated above, it is expected that:

- A series of **stakeholder consultations** will be held, including state/territory government departments, non government organisations and academics. These consultations will provide a broad perspective on housing priorities and directions within the community at large, and will complement the range of policy information provided by FaCS and other government and community organisations directly. It is also expected that these sessions will provide an opportunity to gather less formal information on perceptions about how RA helps or hinders housing affordability.
- The successful tenderer will be required to **analyse and synthesize** the range of statements provided by the non government organisations and other stakeholders, aided by **discussions and/or interviews** with identified stakeholders to provide clarity and context to the documentation.
- It is expected that composition and format of stakeholder consultations will be established in collaboration with FaCS, and may not be the same in all states and territories. Participation will be at the invitation of the Department, and FaCS will develop discussion papers on key themes to guide the consultations.
- The project will culminate in the provision of a written report for the FaCS. Publication of the report will not be required.

A3 Timeframe for completion of the Contract Services

It is anticipated that this exercise will be completed in a two month period.

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

A4 Special Skills/Knowledge Needed

The successful tenderer for this project will have a proven record in undertaking social research, with particular experience in the area of non government and government consultations. They will also have a proven ability to work with policy makers, public sector researchers, community groups and Indigenous communities.

The successful tenderer will also have highly developed liaison, analysis and written skills, and a proven record of published documents. They will also be experienced in a range of consultation methodologies, including the conduct of workshops/forums, facilitating meetings and running focus groups. An understanding of Australian Government housing policy and/or income support payments is highly desirable.

A5 Applicable Service Levels and Standards

If required, Service Levels and Standards will be negotiated between the parties and included in any resulting contract.

A6 Resources/materials to be provided by the Department

The Department will provide background and discussion papers to guide the consultations.

A7 Reporting Requirements

The provider will produce a written report at the end of the project.

A8 Evaluation Criteria

Responses will be evaluated based on a demonstration of:

- suitably qualified and experienced staff
- ability to supply the services as per the statement of requirement
- ability to meet the timeframes
- costs for the provision of the services.

Materials to be supplied by Respondents include:

- a page long summary of their proposal
- an outline of the project, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter; the policy context; and the task at hand (clearly formulated aims, research questions and methodological approaches)
- a clear outline of delivery and response times
- an outline of relevant experience and past performance of the Tenderer
- a proposed structure of the written report.

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

Output Group: 2.1_Practical Support and Shared ResponsibilityQuestion No: 023

Topic: SAAP Services – Domestic Violence

Hansard Page: CA25

Senator Carr asked:

- a) What is the level of the increase in demand on Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services since the launch of the Government's domestic violence campaign.
- b) Has additional funding been created for this increase?

Answer:

- a) There is no data currently available on the level of demand on the SAAP services since the launch of the Violence Against Women Australia Says NO domestic violence campaign.
- b) Following from the above answer, this question cannot be answered.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared ResponsibilityQuestion No: 024

Topic: Functions of Housing Programs

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Carr asked:

Provide a list of functions that each of the two housing branches undertake.

Answer:

There are two housing branches in the Department of Family and Community Services – the Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch and the Housing Support Branch. These branches provide services and assistance that support Indigenous families and communities; and help homeless people and low-income households to gain affordable and appropriate housing.

The Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch has the following functions:

- Program delivery and performance management of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) and its component parts
- CHIP financial management and reporting
- CHIP contract and funding agreement management
- CHIP policy and program delivery review
- Program delivery and performance management of the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program
- Policy development in Indigenous housing and infrastructure
- Monitoring and linking Indigenous access to mainstream housing
- Progressing the whole of government arrangements in relation to Indigenous housing and infrastructure outcomes
- Negotiating, progressing and monitoring Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements with states and territories
- Participation on the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing and its sub-committees
- Coordinating the National Reporting Framework data collection and analysis
- Development and monitoring of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)
- Monitoring the progress of Building a Better Future (BBF) and facilitating the BBF mid-term review
- Managing research projects in relation to Indigenous housing and infrastructure in rural and remote areas, and
- Overseeing program evaluation and developing and coordinating targeted research.

The Housing Support Branch has the following functions:

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

- Provision of policy advice in relation to housing and homelessness issues
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) financial and program management, including financial administration of the SAAP base funding, SAAP Innovation and Investment Fund and SAAP Data and Program Evaluation Fund (special account)
- SAAP Coordination and Development Committee Secretariat
- SAAP policy development
- SAAP research program management and development
- SAAP national data collection (including analysis and reporting) and performance reporting
- Development and implementation of the SAAP Information Management Plan (IMP)
- Management of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) Secretariat and its associated projects
- Implementation and ongoing management of the National Homelessness Strategy
- Management of the Household Organisational Management Expenses (HOME) Advice Program;
- Management of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA)
- CSHA monitoring, data collection and analysis, and evaluation and performance reporting
- Provision of executive support for the Housing Ministers' Conference (HMC), Housing Ministers' Advisory Committee (HMAC) and its related subcommittees
- Management of the Australian Government's Rent Assistance programme, including the Rent Assistance components of the FaCS-Centrelink Business Partnership Agreement
- Management of the funding agreement with Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services in Victoria for a No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) National Coordinator
- Contributing to the development of research priorities, including input to departmental and Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) research agendas
- Managing the relationship with AHURI and associated funding arrangements
- Contributing to policy development around housing and related areas
- Evaluation of the impact of Government housing assistance
- Influencing the work of others through the development of partnerships with key stakeholders, including other Australian Government agencies and key non-government organisations.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 025

Topic: Cunnamulla SRA - Conditions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Confirm and provide evidence that conditions in the Cunnamulla Shared Responsibility Agreement were initially proposed by the community and not the Indigenous Coordination Centre? When did this occur?

Answer:

The draft Cunnamulla SRA was developed at a number of meetings attended by both the South West Queensland Aboriginal Cooperative Community Advancement Society Ltd and the Roma Indigenous Coordinating Centre. Versions of the draft SRA reflect changes to the document throughout its development. Discussions commenced in November 2004 and a number of meetings have been held since this date.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 026

Topic: CSHA - Client Satisfaction Survey

Hansard Page: CA38

Senator Fielding asked:

When will the next client satisfaction survey be done?

Answer:

The client satisfaction surveys of both public and community housing tenants were conducted in 2005 and were released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on 9 November 2005 and 14 November 2005 respectively. It is anticipated that a further survey of public housing tenants will be conducted in 2006, followed by another community housing tenant survey in 2007.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 027

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Page 144 of the Annual Report states that Minister Patterson wrote to all relevant State and Territory Ministers in June 2005 proposing that existing interim arrangements for Indigenous Housing Agreements be extended until 30 September 2005 in all states and the ACT, with the NT Agreement to be extended until 30 November.

- a) Have new agreements now been finalised with each state and the ACT? When were these finalised?
- b) How are negotiations with the NT progressing? Is it expected that a new agreement will be signed by 30 November?

Answer:

- a) New Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreement (IHIA) were finalised with the ACT, Tasmania and Victoria in October 2005. The new IHIA for Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales are still being negotiated and are close to being finalised.
- b) It is expected that the new IHIA for the Northern Territory will be signed by mid December 2005.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 028

Topic: CHIP Underspend

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Page 139 of the Annual Report shows an underspend for CHIP in 2004-05 of around \$1.26 million. What was the reason for this?

Answer:

The reported underspend of \$1.259 million for the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program in 2004-05 represented five grants that were released towards the end of the financial year. These grants were treated as prepayments and the expense is recorded in the 2005-06 financial year when the activity that the grants relate to will be undertaken, rather than 2004-05 when the actual grants were made.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility Question No: 029

Topic: CHIP – Increase in Budget

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The Annual Report and the Indigenous Affairs Budget fact sheets also seem to show a significant increase in funding for CHIP, beyond what can be accounted for by the Budget measure to continue Healthy Indigenous Housing program. Please explain this increase.

Answer:

The Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) was transferred to the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) on 1 July 2004 with the s32 transfer taking effect at the end of October 2004. Expenditure from 1 July 2004 to the date of the s32 transfer remained with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and the balance of the appropriation transferred to FaCS.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility..... Question No: 030

Topic: CHIP – Breakdown of funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

In response to Question on Notice 38, FaCS advised that the estimated breakdown of CHIP funding into its various components was not yet available for 2005-06. Is this information now available? If so, please provide the details.

Answer:

The estimated breakdown of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) for 2005-06 is:

Housing & Infrastructure ¹	\$166.678m
National Aboriginal Health Strategy ²	\$ 71.214m
Municipal Services	<u>\$ 45.083m</u>
Total appropriation for 2005-06	<u>\$282.975m</u>

The above allocations may change during the financial year depending on the progress of existing projects and the finalisation of work scopes and funding allocations for new projects.

¹ Includes Governance (\$14 million) and Fixing Houses for Better Health (\$5 million) funds provided in the Healthy Housing initiative from the Commonwealth 2005 Budget.

² Includes Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (\$5 million) funds also provided in the Healthy Housing initiative from the Commonwealth 2005 Budget.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 031

Topic: National Housing Strategy - Themes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The information about the NHS that was available on the FaCS website in August indicated that the four themes of the strategy are: working together; prevention; early intervention; and crisis and transition support.

- a) Are these still the themes driving the Strategy?
- b) How do the NHS aims identified in the information for organisations seeking funding under the next stage of the strategy relate to the themes of the earlier stage of the strategy?

Answer:

- a) Working together, prevention and early intervention are the underlying themes of the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) 2005-2009.
- b) The NHS brings together the sum total of everything the Australian Government is doing in relation to homelessness with the emphasis on coordination and joined up service delivery. The aims identified in the information regarding NHS funding closely relate to the themes of both the previous and current stage of the NHS.

The current aim is to:

- improve collaboration and linkages
- improve outcomes and reduce the incidence of homelessness through the identification of best practice models
- enhance current policies and programmes
- build the capacity of the community sector, and
- raise awareness of the issue of homelessness.

The themes of working together, prevention and early intervention cut across all of these aims.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 032

Topic: National Housing Strategy - Focus

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Has there been a shift in focus of the Strategy?
- b) If so, please describe the key changes in focus.
- c) On what basis were changes made?
- d) What was the process for determining the revised focus?
- e) Was the Advisory Committee consulted as part of this process?

Answer:

a) b) and c)

There has not been a shift in the focus of the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS).

d) and e)

The Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness has been consulted as part of the development of specific initiatives under the NHS.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 033

Topic: National Housing Strategy – Strategic Framework

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The new information on the website states that one of the aims of the NHS is to provide a strategic framework that will improve collaboration and linkages between existing programs and services.

- a) In what way does the Strategy provide a strategic framework, or is it an aim of the new phase of the Strategy to develop such a framework?

- b) If the latter, what form will this take – will it be written down?

Answer:

a) and b)

The National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) is not a written document, but a unique way of responding to the complex issue of homelessness. The NHS provides a strategic framework to improve collaboration and linkages between existing programmes and services by:

- building our knowledge base on homelessness.
 - Specific initiatives directed at building our knowledge base on homelessness have been funded under the Strategy. These include the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness, NHS Demonstration Projects and NHS Communication Activities;
- bringing together a number of targeted homelessness programmes delivered under the banner of the NHS, such as the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, Reconnect and the Job Placement Employment and Training; and
- operating through liaison with various Australian Government programmes which provide services and support to people who are disadvantaged including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, eg. Personal Support Program and Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility Question No: 034

Topic: National Housing Strategy - Administration

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is one element of the NHS still improved policy coordination?
- b) Does the NHS Section in FaCS still exist as a discrete section? If so, what does it do?
- c) How does it work with the Homelessness, Crisis and Transition Section?
- d) How does the NHS Section work with other areas of the Department and the broader public service (especially Centrelink and the Department of Health and Ageing) to improve responses to homelessness?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The NHS is managed by the Homelessness Policy and Assistance Section (previously the Homelessness, Crisis and Transition Section) in the Housing Support Branch of FaCS. The Homelessness Policy and Assistance Section is also responsible for the administration and implementation of the NHS (including providing Secretariat functions to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness).
- c) Refer to part b).
- d) The Homelessness Policy and Assistance Section liaises with, shares information and consults with other program and policy areas within and outside of the department to improve responses to homelessness. This occurs through informal processes as well as through membership of working groups and inter-departmental committees.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 035

Topic: Coordination of Response to Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Concerns have been expressed that there is poor coordination of responses to homelessness in the Commonwealth.

- a) Are you aware of such concerns?
- b) If so, have you taken any steps to improve the situation recently? Please provide details.

Answer:

- a) We are not aware of specific concerns regarding the coordination of Commonwealth responses to homelessness.
- b) Refer to part a)

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 036

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Service Delivery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Does the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) still aim to improve Centrelink service delivery? If so, how will that be achieved?
- b) What concrete progress can you point to in terms of Centrelink service delivery to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of the previous stage of the Strategy?

Answer:

- a) An objective of the NHS is to bring together all of the relevant Australian Government programmes, including those administered through the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Centrelink. Collaborative action to better integrate policies and programmes, through partnering arrangements with Centrelink and DHS are being pursued to improve services to people who are homeless.
- b) The development of Centrelink's action plan for improved services to customers who are at risk of homelessness, *Centrelink's Response to Homelessness*, began as part of a Demonstration Project under the first phase of the NHS. Additionally, Centrelink have made a formal commitment to improving the delivery of services to customers at risk of homelessness. This commitment is operationalised by:
 - The establishment of a Centrelink Homelessness Contact Officer in every Centrelink office;
 - Ensuring staff have access to training to enable them to identify and respond to homelessness; and
 - Centrelink working with community and government organisations on homelessness matters eg. the NHS and the Household Organisational Management Expenditure (HOME) Advice Program.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 037

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy - Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The new National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) website identifies three initiatives under the NHS: demonstration projects; communications strategy; and Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness. Please provide a breakdown of the funding allocated to each initiative.

Answer:

The following table outlines funding allocated to the three elements of the NHS 2005-2009

	2005-06 (\$m)	2006-07 (\$m)	2007-08 (\$m)	2008-09 (\$m)
Complex Demonstration Project	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
CACH	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
Communications Activities	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43
Total	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

The remainder of NHS funding announced in the 2005-06 Budget is for program administration and an evaluation in 2008-09.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 038

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Funding Round

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is it correct that the current funding round of the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) was advertised in newspapers on 15 October and that the information for people wishing to submit expressions of interest was posted on the FaCS website on 17 October?
- b) And the deadline for expressions of interest for organisations seeking demonstration project funding was 4 November?
- c) Was three weeks sufficient time for service delivery organisations wishing to seek demonstration project funding to respond to the expression of interest (EOI) process to participate in what is effectively a new strategy?
- d) Was FaCS advised of any concerns that the timeframe for submission of EOIs for demonstration projects was too short?
- e) Did FaCS receive any requests from organisations for an extension of time to submit? If so, were these requests agreed to? Please provide details.

Answer:

- a) Yes, it is correct that the current funding round for the NHS demonstration projects was advertised in the print media on 15 October 2005. Information was also sent out to potential applicants through other means. Information for people wishing to submit expressions of interest was posted on the FaCS website on 14 October 2005.
- b) Yes.
- c) The overwhelming response to the call for expressions of interest for NHS demonstration project funding indicated that three weeks was sufficient time for organisations wishing to seek funding to respond. The EoI only required a brief 2 page outline rather than a full submission.
- d) No.
- e) FaCS received only three requests from organisations seeking an extension of time to submit their expressions of interest for NHS demonstration project funding. To ensure a fair and equitable process, no requests for submission of late expressions of interest were agreed to.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 039

Topic: Demonstration Project Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Would the types of organisations which are likely to seek demonstration project funding have been aware that the release of the guidelines was imminent prior to mid October?
- b) Would they have been aware roughly what types of projects FaCS would be looking to support?
- c) What steps did FaCS take to ensure that relevant organisations would be aware of the impending funding round, especially given that this is not a round that regularly occurs at this time of year?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) Yes.
- c) To ensure relevant organisations were aware of the availability of funding under the NHS, FaCS advertised the call for expressions of interest for demonstration project funding in the print media and on the FaCS and Grantslink website. To ensure that the release of NHS funding received maximum promotion across a number of sectors and programme areas, FaCS alerted State and Territory Governments, through their Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Coordination and Development Committee and Indigenous housing representatives. Alerts were also sent to the homelessness and community-housing sector through the Community Housing Federation of Australia and the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations, and to members of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness.

The non-homelessness sector was alerted by FaCS programme areas who provide support and services that would address one of the many complex issues attributing to homelessness. Each alert was accompanied by a request to promote the availability of NHS funding as broadly as possible across networks.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 040

Topic: CACH – Focus and Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Were the members of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) aware of or consulted on the new focus and guidelines for demonstration projects?
- b) If so, is anyone on that Committee involved with an organisation that would potentially be seeking funding under the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS)?
- c) If so, how did FaCS manage the potential advantage to that organisation in being aware of the guidelines before other organisations?

Answer:

- a) Members of CACH were advised of the general process for the NHS and associated call for expressions of interest.
- b) Yes.
- c) In accordance with probity requirements, CACH members were not provided with any information regarding the focus or guidelines for NHS demonstration project funding that would have benefited potential submissions for funding.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 041

Topic: Expressions of Interest for Demonstration Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) When is it anticipated that organisations who submit successful expressions of interest (EOIs) for demonstration projects will be invited to make full submissions?
- b) When is it expected that the successful demonstration projects will be announced?
- c) When is it expected that demonstration projects would start?

Answer:

- a) Letters were sent on 25 November 2005.
- b) Late February/early March 2006.
- c) FaCS will negotiate start dates for Demonstration Project funding with the successful organisations, however we envisage commencing projects in early March.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 042

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Extension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The \$10 million allocated in the Budget was allocated fairly evenly over the four years, with \$2.4 million allocated for 2005-06. Is FACS still expecting to spend that allocation in 2005-06? If not, what is the current best estimate of how much will be spent in 2005-06?

Answer:

Yes.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 043

Topic: National Housing Strategy – Communications Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Ms Carroll noted in May, in relation to the evaluation of the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS), that “one of the things that emerged ... was that the dissemination of information was not as effective as possible to share knowledge”.

- a) Is the Communications strategy for the next phase broader than the communications activities for which expressions of interest are currently being sought? If so, what else is involved?
- b) How does FaCS intend to evaluate the success of any communications strategy?
- c) One thing that is constantly referred to is the need to look at a broad range of services beyond homelessness services – for example, drug and alcohol and mental health services. Is there a particular element of the proposed communications activities that would target these services?
- d) It seems that the EOI process for communications activities is largely about organisations providing information on what they do and then FaCS determining which services should be brought together. What is the incentive for services to submit an EOI?

Answer:

- a) National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) Communications work will be ongoing with promotion, sharing and dissemination of learnings using forums such as the NHS Website, the 2006 National Homelessness Conference and sector literature eg. articles in Parity magazine and the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisation (AFHO) Newsletter.
- b) Communication Activities conducted under the NHS will be evaluated within the broader NHS evaluation scheduled for 2008-09.
- c) A key focus for the NHS is to engage those services who sit outside the homelessness sector. These include agencies whose primary role, while not to provide services to homeless people, does address one or more of the complex factors that impact on homelessness or provide general support to those groups who are vulnerable to homelessness.

These may include legal, advocacy, health and labour market services. Communication Activities funding is available for activities that help services, both within and outside the homelessness sector, to share their knowledge and expertise in recognising and responding to issues associated with homelessness.

- d) Expressions of Interest for NHS Communication Activities will be used to select projects for funding and to compile and share information on work on homelessness throughout Australia. Services can apply for funding and/or use NHS information to respond to client needs in a ‘joined-up’ way.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 044

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy - Budget

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Although the provider information regarding the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) Communication Strategy says that services can apply for funding at any time, no indication is given of how much funding might be available overall. Is there a budget for this element of the Strategy? Please provide details.

Answer:

Approximately \$1.72 million over four years (2005-2009) is available for activities under the NHS Communications Strategy.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 045

Topic: Advisory Committee

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) Is it correct that the main role of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Minister on homelessness issues that she has identified as important?
- b) FaCS officials previously advised that the Advisory Committee is currently undertaking a project to advise the Minister in relation to Indigenous people and homelessness.
 - i. Can you provide an update on where this project is up to?
 - ii. Has the Minister received advice from the Advisory Committee?
- c) Two other issues were identified as having been referred to the Advisory Committee – mental health and homelessness among the aged. Is that correct? What is the status of those projects?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b)
 - i. National Consultations have been undertaken, and
 - ii. the Advisory Committee is currently preparing its response to the Minister.
- c) Yes, that is correct. The Advisory Committee plans to focus on homelessness amongst those with mental health issues when the Committee has finalised its Report to the Minister on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness issues, and is also planning to undertake work relating to homelessness among the aged.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 046

Topic: Advisory Committee Membership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

You provided a list of Advisory Committee members in May.

- a) Have there been any changes to the membership since then?
- b) When did the Advisory Committee last meet?
- c) When is it expected to meet again?
- d) Are these meetings attended by the Minister, or is the advice passed on via a secretariat or a letter from the Chair?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) Mid-October 2005.
- c) March 2006.
- d) The Minister endeavours to meet with Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness members during the days they are in session, depending on her availability. A Minister's Adviser attends meetings. The Chair also provides a report to the Minister after each Committee meeting.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 047

Topic: CHIP – Breakdown and Municipal Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In Additional Estimates of 16 February 2005, (Hansard page 126) Mr Taylor gave a breakdown of the CHIP components.

- a) Can you tell me how much of this was actually spent on Indigenous Housing? Was it all except that spent on Municipal Services?
- b) What actually is covered by Municipal Services?

Answer:

- a) An analysis of 2004-05 expenditure by housing and related infrastructure is still to be completed. However, it is estimated that it will be a similar proportion to that reported for 2003-04 which was as follows:

Housing	\$157.546 million
Infrastructure	\$ 43.705 million

- b) Municipal Services funding for Indigenous communities covers recurrent items and minor capital items (up to \$2,000) necessary to provide and maintain essential municipal services. Activities that can be funded under Municipal Services are set out in the CHIP Program Guidelines 2005-06. Activities that may be funded are:
 - essential and routine repairs and maintenance to community infrastructure assets, eg power and water supplies
 - operational costs associated with the administration and functions of organisations that provide infrastructure and municipal services and running costs of municipal services vehicles
 - home living skills assistance
 - dog care and control
 - environmental health workers
 - development of town plans
 - refuse disposal
 - shortfalls in operational costs of energy supply
 - upkeep of community landscaped areas
 - dust control programs
 - community fire protection and upkeep of control equipment
 - leasing of essential service vehicles, and
 - insurance on assets used specifically to provide municipal services.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 048

Topic: 1 Per Cent Efficiency Dividend Applied to Housing Funds

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

On page 127 of Hansard Ms Carroll said there was a 1 per cent efficiency dividend applied to these housing funds. I did not query this at the time but how can this be justified when the facts are that the costs of providing housing in remote areas are rising all the time and are beyond the control of the housing providers – for example fuel costs and the price of steel have risen considerably even since the start of this year. How can application of an efficiency dividend do anything to help the program?

Answer:

Australian Government funding through the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) cannot be considered in isolation from other assistance measures.

Combined Australian Government Rent Assistance and CSHA outlays have increased in real terms by \$204 million from \$2.822 billion in 1997-98 to \$3.026 billion in 2004-05.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 049

Topic: ARHP – Funding Confirmation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Can you confirm (as per transcript page 128) that the ARHP for 2005-06 is \$92 million?

There has been no additional funds found since those additional estimates?

Answer:

The total allocation for Aboriginal Rental Housing Program in 2005-06 is \$93.339 million. Annual indexation was applied in the 2005-06 budget.

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

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 050

Topic: Review of Allocated Funds for Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In February 2005 Mr Taylor said (page 131) that his area was in the process of looking at the total funds allocation for Indigenous housing – looking at a range of data sources.

- a) Was this review completed? Was the Minister advised? And of course have any changes come from it by hopefully using more up to date data on housing needs?
- b) Has there been or is there planned any review on the allocation of funds?

Answer:

- a) The Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch is currently undertaking a review of its Indigenous housing programmes. The review will take into account recent data sources. Once complete, the findings of this review will be presented to the Minister for consideration.
- b) This will include a review of the allocation of Australian Government Indigenous housing funds.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 051

Topic: Housing Ministers' Meeting

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

A meeting of Housing Ministers was mentioned (page 135) that was to occur in September. Did this happen? If so, did anything come from it?

Answer:

The Housing Ministers' Conference (HMC) originally scheduled for September 2005 was held on 28 October 2005 in Perth, to coincide with the National Housing Conference.

At the meeting, the Ministers discussed two main areas of activity:

- A Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing; and
- An Indigenous Housing Reform and Investment Strategy.

The conference communiqué providing further detail is attached.

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



Housing Ministers' Conference

28 October 2005

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

At a meeting of the Housing Ministers' Conference in Perth today Housing Ministers reviewed progress with implementation of a number of key measures towards improving availability of affordable of housing.

Western Australian Housing Minister, Francis Logan, who chaired the Conference, said the Ministers discussed two crucial areas of activity. These were:

- A Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing; and
- An Indigenous Housing Reform and Investment Strategy.

FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL ACTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing provides a strategic, integrated and long term vision for affordable housing in Australia, with stated commitment from State, Territory and the Commonwealth Governments.

The Framework will look at activities related to the direct delivery and management of affordable housing, as well as parallel policy parameters that influence the housing market more broadly and are managed outside housing portfolios.

A joint meeting of Housing, Local Government and Planning Ministers endorsed the Framework in August 2005 and agreed to develop initiatives to implement a range of actions over the next three years aimed at addressing a predicted shortfall of affordable housing.

South Australian Minister Jay Weatherill, provided today's meeting with an update on the work done to advance the Framework.

He also addressed a range of resources and levers that could be applied to improving housing affordability, both home ownership and rental. These include:

- Supply side programs (such as social housing programs supported by the CSHA);
- Demand assistance such as Commonwealth Rent Allowance;
- Taxes on property assets and transactions;

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

- Purchase assistance programs such as First Home Owners' Grant and other home ownership or shared ownership initiatives; and
- Regulatory structures affecting the not for profit sector, the private rental market, the supply of land and land use planning.

INDIGENOUS HOUSING REFORM AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Housing Ministers pledged themselves to national action on Indigenous housing, including a reform agenda that features:

- A commitment to increase the effort of mainstream programs in housing Indigenous people;
- Initiatives to increase Indigenous home ownership; and
- Measures to improve the standard of Indigenous housing, particularly where dwellings are in a poor condition.

Along with these initiatives, all Ministers acknowledged there was an undeniable case for new investment to avoid a lifecycle of poverty and ill health for Indigenous people in housing need. Ministers agreed that, as a precursor to any new investment, which is a shared responsibility, it is essential that reform be initiated to improve the collection of rents; to increase training and job opportunities for Indigenous people; and to improve the maintenance of existing housing stock.

Ministers acknowledged an urgent need for additional dwellings in the social housing sector. Ministers agreed to hold further discussions on possible new funding options in mid 2006 and agreed to invite Ministers responsible for Indigenous Affairs.

Minister Logan said the Ministers' commitment to the Agreement demonstrated an acknowledgement of the importance of sustainable housing in addressing Indigenous health, education and employment outcomes.

Media Contact: Mr Kent Acott (*Minister Logan*) telephone: 08 9222 8950 / 0418 923 384

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility..... Question No: 052

Topic: Review of the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Was the result of your internal review reported to the Ministers (as per page 137)?

(CA132 of Additional Estimates Transcript February 2005,
<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/committee/S8085.pdf>)

Answer:

The Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch is currently undertaking a review of its Indigenous housing programmes. Once complete, the findings of this review will be presented to the Minister for consideration.

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

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 053

Topic: Indigenous Housing – Needs Analysis

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Has there been any agreement on a way to better analyse the real Indigenous needs for funds (see page 139)?

(page CA139 of Additional Estimates Transcript February 2005,
<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/committee/S8085.pdf>)

Answer:

The Australian, State and Territory governments have reached agreement on the need for consistent data collection and analysis and are progressing this work through a joint working group.

This joint working group will progress the development of data standards and methodology and implement joint needs analysis and planning based on this.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 054

Topic: CHIP and Municipal Services - Outlays

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In answer to question 71, we were given the figures for FaCS outlays on Community Housing and Infrastructure, and for Municipal Services for 2003-04. Can you give us the figures for 2004-05?

Answer:

The Community Housing & Infrastructure Program (CHIP) was transferred to the Department of Family & Community Services (FaCS) on 1 July 2004 with the s32 transfer taking effect at the end of October 2004. Expenditure from 1 July 2004 to the date of the s32 transfer remained with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and the balance of the appropriation transferred to FaCS.

The figures below represent total outlay against the full year appropriation and therefore include expenditure reported under both FaCS and DIMIA.

Housing & Infrastructure	\$146.891m
National Aboriginal Health Strategy	\$ 55.986m
Municipal Services	\$ 45.733m
*Fixing Houses for Better Health	<u>\$ 2.999m</u>
Total CHIP expenditure for 2004-05	<u>\$251.609m</u>

*Healthy Housing Initiative was appropriated directly to FaCS in 2004-05 and was not part of the s32 transfer from DIMIA. In 2005-06, this initiative has been included in the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program appropriation.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 055

Topic: National Housing Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Government have a national housing policy? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Australian Government's policy in relation to housing is not presented in a single document.

The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) has responsibility for the provision of the Australian Government's 'welfare housing' assistance. The current government response to 'welfare housing' has been substantially delivered, at the national level, through three principle programs:

- The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA)
- The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), and
- Rent Assistance (RA)

The Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) and the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programs (CHIP) provide funding for Indigenous specific housing.

Taken together, the Commonwealth's housing assistance programmes make a substantial contribution towards meeting the housing needs of Australians, and reflect the Australian Government's policy in relation to housing.

Although the Australian Government provides significant support for housing, provision of housing is largely a state and territory responsibility.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Sharing Responsibility Question No: 056

Topic: Advisory Body on Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Government have an advisory body on housing?

Answer:

Currently the Australian Government does not have an advisory body on housing. However, the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) regularly consults on housing and related issues with key stakeholders including the state and territory housing authorities, other Australian Government agencies, community and other housing providers, researchers, and industry associations.

In addition, there is an advisory committee for homelessness, the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH). CACH is an advisory body to the Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services on issues relating to homelessness. The role of the committee is to advise the Government, through the Minister, on homelessness matters.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 057

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

On what basis is the Department focusing on private individual ownership of Indigenous land as a means of addressing Indigenous housing shortages?

Answer:

The Department, in conjunction with Indigenous Business Australia, is developing a programme to assist Indigenous people purchase their own homes on Indigenous land. The basis for this approach is to increase levels of home ownership for Indigenous people and provide opportunities for economic development.

Please refer to the Minister's press release of 5 October 2005 for further details.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 058

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Has the department undertaken economic analysis of the likely uptake of such a scheme by Indigenous people currently living on remote communities on Indigenous lands – including all of the costs of developing such housing in remote communities; the disposable income and credit rating of Indigenous families and their capacity to secure and maintain a mortgage; the level of demand for this type of housing and the aspirations of Indigenous families on these communities?

Answer:

In developing the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme the Department and Indigenous Business Australia will be undertaking research and consultation with state and territory governments and Indigenous communities on aspirations and alternative models of home ownership. This is intended to include housing type and design, housing construction costs and financing options suitable for Indigenous people living in remote communities.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 059

Topic: Indigenous Housing Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Has the Department evaluated a range of other possible policy approaches to Indigenous housing?
- b) What is the government doing about these alternative approaches such as:
 - i) Encouraging increased state investment in community housing?
 - ii) Relaxing the scope of Ministerial powers over the use of Aboriginal land in the NT?
 - iii) Requiring State and Commonwealth agencies to pay commercial rents for agency-occupied land?
 - iv) Supporting private housing via sub-leasing (ie: secure title is granted to housing stock rather than land)?
 - v) Greater involvement in educational and vocational skills?
 - vi) Making more innovative development finance available for locally appropriate economic development in natural and cultural resource management?

Answer:

- a) The home ownership on Indigenous land initiative is only one of the approaches implemented by the Department particular to Indigenous housing under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP). The Department is working with state and territory governments on possible approaches to Indigenous housing through the Housing Ministers Conference, and will be evaluating approaches to Indigenous housing through the review of CHIP.
- b) i) The Department is negotiating with states and territories under the new Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements for 2005-08 to improve housing provision, and to achieve greater transparency of investments.

Elements ii), iii) and iv) of this question relate to areas of responsibility that are outside the Department and should be directed to OIPC.
- v) This question is relevant to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST), and it is not appropriate for FaCS to provide a response.
- vi) This question is relevant to the DEWR, and the Department of Environment and Heritage, and it is not appropriate for FaCS to provide a response.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 060

Topic: Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

For the last four financial years, please indicate the number of claims and rejections for Rent Assistance by people living in community housing.

Answer:

This information is not available.

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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support and Shared ResponsibilityQuestion No: 061

Topic: Rent Assistance – Indigenous Tenants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- a) How many Indigenous tenants who rent from the NSW Aboriginal Housing Organisation currently receive Rent Assistance? Please provide figures for each of the last four financial years.
- b) Can you provide us with details of any arrears of Rent Assistance that these tenants have received over the last year?
- c) For each of the last four financial years, please indicate the number of clients that have received a full year of arrears of Rent Assistance?

Answer:

- a) Centrelink records cannot identify all NSW Aboriginal Housing Organisation (AHO) tenants.
- b) See answer to a)
- c) See answer to a)

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

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared Responsibility Question No: 062

Topic: National Priorities Funds NHS – Indigenous Component

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Confirm that \$57,500 was allocated in 2004-2005 under the “National Priorities Funds National Homelessness Strategy – Indigenous component”?
- b) Confirm that out of this budget, \$50,000 was spent?
- c) Provide some information on all the activities and programs that were funded by this money?
- d) Provide a specific breakdown of this sum including administered funds and departmental costs?
- e) Confirm that no money was allocated to this measure in 2005-06? Provide a reason.
- f) How has this affected the funding of the programs previously funded by this item?
- g) Are they no longer funded?
- h) Has their funding been reduced? If so, by how much?

Answer:

a) – g)

The National Priorities Funds National Homelessness Strategy does not have an Indigenous component.

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

Output Group: 2.1 – Practical Support and Shared ResponsibilityQuestion No: 124

Topic: RA Recipients breakdown by income payment

Hansard Page: CA14

Senator Carr asked:

Provide a copy of the Parliamentary question on notice that provides a breakdown of Rent Assistance recipients by primary payment or primary income support payment type over the last few years.

Answer:

The response to Senator Evans Parliamentary Question No 1251 was tabled in the Senate by Minister Patterson on Monday 7 November 2005 (Hansard page number 231).

A copy of Parliamentary Question No 1251 is attached.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-06 Supplementary Estimates, November 2005
ANSWER TO A SENATE QUESTION ON NOTICE
QUESTION NO. 1251

Senator Evans: To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, upon notice, on 26 September 2005 —.

1251 Senator Evans: To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—With reference to the payment of rent assistance:

(1) Why is rent assistance not identified as a line item in the department's Portfolio Budget Statements, along with other payments, e.g. carer allowance.

(2) Is the cost of rent assistance incorporated into the line item of other payments; if so, which payments.

(3) For each of the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05, how many clients were in receipt of rent assistance.

(4) For each of the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05, how many clients were in receipt of rent assistance and each of the following payments: (a) Age Pension; (b) Disability Support Pension; (c) Newstart Allowance; (d) Parenting Payment; (e) Carer Payment; (f) Carer Allowance; (g) Youth Allowance; and (h) Family Tax Benefit.

(5) For each of the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05, what was the average rent assistance paid to clients in receipt of each of the following payments: (a) Age Pension; (b) Disability Support Pension; (c) Newstart Allowance; (d) Parenting Payment; (e) Carer Payment; (f) Carer Allowance; (g) Youth Allowance; and (h) Family Tax Benefit.

(6) For each of the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05: (a) how many reviews were carried out on rent assistance payments, and can the outcome of those reviews be provided (i.e. the number resulting in no change, the number resulting in a reduction in payment and the number resulting in an increase in payment); and (b) can details be provided of that review process.

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

(1) Rent Assistance does not have a separate appropriation but forms part of the payment with which it is made. Expenditure on Rent Assistance is included in the line items for those payments.

(2) Yes. Within the FaCS' portfolio Rent Assistance is now incorporated into the line items for the following payments:

- Family Tax Benefit A
- Age Pension
- Bereavement Allowance
- Carer payment
- Special Benefit
- Widow B pension
- Wife Pension (Age)
- Wife Pension (DSP)

Rent Assistance is also included in line items for:

- Disability Support Payment
- Mature Age Allowance
- Newstart Allowance
- Parenting Payment Partnered
- Parenting Payment Single

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

- Partner Allowance (Benefit)
- Partner Allowance (Pension)
- Sickness allowance
- Widow Allowance
- Youth Allowance

These payments are now managed within the Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio except for Youth Allowance (students) which is managed within the Education, Science and Training portfolio. Expenditure on Rent Assistance is incorporated into the line items for those portfolios.

(3) It is estimated that 1,443,876 individuals were entitled to Rent Assistance at some time during the 2003-04 financial year and 1,487,664 in 2004-05. No comparable information is available about the total number of individuals paid Rent Assistance in other financial years. Programme monitoring is focussed on the number of income units, which may be individuals or families, receiving assistance at a particular time rather than over a period of time. The average number of income units assisted each fortnight from 2000-01 to 2004-05 was:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
960,769	967,603	930,859	937,669	952,791

(4) No information is available about the total number of individuals who may have received both Rent Assistance and one of the listed payments at some time during a financial year. The following table shows the number of individuals paid Rent Assistance in the previous fortnight who were entitled to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) or one of the relevant payments at a date in June each year. Rent Assistance is not payable as part of Carer Allowance and no standard reports identify Carer Allowance recipients who also receive Rent Assistance.

Payment type	June 2001	June 2002	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005
Age Pension	178,894	178,009	187,227	194,730	203,051
Disability Support Pension	156,928	157,600	162,023	169,856	175,714
Newstart Allowance	200,937	184,712	174,088	167,307	155,388
Parenting Payment	257,494	245,657	245,311	251,272	255,872
Carer Payment	10,299	11,475	13,077	14,779	17,213
Carer Allowance	Not available				
Youth Allowance	92,493	91,943	89,823	89,142	84,686
Family Tax Benefit	359,472	345,358	342,653	347,850	370,214

(5) No information is available about the average amount of Rent assistance paid to individuals during a financial year. The following table shows the average amount of Rent Assistance paid in the previous fortnight to individuals who were entitled to FTB or one of the relevant payments at a date in June each year. Rent Assistance is not paid as part of Carer Allowance. No standard reports identify Carer Allowance recipients paid Rent Assistance.

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

Payment type	June 2001	June 2002	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005
Age Pension	\$53.13	\$56.18	\$57.95	\$59.68	\$61.51
Disability Support Pension	\$63.57	\$68.02	\$70.51	\$73.03	\$75.92
Newstart Allowance	\$58.13	\$62.14	\$64.21	\$66.21	\$68.70
Parenting Payment	\$82.47	\$85.20	\$87.83	\$90.76	\$93.69
Carer Payment	\$58.75	\$62.45	\$64.40	\$66.32	\$69.16
Carer Allowance	Not available				
Youth Allowance	\$52.37	\$55.50	\$57.51	\$59.71	\$62.33
Family Tax Benefit	\$79.72	\$82.76	\$85.32	\$88.08	\$90.17

(6)(a) The number of reviews conducted each financial year, and the outcome of those reviews is set out in the following table.

Year	Reviews Completed	Outcome of Rent Assistance review		
		No change in payment	Reduction in payment	Increase in payment
2000-01	355,921	229,307	96,963	29,651
2001-02	692,702	426,107	173,430	93,165
2002-03	948,288	710,676	149,952	87,660
2003-04	976,330	757,191	155,530	63,609
2004-05	755,638	556,382	134,958	64,298

(6)(b) Centrelink conducts two types of Rent Assistance reviews.

The first type of review is targeted at Rent Assistance recipients in informal renting arrangements. In general, Rent Assistance recipients are required to provide evidence of the amount of rent they pay. Rent Assistance recipients who have not provided a copy of a tenancy agreement are reviewed every six months. They are sent a review form, commonly referred to as a rent certificate, which can be signed by the landlord as verification of their rental obligations. If the landlord does not agree to sign the form, or if the tenant is concerned about possible discrimination, the customer may provide a declaration of their liability and supporting evidence such as receipts or bank statements.

The second type of review is targeted at Rent Assistance recipients thought to be at risk of incorrect payment for other reasons. An example would be where Centrelink records show another person has moved to the same address as an existing Rent Assistance recipient. In these cases both occupants would have their entitlement reviewed at the same time to ensure that the individual rent liabilities are consistent with the total rent charged for the property.

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

Output Group: 2.1_Practical Support and Shared ResponsibilityQuestion No: 125

Topic: Relationships Between Indigenous and Housing Branches

Hansard Page: CA27

Senator Evans asked:

Provide a map or a diagram of the functions performed by the Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure, Housing Support and Indigenous Policy branches indicating the relationships between the branches.

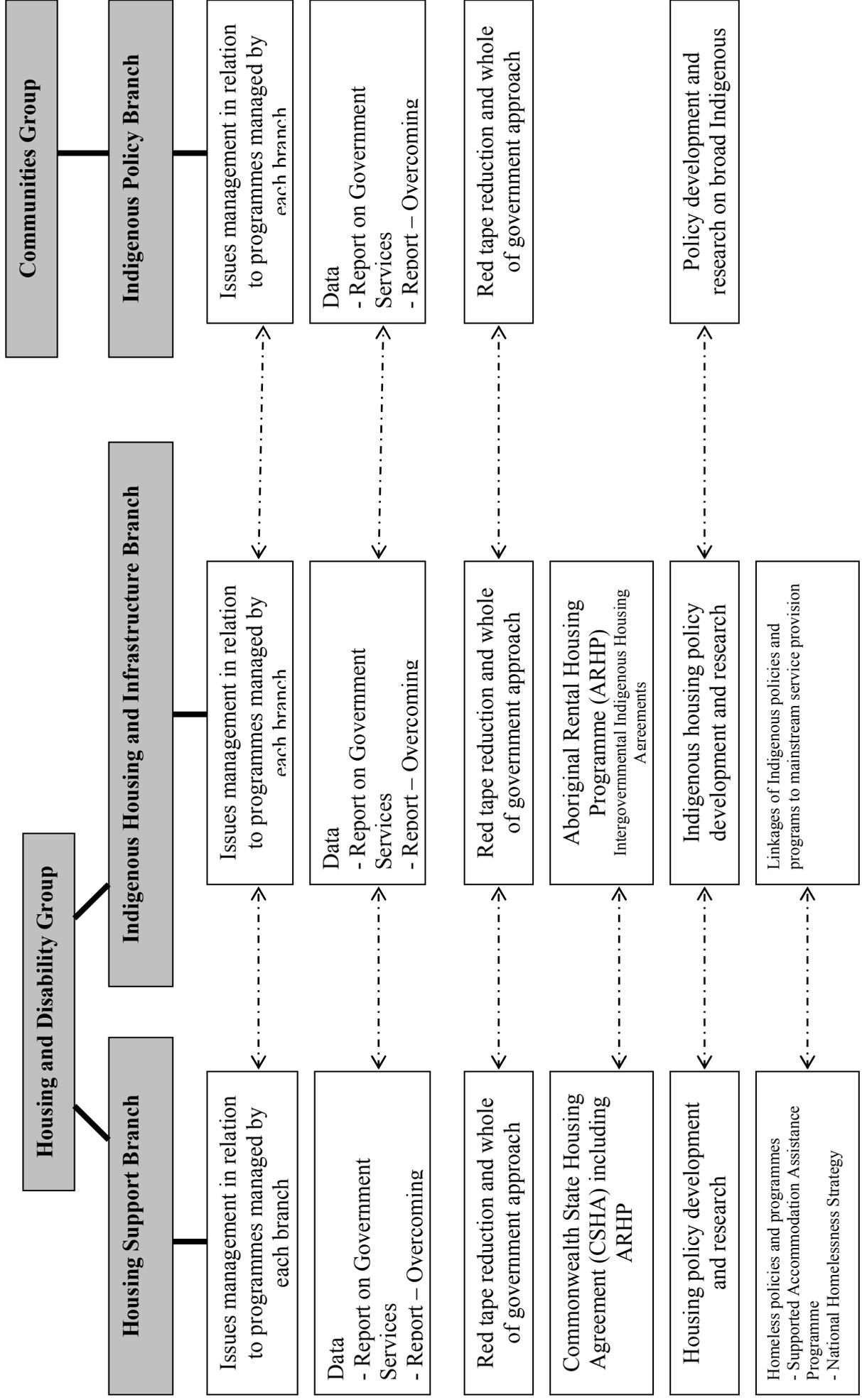
Answer:

A diagram mapping the major areas of work, relationships and linkages between the three branches is at **Attachment A**.

Attachment A to QoN125: Interrelationships between FaCS branches responsible for housing and Indigenous affairs.

The diagram maps the major areas of joint work, relationships and linkages between branches. There is also ongoing and frequent communication in relation to program management.

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



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

Output Group: 2.1 - Practical Support And Shared Responsibility.....Question No: 126

Topic: CSHA Report

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Fielding asked:

Provide a copy of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement Report.

Answer:

The Housing Assistance Act 1996 Annual Report 2003–04 was tabled on 11 October 2005.

The report is available on the FaCS website at:

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-haaintro.htm>.

A copy has been provided to the Committee.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged Question No: 063

Topic: National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - Evaluation

Hansard Page: CA39

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) Who conducted the Evaluation of the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI) in 2000?
- b) Is the report of the Stakeholder Consultation completed in June 2005 public?

Answer:

- a) The Evaluation of NICRI's Freecall Information Service in 2000 was conducted by NICRI.
- b) The report of the Stakeholder Consultation completed in June 2005 has not been made public.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 064

Topic: National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - Leaflets

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator McLucas asked:

The report to the department of activities from 2003-04 reports the number of leaflets that have been produced. There was a drop in the number of leaflets (distributed) from 2000-01 to 2001-02. Was that investigated or were questions asked why that happened?

Answer:

The National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI) is a demand driven service and activity numbers, including the distribution of leaflets, fluctuate from year to year.

The large number of leaflets distributed in 2000-01 is likely to have been related to various Government changes to the pension means test, including changes to the assets test exemption for superannuation for people over 55, and the announcement of changes to the means test treatment of private trusts and private companies.

The development of the NICRI website has also led to a change in the way people access the information available from NICRI. Access to the NICRI website has increased every year. It is likely that there would be greater demand for leaflets if the website had not been developed.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 065

Topic: National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - Report

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator McLucas asked:

When do you expect the *Report to Department of Family & Community Services on Activities 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005* from the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI) to be available on the website? Provide an information sheet on NICRI's activities each year.

Answer:

The Report to the Department on NICRI activities from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 was placed on the NICRI website in November 2005.

An information sheet detailing NICRI's activities for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 years is attached.

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

Seniors and Means Test Branch
Retirement Planning Information Program
Information Sheet

June 2005

National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI)

NICRI Activities

	Total 03-04	Total 04-05
Leaflets distributed	177,558	205,695
Calls	4876	6931
Website hits	17,014	27,663
FIS seminars/courses	62	94
Other seminars/courses	17	16

Phone contacts by state

	Total 03-04	Total 04-05
NSW	2508	3225
QLD	787	1332
VIC	757	1222
WA	334	514
SA	235	298
ACT	195	233
TAS	45	89
NT	15	18

Phone contact issues

	Total 03-04	Total 04-05
Leaflets	1242	1555
Income Streams	748	1543
Investment products	699	1298
Social security issues	836	945
Super/Rollovers	532	697
Financial Planners	346	449
Taxation	170	185
Aged Accommodation	185	167
Redundancy	24	14
Complaints	12	6
Other	82	72

Numbers for all NICRI activities increased during the 2004-05 financial year compared to the previous year, with significant increases in people contacting NICRI in relation to Income Streams and Investment products.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 066

Topic: National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - Demographics

Hansard Page: CA41

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) Can the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI) give us an indication of the income levels of people who are accessing the NICRI website?
- b) Does NICRI provide advice to FaCS on how many women, as opposed to men, access the service?

Answer:

- a) NICRI does not collect information about the income levels of people who access NICRI services.
- b) NICRI statistics show that approximately 47 per cent of people who contact NICRI (excluding people who access the website) are women.

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

Output Group: 3.1_Support for the Aged

..Question No: 067

Topic: Property Valuations – AVO Changes

Hansard Page: CA 53-54

Senator Moore asked:

- a) Is FaCS aware of any changes in the use of Australian Valuations Office (AVO)?
- b) Has there been a change of policy direction?
- c) Has FaCS directed any changes?

Answer:

- a) FaCS is not aware of any changes in the use of the AVO.
- b) There has not been a change of policy direction.
- c) FaCS has not directed any changes.

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

Output Group: 3.1_Support for the Aged

.....Question No: 068

Topic: Property Valuations - Appeals

Hansard Page: CA 54-55

Senator Moore asked:

Of the 43,000 people assisted by Australian Valuations Office (AVO) how many lodged appeals?

Answer:

Appeals are lodged through Centrelink, and accordingly this question should be directed to the Department of Human Services.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged Question No: 070

Topic: Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

For each of the last four completed financial years (2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05), please indicate:

- a) The number of customers who received the Age Pension.
- b) The number of customers who were:
 - i. Overpaid, and
 - ii. Underpaid the Age Pension.
- c) The total value of Age Pension:
 - i. Overpayments, and
 - ii. Underpayments.
- d) The average value of Age Pension:
 - i. Overpayments, and
 - ii. Underpayments.
- e) The total amount of overpayments that have been repaid.
- f) The number of customers with an outstanding overpayment.
- g) The total value outstanding overpayments.
- h) The average value of outstanding overpayments.

Answer:

- a) The number of customers who received the Age Pension.

Financial Year	Number of Age Pension Customers
2001-02	1,818,205
2002-03	1,861,055
2003-04	1,876,250
2004-05	1,915,036

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

b) i. The number of customers who were Overpaid the Age Pension.

Financial Year	Number of Customers Overpaid
2001-02	76,059
2002-03	89,791
2003-04	81,277
2004-05	136,461

The increase in the number of customers overpaid is largely due to recent improvements in compliance activity (for example better targeted Service Profiling and Data Matching). This leads to earlier detection of incorrect payment. The total value of overpayments has not increased significantly and there is a corresponding decrease in the average value of the overpayments. Early detection of these overpayments means that a number of them will be below \$50. These debts are automatically waived.

ii. The number of customers who were Underpaid the Age Pension.

Social security law generally provides that an increase in an age pensioner's rate of payment as a result of the pensioner's advice of a change in circumstances takes effect from the date of the advice, not from the date the change occurred. This outcome is not regarded as involving an underpayment. Centrelink advises that it does not maintain information on Age Pension underpayments that arise in other situations. Centrelink advises that it would take a significant resource commitment to provide this information.

c) i. The total value of Age Pension Overpayments.

Financial Year	Total Amount of Age Pension Overpayments Raised (\$)
2001-02	61,539,881.51
2002-03	93,637,431.33
2003-04	76,442,511.46
2004-05	77,472,167.75

Dollar amounts provided in tables in this answer are based on the actual dollar value of debts at the time the overpayments were raised. There has been no adjustment for inflation or CPI movements.

ii. The total value of Age Pension Underpayments.

See answer at b (ii)

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

d) i. The average value of Age Pension Overpayments.

Financial Year	Average Value of Age Pension Overpayment Raised (\$)
2001-02	457.17
2002-03	555.83
2003-04	419.11
2004-05	311.53

ii. The average value of Age Pension Underpayments.

See answer at b (ii)

e) The total amount of overpayments that have been repaid.

Financial Year	Total Value of Repayments (\$)
2001-02	41,794,464.16
2002-03	63,700,131.66
2003-04	49,526,607.95
2004-05	42,291,758.65

f) The number of customers with an outstanding overpayment.

Financial Year	Number of Customers with Outstanding Age Pension Overpayment	% of Total Age Pension Population
2001-02	23,783	1.3%
2002-03	26,270	1.4%
2003-04	26,557	1.4%
2004-05	25,597	1.4%

g) The total value of outstanding overpayments.

Financial Year	Total Value of Outstanding Age Pension Overpayments (\$)	% of Total Age Pension Payments
2001-02	56,527,922.69	0.3%
2002-03	74,538,307.13	0.4%
2003-04	73,740,949.23	0.4%
2004-05	76,356,664.65	0.4%

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

h) The average value of outstanding overpayments.

Financial Year	Average Value of Outstanding Age Pension Overpayment (\$)
2001-02	2,218.70
2002-03	2,637.78
2003-04	2,546.74
2004-05	2,702.13

There are differences between the average value of outstanding Age Pension Overpayments and the average value of Age Pension Overpayments because smaller overpayments are repaid promptly and if under \$50 are waived, and because the value of outstanding overpayments reflects overpayments raised over all financial years (whereas the average value of new overpayments is based only on overpayments raised in a particular year) and therefore does not fully reflect the trend to lower average overpayments.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 071

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

For each of the last four complete financial years (ie 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05), please indicate:

- a) The number of people that held a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card;
- b) The annual cost of these cards to the Commonwealth; and
- c) A full breakdown of this cost.

Answer:

- a) The number of Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders at the relevant dates were as follows:

30 June	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CSHC holders	226,140	277,681	282,691	287,326	300,165

Source: DSS/FaCS Annual Reports.

- b) The annual costs listed below relate only to the Family and Community Services (FaCS) portfolio. Costs incurred by other portfolios are not reported below.

(\$m)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Seniors Concession Allowance	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.9
Telephone Allowance	8.6	11.6	12.2	13.4
Great Southern Rail	See Note	See Note	See Note	See Note

Source: FaCS Annual Reports.

Note: Funding for concessions provided to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders on Great Southern Rail services is not separately appropriated. Rather they are contained within the total cost of all concessions on GSR services. Separate data is not available.

N/A: Not applicable – Seniors Concession Allowance was not introduced until December 2004. Telephone Allowance for CSHC holders was introduced in September 2001.

- c) See response to b).

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

..Question No: 072

Topic: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card – Compliance Checks on Self-Funded Retirees

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please describe the nature of all compliance checks that are conducted on self-funded retirees who hold Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards to ensure that they do not go over the \$50,000/\$80,000 income thresholds in subsequent years?
- b) Are there any formal checks, or does the Government rely on people who hold cards to voluntarily surrender their card if their income goes above the thresholds?
- c) What action is taken against self-funded retirees who do not surrender their card once their income goes above the thresholds?
- d) In each of the last four complete financial years, please indicate the number of self-funded retirees who have been prosecuted for holding/using their card even though their income has gone above the appropriate thresholds.

Answer:

- a) Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards are issued each year and are valid for one year.
- b) When cards are issued, cardholders are reminded of their obligations to advise Centrelink of any changes to their personal circumstances. Cardholders are further reminded of their obligations in publications such as News for Seniors.
- c) If a cardholder's income exceeds the thresholds, Centrelink cancels the card.
- d) No prosecutions have occurred.

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

Output Group: 3.1 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 127

Topic: National Information Centre on Retirement Investments - Targeting

Hansard Page: CA42

Senator McLucas asked:

How does National Information Centre on Retirement Investments (NICRI) target: women, Indigenous people and culturally and linguistically diverse people?

Answer:

NICRI provides mainly general information services. NICRI tailors its seminars to suit particular groups, such as women, self-funded retirees and pensioners, where appropriate.

NICRI offers a translation service free of charge to people who access their telephone enquiry service and who have difficulty communicating in English.

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

Output Group: 3.1_Support for the Aged

Question No: 130

Topic: Property Valuations - Savings

Hansard Page: CA 55-56

Senator Moore asked:

- a) What savings have been achieved out of the valuation process?
- b) How many of the valuations which have changed have led to savings?
- c) What role does FaCS play in the process?
- d) How many are affected by the valuation process?

Answer:

- a) As this is a Centrelink issue, this question should be directed to the Department of Human Services.
- b) As this is a Centrelink issue, this question should be directed to the Department of Human Services.
- c) FaCS plays no direct role in the valuation of properties.
- d) As this is a Centrelink issue, this question should be directed to the Department of Human Services.

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

Output Group: 3.1_Support for the Aged

Question No: 131

Topic: Health Care Cards for Retirees

Hansard Page: CA61

Senator Moore asked:

- a) Is there access to the number of retirees who are currently on Health Care Cards (HCCs)?
- b) Do you have the cost of that to the government?
- c) Is there any definition of that cost?
- d) Is it or can it be broken down into actual payment, the amount of work involved in doing it and the card itself?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The major Australian Government costs associated with the HCC are to the Pharmaceutical Benefits and Medicare Benefits Schemes, under the Health portfolio.
- c) See answer above.
- d) Concession card costs are not recorded to that level of detail.

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

Output Group: 3.2_Support for People with Disabilities Question No: 073

Topic: ANAO Report – CSTDA Data Collection

Hansard Page: CA44

Senator McLucas asked:

Can the department advise what work is under way to rationalise or at least streamline the various data collection and acquittal systems that are in place in order to ensure that paperwork is reduced as much as possible?

Answer:

Under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) all jurisdictions collect data, which is reported in the CSTDA annual public report. Data collection is consistent with the methodology developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and is contained in the CSTDA National Minimum Dataset.

Acquittals are conducted bilaterally on an annual basis and are consistent with Australian Government processes. Data collection and acquittals are conducted consistent with the terms of the CSTDA and are agreed by all jurisdictions. Any changes to data collection would need to be agreed by all Ministers.

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

Output Group: 3.2 - Support for people with Disabilities Question No: 074

Topic: CSTDA – Policy Priorities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the department doing to meet Policy Priorities of the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA), particularly as it relates to unmet need in supported accommodation? In particular, what is it doing to:

- a) strengthen across government linkages by:
 - i. positively influencing the service system within and external to the Agreement to ensure that access to appropriate services is supported and strengthened.
 - ii. improving collaboration and coordination across programs and governments to ensure that people with disabilities have fair opportunities to access and transition between services at all stages of their lives?
- b) strengthen individuals, families and carers by:
 - i. developing supports and services based on individual needs and outcomes, which enhance the well-being, contribution, capacity and inclusion of individuals, families and carers?
 - ii. increasing their opportunities to influence the development and implementation of supports and service at all levels?
- c) improve long-term strategies to respond to and manage demand for specialist disability services through:
 - i. a strategic approach to broad national and local/jurisdictional planning to underpin the determination and allocation of equitable funding to respond to unmet demand, growth in demand and cost increases?
 - ii. approaches which enhance prevention and early intervention outcomes, the effective coordination across service systems and clear and transparent decision making.

Answer:

The National Disability Administrators have established a National Disability Administrators Implementation Work Plan that contains projects designed to address the five policy priorities agreed to by Disability Ministers in 2002.

The National Disability Administrators have also established a research and development work plan designed to inform the policy directions when addressing the five policy priorities.

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

This plan was accepted by ministers at the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Council meeting held on 28 July 2004.

All jurisdictions have also met with representatives from the Department of Family and Community Services to progress priority policy issues identified in bilateral agreements. Work plans have been established with all jurisdictions and work is progressing. The second CSTDA annual public report includes a chapter on achievements under the bilateral agreements.

The planning, policy setting and management of accommodation support for people with a disability is a state responsibility under the CSTDA. Under the third Agreement all Disability Ministers have agreed to address the unmet need issue for all support services via the demand management outlined in clause eight of the Agreement (see QON No:075).

Under the 2004-05 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced a substantial package of assistance to carers worth \$461 million, which also included a commitment to work with states and territories to develop options to help older parent carers plan for the future care needs of their sons and daughters.

After the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference in July 2004, the Australian Government led the establishment of a multi-jurisdictional working group to look at future care planning issues. The working group explored options to help ageing parents plan for future accommodation and support for their children with disabilities and tabled a report at the July 2005 meeting of Disability Ministers.

At this meeting Ministers asked officials to complete further work on the options. In September 2005, the Australian Government reconvened the Working Group to work further on the report and provide a set of recommendations to Ministers.

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

Output Group: 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities Question No: 075

Topic: CSTDA –Unmet need

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the department acknowledge that there are a number of provisions of the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) that provide for the Commonwealth to demonstrate leadership to meet unmet need? If so, in what ways is the Commonwealth providing leadership through the CSTDA to address unmet need? If not, why not?

Answer:

The CSTDA provides the national framework for the provision of government support to services for people with disability. Under the three agreements signed so far (the first in 1991), state and territory governments have responsibility for the planning, policy setting and management of accommodation support, community support, community access and respite care services for people with a disability. The Australian Government has similar responsibilities for specialised employment assistance. Both levels of government are responsible for support for advocacy and print disability services.

In the second Agreement, the Australian Government responded to unmet need in the disability sector by allocating \$150 million in new funding over the last two years of the second Agreement (2000-01 and 2001-02) to address unmet need in state and territory funded services for which they have responsibility.

In the third Agreement the Australian Government provided a further \$551 million to states and territories to continue funding for unmet need. An additional \$72.5 million over four years was provided in the 2004-05 Federal Budget to assist in the provision of respite services to older parent carers of children with disabilities.

The Australian Government has also committed an additional \$750 million meet its own responsibilities in terms of unmet need for disability employment services under the Agreement.

Under the third CSTDA all Disability Ministers agreed to address unmet need via the demand management strategy outlined in clause eight of the Agreement involving:

- regular annual growth
- a joint forum aimed at addressing demand management issues and encouraging the establishment of early intervention and crisis prevention processes, and
- reporting progress annually under the performance reporting framework.

Departmental officials have been working collaboratively with state and territory officials to progress the work aimed at addressing demand management through the National Disability Administrators work plan.

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

Output Group: 3.2 – Support for People with Disabilities..... Question No: 076

Topic: ANAO Report – Development of measures

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What actions is the Department taking to address the findings of the ANAO 2005-06 report on the department, particularly the recommendation to develop measures of outcomes, effectiveness, quality and unmet need?

Answer:

The department agrees with all the recommendations contained in the report and has already taken a number of steps to implement the recommendations. Regarding recommendation three, the Department has written to the Departments of Education, Science and Training, Transport and Regional Services, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Ageing to discuss implementation of this recommendation. The Audit is scheduled for discussion at the next National Disability Administrators meeting on 24 November 2005.

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

Output Group: 3.3 Support for Carers.....Question No: 077

Topic: Carer Payment (Child) Expanded Eligibility Criteria

Hansard Page: CA67

Senator Moore asked:

The Department has provided projections of how many people will be caught up in the first year as a result of the new measure.

- a) Can you provide projections for the out years?
- b) Do you have an expectation of the growth of this payment?

Answer:

a and b) It is estimated that the take up of Carer Payment for carers of children with severe intellectual, psychiatric or behavioural disabilities will be approximately:

3,700 in 2006-07

290 in 2007-08

310 in 2008-09

340 in 2009-10

It is expected that there will be growth commensurate with Carer Payment.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for Carers.....Question No: 078

Topic: Carer Payment – Disaggregation of claims

Hansard Page: CA70

Senator McLucas asked:

Is it possible to disaggregate between Carer Payment (Child) claims as opposed to Carer Payment (Adult) claims?

Answer:

Information on the number of grants and rejections for Carer Payment (Adult) and Carer Payment (Child) can be provided.

Data provided by Centrelink shows that during 2004-05 there were 42,314 claims resulting in grants and rejections for Carer Payment (Adult) and 4,293 claims resulting in grants and rejections for Carer Payment (Child).

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for Carers.....Question No: 079

Topic: Carer Payment (Adult) – Three month group

Hansard Page: CA71

Senator McLucas asked:

Is it possible to disaggregate Carer Payment (Adult) between the three month group (terminal illness) to the others?

Answer:

According to data provided by Centrelink, at 11 November 2005 there were 98,197 Carer Payment recipients caring for an adult with a disability or medical condition and 1,242 of these recipients were caring for someone in the final stages of a terminal illness who was not expected to live for more than three months.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for Carers

Question No: 080

Topic: Carer Payment (Child) – Applications

Hansard Page: CA72

Senator McLucas asked:

- a) Provide the number of applications that have been received in the last reporting period for Carer Payment (Child).
- b) Provide an analysis of the grounds where those applications were refused.

Answer:

- a) Centrelink's data shows that during 2004-05 the total number of applications received for Carer Payment (Child) was 4,293.
- b) The main rejection reasons given were the:
 - child did not satisfy the medical eligibility criteria
 - care requirements were not met
 - combined care needs of two or more children did not satisfy the eligibility criteria
 - claim was not completed or was withdrawn
 - residency requirements were not met, and/or
 - income threshold was exceeded.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for CarersQuestion No: 081

Topic: Carer Payment – Appeals

Hansard Page: CA73

Senator McLucas asked:

How many appeals were there for Carer Payment (Child) and what were the results ie. How many successful/unsuccessful?

Answer:

Carer Payment (child) appeals registered in 2004-05 included:

Review Type	Total CP (child)	Successful	Unsuccessful
ARO Reviews	57	6	47
SSAT	18	5	11
AAT	2	0	0

Please note variation in figures due to appeals unresolved in 2004-05, withdrawn or dismissed.

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

Output Group: 3.3 - Support for Carers Question No: 082

Topic: National Family Carers Voice – Total Allocation

Hansard Page: CA77

Senator McLucas asked:

What was the total allocation of funds to the National Family Carers Voice?

Answer:

The total expenditure for the National Family Carers Voice was \$57,880.49

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

Output Group: 3.3 - Support for Carers Question No: 083

Topic: National Family Carers Voice – Consultant Fees

Hansard Page: CA77

Senator McLucas asked:

Were there any consultancies as part of the National Family Carers Voice? If so, what were they for and how much was allocated?

Answer:

There was one consultancy with Australian Healthcare Associates Pty Ltd. The consultancy was for the preparation and facilitation of the National Family Carers Voice Workshop. The total cost of the consultancy was \$3,520.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for CarersQuestion No: 084

Topic: Access Economics Report on Informal Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewart asked:

- a) Does the department concur with the findings in the Access Economics report “The Economic Value of Informal Care”?
- b) What is the agency doing to address the issues raised in the report, including:
 - i. The apparently low number of carers receiving Carers’ Allowance?
 - ii. The demand and supply of informal care in the future?
 - iii. The costs and benefits of different means of providing care to the aged, the sick and those with disabilities in the future?

Answer:

- a) The report highlights the value, both social and economic, that carers contribute to our society.
- b) In respect of the issues raised in the report:
 - i. During 2004-05 there were 113,543 new grants for Carer Allowance which was a 23 per cent increase on the previous financial year.
 - ii. The department recognises that demographic and labour force trends; and changing community attitudes may have an influence on the supply and demand of informal carers in the future.

In the last two years, the Australian Government has introduced a number of measures to support informal carers which recognise the contribution carers make and the emotional and financial demands of caring, and to encourage social and economic participation of carers. These measures include:

- bonus payments paid in 2004 and 2005 to eligible recipients of Carer Allowance and Carer Payment;
- increasing respite care services for older carers, and younger carers at risk of leaving education prematurely;
- increased access to information, referral and advice services for young carers;
- extended eligibility of Carer Allowance to carers who do not live with the care receiver;

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

- extended eligibility of Carer Payment to allow a carer to undertake work, study or training for up to 25 hours a week without losing eligibility for Carer Payment;
 - extended eligibility of Carer Payment to carers of children with severe intellectual, psychiatric or behavioural disabilities (to be implemented on 1 July 2006); and
 - private provisions measures which will make it easier for parents of people with severe disabilities to establish private trusts for the future care of their children (to be implemented on 20 September 2006).
- iii. The Department is also currently undertaking a major national research project, the Long Term Impact of Caring, to look at economic and social participation issues associated with informal caring at different stages during the caring period.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for CarersQuestion No: 085

Topic: Tax Free Threshold Carer Payment and Carer Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewart asked:

Is the department aware of the concern of people receiving carers allowance over the difference in tax free threshold between those on carer payment and those on carer allowance?

Answer:

No.

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

Output Group: 3.3 - Support for Carers Question No: 086

Topic: Carer Allowance (child) – Breakdown

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a full breakdown of Carer Allowance (child) recipients (over the last four financial years) by the type of income support received by the carer, and those not on income support payments.

Answer:

The Centrelink Carer Allowance database provides the following information which shows the number of Carer Allowance (child) recipients by main type of other payment or entitlement received, as at 11 July 2003, 2 July 2004 and 10 June 2005:

Other main payment or entitlement type	2003	2004	2005
Family Tax Benefit	52,723	39,599	46,263
Child Care Benefit	34,810	33,359	28,426
Parenting Payment (Single)	6,665	6,212	8,283
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	4,113	3,914	4,274
Job Search	2,814	1,295	1,298
Carer Payment	1,743	1,604	2,155
FaCS (PES)	1,597	1,772	2,275
Disability Support Pension	1,233	951	1,298
Low Income Card	508	388	387
Newstart Allowance	265	293	403
Mobility Allowance	178	158	160
Age Pension	174	114	181
Wife (DSP)	110	28	24
Austudy	102	58	74
ABStudy (PES)	89	116	106
ABStudy	55	32	38
Wife Pension	36	22	32
Double Orphan Pension	35	42	59
Other payments and entitlements	559	69	62
No other payment or entitlement coded	13,938	8,983	10,348
Total	121,747	99,009	106,146

Notes:

- (1) Figures by other payment or entitlement type are not available for 2002.
- (2) Figures include customers who may receive a payment in respect of both an adult and a child.
- (3) Figures do not include Health Care Card only customers.

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

Output Group: 3.3_Support for Carers.....Question No: 087

Topic: Carer Payment (child) – Claims and Rejections

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please indicate the number of claims and rejections for Carer Payment (child) over the last four financial years.

Answer:

New claims are either granted or rejected. Centrelink's data shows that:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Total of grants and rejections	2,394	3,157	3,729	4,293
Total of rejections	1,911	2,684	3,224	3,791

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

Output Group: 3.3 - Support for Carers Question No: 088

Topic: Carer Payment (child) Expanded Eligibility Criteria

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please outline the new broadened criteria that will apply to Carer Payment (child) as announced on 12 September.
- b) Please indicate what consultation will take place about the new eligibility arrangements, when and with what organisations.

Answer:

- a) The new broadened criteria that will apply to Carer Payment (child) are being developed.
- b) A reference group consisting of medical experts in childhood disability and peak community bodies met on 21 November 2005 to provide advice on additional criteria that will be added to the legislation for Carer Payment (child). The new measure is due to be implemented on 1 July 2006. The following organisations were invited to attend:
 - ACROD (the National Industry Association for Disability Services)
 - Australian Association of Social Workers
 - Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability
 - Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
 - Mental Health Council of Australia
 - Carers Australia
 - Centrelink
 - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
 - Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 - Royal Australasian College of Physicians – Division of Paediatrics
 - Centre for Developmental Disability Studies
 - Australian Psychological Society, and
 - Australian Association of Occupational Therapists.

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

Output Group: 3.4_Support for Youth.....Question No: 089

Topic: Open Doors Queensland

Hansard Page: CA86

Senator Fielding asked:

Will the department check that Open Doors Queensland have met the specified requirements for which they are funded by FaCS for?

Answer:

The Department has checked that Open Doors Queensland has met the specified requirements for which they are funded under the Reconnect programme. Open Doors is funded to work with young people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender to ensure that they remain connected to their parents/other family members.

Reconnect services are evaluated by the Department on an annual basis and this includes an acquittal of their funding against the programme objectives. Open Doors Queensland has always met the requirements and satisfactorily acquitted their funding.

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

Output Group: 3.5 – Support for Women Question No: 090

Topic: Women’s Safety Agenda

Hansard Page: CA87

Senator Moore asked:

- a) Provide the committee with a snapshot of where various components of the Women’s Safety Agenda (WSA) expenditure are at.
- b) Provide a matrix of current activities regarding the WSA.
- c) Provide details, including cost of the Community Awareness campaign for 2005/2006 to date.

Answer:

- a) A snapshot of the expenditure for 2005/06 to as at 1 November 2005 against the various components of the WSA is shown below:

Sub-programme	Expended (\$m)
Trafficking Support Programme	0.27
Personal Safety Survey	2.06
Campaign (and Helpline)	4.8
Training Initiatives	Nil*
Research and Information	0.23
Community Projects, incl. Indigenous	Nil*
Total	7.36

* Development work is progressing on these elements and some expenditure is expected during 2005/06.

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

b) A matrix of current activities regarding the WSA is shown below:

Sub-programme	Status
Trafficking Support Programme	Ongoing programme. Re-tender for provider currently underway.
Personal Safety Survey	ABS survey undertaken latter half of 2005, data expected to be available mid 2006.
Community Awareness Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign advertising re-run • Continued operation of Helpline 	Second run of advertising for 2005 commenced on 6 November 2005. Helpline is ongoing.
Training Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Practitioners Training • Regional Nurses Training • Training for Mensline Counsellors 	The scope of these projects is being developed. Discussions with relevant stakeholders both internal and external have been undertaken.
Research and Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Clearing House • Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault • Resource at Australian Institutes of Criminology 	Re-tender processes are underway for providers for both the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and the Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. New Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Institutes of Criminology.
Community Projects	Guidelines and scope have been developed and were advertised on 26 November 2005.

b) Details and costs (GST inclusive) of the *Violence Against Women. Australia Says* NO. community awareness campaign for 2005/2006 to date are below:

Campaign Activity	Description	Cost (\$)
Television	60 second advertisements on metropolitan, regional and pay TV.	2,864,154
Cinema	60 second advertisements in 345 metropolitan and 95 regional cinemas.	228,751
Magazines	Full page advertisements in four consumer magazines.	154,429
Convenience (washroom)	A3 and A4 posters in licensed venues, fitness centres, cinemas, shopping centres and TAFE/Universities.	123,076
Press (Indigenous and Non-English Speaking)	Full page advertisements in the five major Indigenous newspapers. Full page advertisements translated into 14 languages in 39 newspapers.	47,275
Despatch		9,008
Sub Total		3,426,693
Creative costs		184,720
Helpline		1,260,504
TOTAL		4,871,917

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

Output Group: 3.5 – Support for Women Question No: 091

Topic: Indigenous Women’s Activities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to Indigenous Women’s Activities:

- a) Confirm that under the budget item of “Indigenous women’s activities” \$246,000 was spent in 2004-05?
- b) Provide a specific breakdown of these funds according to activities and departmental costs?
- c) Confirm that no money was allocated to this budget item in 2005-06? Please explain the reasons for this.
- d) Does this mean that programs previously funded under this budget item are no longer funded? If not, please identify their source of funding in the budget papers.

Answers:

- a) As detailed below at b), the Office for Women’s records show that \$281,817 was expended in 2004-05 on Indigenous family violence and leadership and development projects.
- b) Breakdown of expenditure by activity for 2004-05 is as follows.

Indigenous Family Violence Expenditure

Project		Deptl Cost (\$)
‘Stop It Before It Starts’ project and ‘Community Patrols’ project		52,883
Wirramanu Aboriginal Corporation	Cultural Responses to Family Violence Project	47,772
amilaroi Aboriginal Legal Service	Kamilaroi Music Against Violence Project	44,000
Gunbalunya Community Government Council – Family Violence Strategic Plan		30,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated	Meriba Buai Giz – Phase 2 Project	15,000
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Cultural Mediation Project	5,000
Miimi Mothers Aboriginal Corporation	Healing Our Families Our Way Project	5,000
Gudu Wondjer (Sea Women) Aboriginal Corporation	Respect Project	3,480
Lajamanu Community Government Council	Lajamanu Community Violence Prevention and Rehabilitation Project	3,000
Burringurrah Aboriginal Corporation	Strong Families, Strong Community, Strong Culture Project	1,290

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

Total	207,425
--------------	----------------

Leadership and Development Expenditure

Project		Deptl Cost (\$)
ZONTA International	Capacity Building for Executive & Staff of Ngaanyajjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC)	24,925
National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services	Our Strong Women – the next step project	49,467
Total		74,392

TOTAL COMBINED **\$281,817**

c) and d)

While the 2005-06 budget papers do not show funds specifically earmarked for “Indigenous women’s activities”, funding in this area will continue to be a priority focus under the two programmes administered by the Office for Women – the Women’s Safety Agenda and the Women’s Leadership and Development Programme. For example, the Women’s Safety Agenda includes measures directly targeting Indigenous women and their families in regional Australia through the provision of training on identifying family violence for practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers through the Practice Incentive Program.

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

Output Group: 4.1 - Support for Families

Question No: 75

Topic: Family Relationship Centre Tenders

Hansard Page: CA74

Senator Moore asked:

Provide a copy of the agreed tender when it has been finalised.

Answer:

Documentation for selection processes will be made available when finalised.
Selection processes must be undertaken before the final tenders are signed off.

October 05 - the documentation is available at

http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/frsp-selection_process.htm#3

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families Question No: 092

Topic: Family Relationship Services – List of Providers

Hansard Page: CA94

Senator Fielding asked:

Provide a breakdown of the projected numbers of counselling sessions and clients serviced by Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) providers, separated into metropolitan and regional and rural areas under the new service funding.

Answer:

The following table provides the projected numbers of counselling sessions and clients that will be serviced by the new FRSP funding of \$8.4 million over three years from 2006-07, separated into metropolitan and regional and rural areas.

	Annual Number of sessions	Annual Number of clients
Metropolitan	9,390	4,695
Regional	8,300	4,150
Remote	3,050	1,525
Total	20,740	10,370

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 093

Topic: Family Relationship Services – Tender Documentation

Hansard Page: CA96

Senator Siewert asked:

What selection criteria are being applied for tenders for the Family Relationship Centres?

Answer:

The selection criteria are available at the following website:

http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/frsp-selection_process.htm#3

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 094

Topic: FTB Appeals

Hansard Page: CA 103 - 104

Senator Evans asked:

Why are so many decisions on Family Tax Benefit being overturned on appeal?

Answer:

Very few decisions are overturned on appeal. 861 customers had a decision changed as a result of appeal in 2004-05.

The vast majority of changed decisions occur because of new information that was not available to the original decision maker.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 095

Topic: Maternity Payment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please update all of the tables provided in response to Question on Notice 180 from May 2005 Estimates to cover the full 2004-05 financial year.

Answer:

The answer is provided in the tables below:

- 2004-05 Maternity Payment Customers By Geographical State; and
- 2004-05 Maternity Payment Customers By Federal Electorate.

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

2004-05 Maternity Payment Customers By Geographical State

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

Information covers the period 1/7/2004 to 30/06/2005

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

2004-05 Maternity Payment Customers By Federal Electorate

Federal Electorate	Number of Customers
ADELAIDE	1,382
ASTON	1,418
BALLARAT	1,400
BANKS	1,437
BARKER	1,656
BARTON	1,576
BASS	1,050
BATMAN	1,607
BENDIGO	1,412
BENNELONG	1,247
BEROWRA	1,355
BLAIR	1,777
BLAXLAND	2,146
BONNER	1,502
BOOTHBY	1,120
BOWMAN	1,441
BRADDON	997
BRADFIELD	971
BRAND	1,678
BRISBANE	1,535
BRUCE	1,322
CALARE	1,595
CALWELL	2,132
CANBERRA	1,807
CANNING	1,705
CAPRICORNIA	1,919
CASEY	1,469
CHARLTON	1,314
CHIFLEY	2,302
CHISHOLM	1,269
COOK	1,281
CORANGAMITE	1,325
CORIO	1,525
COWAN	1,543
COWPER	1,089

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

Federal Electorate	Number of Customers
CUNNINGHAM	1,327
CURTIN	1,066
DAWSON	1,774
DEAKIN	1,357
DENISON	1,007
DICKSON	1,821
DOBELL	1,597
DUNKLEY	1,418
EDEN-MONARO	1,338
FADDEN	1,586
FAIRFAX	1,431
FARRER	1,434
FISHER	1,282
FLINDERS	1,393
FORDE	2,065
FORREST	1,561
FOWLER	2,094
FRANKLIN	1,239
FRASER	1,985
FREMANTLE	1,472
GELLIBRAND	1,784
GILMORE	1,183
GIPPSLAND	1,313
GOLDSTEIN	1,303
GORTON	2,248
GRAYNDLER	1,695
GREENWAY	2,205
GREY	1,630
GRIFFITH	1,667
GROOM	1,691
GWYDIR	1,677
HASLUCK	1,461
HERBERT	1,793
HIGGINS	1,159
HINDMARSH	1,153
HINKLER	1,725
HOLT	2,281

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

Federal Electorate	Number of Customers
HOTHAM	1,371
HUGHES	1,477
HUME	1,754
HUNTER	1,787
INDI	1,270
ISAACS	1,779
JAGAJAGA	1,382
KALGOORLIE	2,279
KENNEDY	2,153
KINGSFORD SMITH	1,498
KINGSTON	1,554
KOOYONG	1,083
LA TROBE	1,497
LALOR	2,073
LEICHHARDT	2,419
LILLEY	1,704
LINDSAY	1,793
LINGIARI	1,554
LONGMAN	1,729
LOWE	1,399
LYNE	1,371
LYONS	1,072
MACARTHUR	1,826
MACKELLAR	1,413
MACQUARIE	1,579
MAKIN	1,527
MALLEE	1,390
MARANOVA	1,891
MARIBYRNONG	1,332
MAYO	1,307
MCEWEN	1,781
MCMILLAN	1,313
MCPHERSON	1,481
MELBOURNE	1,683
MELBOURNE PORTS	1,441
MENZIES	1,094
MITCHELL	1,609

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

Federal Electorate	Number of Customers
MONCRIEFF	1,127
MOORE	1,189
MORETON	1,594
MURRAY	1,453
NEW ENGLAND	1,514
NEWCASTLE	1,511
NORTH SYDNEY	1,445
O'CONNOR	1,565
OXLEY	2,364
PAGE	1,477
PARKES	1,546
PARRAMATTA	1,921
PATERSON	1,329
PEARCE	1,867
PERTH	1,398
PETRIE	1,550
PORT ADELAIDE	1,766
PROSPECT	1,641
RANKIN	2,379
REID	2,150
RICHMOND	1,239
RIVERINA	1,827
ROBERTSON	1,311
RYAN	1,241
SCULLIN	1,526
SHORTLAND	1,328
SOLOMON	1,182
STIRLING	1,484
STURT	1,204
SWAN	1,454
SYDNEY	1,444
TANGNEY	971
THROSBY	1,606
WAKEFIELD	1,831
WANNON	1,315
WARRINGAH	1,444
WATSON	1,739

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

Federal Electorate	Number of Customers
WENTWORTH	1,425
WERRIWA	2,025
WIDE BAY	1,510
WILLS	1,698
UNKNOWN	2,597
TOTAL	235,371

Information covers the period 1/7/2004 to 30/06/2005

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 096

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please provide updated Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year.
- b) Please provide updated Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2004-05 financial year to date.
- c) Can the Department indicate how many families incurred an FTB debt in 2003-04 before the effect of the per child supplement was taken into account?

Answer:

- a) The table below lists Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year as at 30 September 2005.

Top-Ups	
Customer Number	1,768,575
% of Total Customer Number	85%
Total Amount	\$2,485 million
Average Amount	\$1,405
Nil Change	
Customer Number	104,894
% of Total Customer Number	5%
Overpayments	
Customer Number	213,960
% of Total Customer Number	10%
Total Amount	\$258 million
Average Amount	\$1,205
TOTAL	
Customer Number	2,087,429

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

- b) The table below lists Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2004-05 financial year as at 30 September 2005.

Top-Ups	
Customer Number	1,080,441
% of Total Customer Number	91%
Total Amount	\$1,647 million
Average Amount	\$1,524
Nil Change	
Customer Number	40,810
% of Total Customer Number	3%
Overpayments	
Customer Number	62,540
% of Total Customer Number	5%
Total Amount	\$63 million
Average Amount	\$1,008
TOTAL	
Customer Number	1,183,791

- c) This question has previously been answered by the Minister for Family and Community Services. Please refer to Senate Question on Notice 1306.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 097

Topic: Family Tax Benefit – Reconciliation Update of Budget QoN 183

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please supply an update of all of the information/tables supplied in response to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of question on notice 183 of the budget estimates hearings.

[QON 183 - For each year of the FTB system's operation (please provide a breakdown of this information for each state and territory and by federal electorate):

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

Answer:

All data below is as at 30 September 2005.

a) by state

	Number of Customers				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Australian Capital Territory	161	632	1,183	1,343	433
New South Wales	4,108	14,589	27,276	28,361	9,539
Northern Territory	122	420	727	764	453
Queensland	1,846	7,442	15,034	16,287	6,230
South Australia	479	2,246	4,864	5,412	2,051
Tasmania	166	652	1,383	1,471	645
Victoria	2,454	9,775	19,270	19,970	7,100
Western Australia	1,082	3,933	8,029	8,801	3,561
Unknown*	760	1,936	2,044	1,407	276
Total	11,178	41,625	79,810	83,816	30,288

* The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

a) by electorate

	Number of Customers				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Adelaide	35	149	316	348	107
Aston	65	278	565	565	205
Ballarat	62	235	428	435	170
Banks	82	277	477	569	181
Barker	68	296	544	532	204
Barton	107	317	584	623	205
Bass	36	136	275	304	118
Batman	50	205	447	476	173
Bendigo	54	230	478	465	160
Bennelong	68	241	473	549	128
Berowra	77	264	522	606	137
Blair	65	228	454	515	217
Blaxland	116	367	763	806	254
Bonner	45	240	485	519	194
Boothby	26	145	320	384	144
Bowman	54	265	550	558	241
Braddon	30	111	241	237	145
Bradfield	44	163	327	365	54
Brand	68	259	575	596	342
Brisbane	30	161	318	354	120
Bruce	80	266	565	600	208
Calare	73	294	516	524	197
Calwell	107	374	734	748	354
Canberra	76	342	635	751	218
Canning	90	288	611	634	278
Capricornia	92	321	570	586	281
Casey	55	237	505	586	182
Charlton	50	211	481	455	158
Chifley	163	496	873	834	467
Chisholm	47	200	434	516	141
Cook	75	205	413	462	120
Corangamite	52	233	483	486	185
Corio	34	160	411	460	197
Cowan	80	295	612	657	289
Cowper	71	230	473	446	155
Cunningham	59	218	407	466	159
Curtin	34	156	283	375	89
Dawson	74	318	643	673	278

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

	Number of Customers				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Deakin	46	192	402	470	160
Denison	33	109	231	274	108
Dickson	55	252	582	633	223
Dobell	77	311	656	676	225
Dunkley	64	257	533	537	200
Eden-Monaro	83	324	662	625	161
Fadden	70	288	589	688	231
Fairfax	64	277	627	648	178
Farrer	85	345	532	529	165
Fisher	67	275	610	656	173
Flinders	67	288	572	555	194
Forde	87	381	758	811	291
Forrest	80	318	601	665	284
Fowler	117	352	701	818	391
Franklin	34	131	287	316	123
Fraser	85	292	567	618	213
Fremantle	54	247	496	603	232
Gellibrand	62	244	503	502	221
Gilmore	74	260	505	487	158
Gippsland	77	274	516	494	187
Goldstein	41	175	384	442	72
Gorton	111	380	822	883	431
Grayndler	67	233	407	426	142
Greenway	148	459	832	804	331
Grey	50	284	522	497	178
Griffith	51	187	362	380	115
Groom	47	196	386	440	171
Gwydir	106	370	547	494	157
Hasluck	61	218	513	580	229
Herbert	70	218	478	519	303
Higgins	35	137	293	313	61
Hindmarsh	28	135	354	441	169
Hinkler	67	230	512	559	229
Holt	120	448	882	882	441
Hotham	65	253	540	614	202
Hughes	63	265	472	583	157
Hume	124	431	672	693	213
Hunter	79	252	517	494	213
Indi	83	245	495	504	150

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

	Number of Customers				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Isaacs	61	301	593	622	277
Jagajaga	50	218	485	499	155
Kalgoorlie	124	374	724	718	348
Kennedy	91	340	656	619	274
Kingsford Smith	64	252	469	543	165
Kingston	38	227	481	537	248
Kooyong	48	167	319	389	72
La Trobe	73	317	614	587	173
Lalor	96	373	770	783	360
Leichhardt	114	392	667	739	326
Lilley	48	189	401	416	159
Lindsay	91	327	601	551	225
Lingiari	62	228	387	347	214
Longman	78	266	585	613	253
Lowe	72	281	480	595	134
Lyne	59	279	552	527	165
Lyons	36	165	345	339	149
Macarthur	104	350	622	647	328
Mackellar	62	273	471	539	91
Macquarie	81	305	593	604	156
Makin	36	188	457	506	215
Mallee	118	400	590	514	140
Maranoa	79	305	545	584	187
Maribyrnong	46	239	465	512	166
Mayo	46	230	485	567	171
Mcewen	68	363	722	692	220
Mcmillan	70	327	520	493	170
Mcpherson	61	299	632	742	194
Melbourne	33	125	271	257	107
Melbourne Ports	33	151	295	341	62
Menzies	64	241	535	586	130
Mitchell	80	349	671	714	190
Moncrieff	55	228	419	520	155
Moore	77	229	495	532	223
Moreton	62	233	463	544	195
Murray	117	429	550	532	165
New England	71	260	451	493	160
Newcastle	49	201	414	435	164
North Sydney	40	134	253	303	65

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

	Number of Customers				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
O'Connor	83	322	614	637	224
Oxley	94	325	648	693	365
Page	62	266	497	468	156
Parkes	114	365	570	518	178
Parramatta	110	352	665	767	286
Paterson	44	265	522	481	184
Pearce	103	365	787	786	283
Perth	59	203	391	468	180
Petrie	38	239	510	545	226
Port Adelaide	61	190	472	580	266
Prospect	112	367	700	759	308
Rankin	91	343	693	739	325
Reid	129	379	751	756	274
Richmond	55	243	510	477	169
Riverina	123	386	609	525	176
Robertson	55	242	515	525	183
Ryan	34	189	351	423	102
Scullin	70	259	578	693	291
Shortland	66	243	509	502	178
Solomon	59	204	348	407	228
Stirling	53	211	484	545	224
Sturt	37	181	449	490	131
Swan	47	193	379	418	159
Sydney	45	120	236	273	69
Tangney	54	220	410	543	159
Throsby	70	236	540	572	265
Wakefield	54	218	458	521	216
Wannon	62	335	461	416	141
Warringah	47	190	365	404	78
Watson	111	368	628	698	214
Wentworth	34	149	238	302	57
Werriwa	128	444	878	887	360
Wide Bay	53	237	466	482	189
Wills	62	211	474	480	165
Unknown*	811	2066	2345	1737	391
Total	11,178	41,625	79,810	83,816	30,288

* The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

b) by state

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Australian Capital Territory	\$190,374	\$814,060	\$1,639,751	\$1,960,338	\$491,283
New South Wales	\$5,918,216	\$23,846,711	\$42,648,556	\$43,387,304	\$11,472,337
Northern Territory	\$142,824	\$644,579	\$998,295	\$1,097,380	\$562,260
Queensland	\$2,520,793	\$11,421,220	\$22,284,156	\$24,918,157	\$7,274,833
South Australia	\$572,890	\$3,316,368	\$6,947,767	\$7,573,586	\$2,185,404
Tasmania	\$196,703	\$993,911	\$1,801,524	\$2,103,222	\$703,004
Victoria	\$3,543,785	\$16,096,174	\$28,506,085	\$29,216,375	\$8,266,817
Western Australia	\$1,446,905	\$6,125,561	\$11,989,838	\$13,258,425	\$4,119,657
Unknown*	\$1,091,183	\$2,575,638	\$2,568,599	\$2,123,644	\$361,280
Total	\$15,623,673	\$65,834,222	\$119,384,572	\$125,638,432	\$35,436,875

* The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

b) by electorate

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Adelaide	\$34,232	\$222,175	\$420,124	\$483,463	\$101,867
Aston	\$66,425	\$385,360	\$753,362	\$788,501	\$213,466
Ballarat	\$65,144	\$375,162	\$666,626	\$642,985	\$208,653
Banks	\$96,998	\$497,087	\$847,496	\$859,610	\$221,636
Barker	\$89,350	\$580,776	\$904,737	\$819,047	\$208,230
Barton	\$169,913	\$595,588	\$923,436	\$992,674	\$264,013
Bass	\$33,065	\$215,644	\$384,687	\$464,002	\$138,988
Batman	\$48,513	\$281,701	\$641,283	\$673,472	\$218,341
Bendigo	\$87,747	\$403,920	\$749,000	\$668,454	\$151,324
Bennelong	\$107,532	\$372,555	\$736,809	\$825,627	\$156,172
Berowra	\$118,883	\$433,503	\$779,528	\$942,890	\$184,748
Blair	\$71,569	\$356,407	\$703,500	\$757,495	\$231,883
Blaxland	\$186,347	\$630,041	\$1,347,189	\$1,260,409	\$344,390
Bonner	\$50,899	\$353,334	\$664,712	\$787,156	\$221,443
Boothby	\$35,680	\$213,116	\$400,775	\$505,175	\$166,589
Bowman	\$104,769	\$371,945	\$724,304	\$789,522	\$274,613
Braddon	\$40,598	\$206,547	\$286,871	\$347,241	\$159,083
Bradfield	\$72,081	\$280,236	\$545,006	\$640,131	\$70,878
Brand	\$83,955	\$397,969	\$781,205	\$836,103	\$376,277
Brisbane	\$38,674	\$208,817	\$397,768	\$475,672	\$105,666
Bruce	\$148,170	\$415,369	\$821,618	\$809,780	\$252,793

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

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Calare	\$88,054	\$501,280	\$826,727	\$793,697	\$209,607
Calwell	\$177,928	\$631,316	\$1,048,595	\$1,089,064	\$439,538
Canberra	\$85,466	\$443,938	\$908,802	\$1,108,984	\$263,942
Canning	\$82,457	\$378,077	\$856,338	\$937,985	\$300,596
Capricornia	\$124,367	\$451,386	\$831,196	\$813,656	\$310,523
Casey	\$64,068	\$300,092	\$714,537	\$799,349	\$194,063
Charlton	\$76,459	\$303,879	\$707,959	\$598,351	\$165,885
Chifley	\$249,334	\$849,968	\$1,427,477	\$1,276,065	\$534,365
Chisholm	\$91,049	\$340,432	\$665,471	\$754,884	\$168,757
Cook	\$80,622	\$321,862	\$574,879	\$699,482	\$149,768
Corangamite	\$62,777	\$395,643	\$705,820	\$717,754	\$208,639
Corio	\$31,447	\$238,959	\$554,800	\$632,901	\$203,621
Cowan	\$80,175	\$436,580	\$825,198	\$948,273	\$302,590
Cowper	\$89,656	\$379,059	\$688,343	\$680,419	\$173,385
Cunningham	\$64,138	\$339,524	\$624,501	\$673,138	\$192,790
Curtin	\$50,620	\$255,689	\$476,940	\$615,095	\$104,563
Dawson	\$83,105	\$457,423	\$965,845	\$1,031,057	\$311,621
Deakin	\$33,998	\$268,381	\$547,269	\$644,555	\$151,273
Denison	\$32,164	\$170,615	\$296,247	\$367,532	\$114,010
Dickson	\$76,233	\$373,011	\$874,451	\$945,437	\$279,254
Dobell	\$89,974	\$468,842	\$931,583	\$960,202	\$238,268
Dunkley	\$99,142	\$392,780	\$724,100	\$749,647	\$202,650
Eden-Monaro	\$123,169	\$505,898	\$949,659	\$927,032	\$167,696
Fadden	\$102,512	\$425,183	\$909,926	\$1,121,196	\$311,979
Fairfax	\$94,003	\$404,028	\$1,002,378	\$1,027,489	\$223,817
Farrer	\$143,841	\$667,504	\$860,222	\$921,391	\$166,791
Fisher	\$77,582	\$444,968	\$904,330	\$1,097,097	\$235,684
Flinders	\$96,239	\$477,851	\$844,462	\$838,869	\$234,288
Forde	\$115,953	\$563,142	\$1,096,459	\$1,245,772	\$316,955
Forrest	\$96,970	\$503,365	\$875,403	\$953,103	\$342,664
Fowler	\$176,895	\$542,737	\$1,041,543	\$1,221,085	\$491,117
Franklin	\$46,006	\$168,291	\$394,923	\$448,880	\$129,837
Fraser	\$102,503	\$384,211	\$774,828	\$900,839	\$223,365
Fremantle	\$69,319	\$350,581	\$719,103	\$863,881	\$268,800
Gellibrand	\$99,485	\$349,732	\$724,401	\$729,516	\$252,797
Gilmore	\$83,386	\$369,503	\$754,129	\$791,225	\$182,208
Gippsland	\$77,715	\$499,768	\$750,326	\$756,086	\$242,472
Goldstein	\$55,362	\$260,683	\$599,338	\$667,683	\$101,149
Gorton	\$183,262	\$617,774	\$1,231,633	\$1,150,605	\$527,512

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

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Grayndler	\$133,830	\$358,197	\$641,423	\$667,158	\$184,110
Greenway	\$233,096	\$755,389	\$1,270,246	\$1,075,507	\$419,339
Grey	\$54,363	\$433,778	\$1,006,228	\$772,990	\$204,853
Griffith	\$64,355	\$269,435	\$460,869	\$585,218	\$129,156
Groom	\$54,232	\$286,534	\$490,927	\$615,009	\$173,404
Gwydir	\$154,303	\$699,503	\$860,583	\$805,291	\$185,870
Hasluck	\$87,524	\$296,810	\$654,090	\$807,221	\$276,818
Herbert	\$87,835	\$340,704	\$632,723	\$760,788	\$376,665
Higgins	\$45,650	\$218,928	\$436,376	\$493,141	\$64,999
Hindmarsh	\$32,165	\$194,623	\$438,372	\$618,607	\$168,403
Hinkler	\$78,775	\$390,316	\$721,076	\$798,864	\$251,323
Holt	\$215,491	\$746,895	\$1,284,133	\$1,223,847	\$544,931
Hotham	\$85,875	\$410,778	\$729,844	\$886,036	\$259,053
Hughes	\$93,046	\$369,936	\$724,196	\$867,158	\$182,458
Hume	\$176,713	\$796,529	\$1,159,330	\$1,085,411	\$234,983
Hunter	\$86,859	\$337,141	\$733,183	\$784,687	\$273,525
Indi	\$114,086	\$383,283	\$694,150	\$752,146	\$144,671
Isaacs	\$92,043	\$445,995	\$837,200	\$898,154	\$330,480
Jagajaga	\$56,660	\$347,450	\$646,126	\$766,074	\$177,486
Kalgoorlie	\$169,101	\$581,648	\$1,198,383	\$1,093,101	\$466,551
Kennedy	\$158,478	\$620,753	\$1,067,947	\$990,909	\$323,786
Kingsford Smith	\$83,525	\$376,550	\$708,020	\$872,746	\$224,911
Kingston	\$49,174	\$256,488	\$597,944	\$672,137	\$247,658
Kooyong	\$95,292	\$294,178	\$495,981	\$618,510	\$88,710
La Trobe	\$80,466	\$481,220	\$829,171	\$781,875	\$198,801
Lalor	\$137,975	\$579,720	\$1,088,428	\$1,014,525	\$394,019
Leichhardt	\$143,814	\$604,800	\$1,005,819	\$1,075,541	\$387,277
Lilley	\$76,957	\$275,252	\$585,585	\$626,682	\$183,278
Lindsay	\$116,619	\$445,888	\$953,336	\$762,480	\$279,614
Lingiari	\$78,557	\$367,540	\$550,363	\$507,881	\$265,526
Longman	\$109,455	\$380,032	\$920,739	\$876,472	\$275,428
Lowe	\$97,005	\$526,251	\$893,550	\$975,661	\$178,746
Lyne	\$70,860	\$411,408	\$812,901	\$801,269	\$174,654
Lyons	\$47,696	\$232,085	\$434,158	\$472,792	\$156,904
Macarthur	\$142,851	\$564,493	\$993,328	\$983,042	\$421,693
Mackellar	\$84,242	\$442,669	\$738,639	\$828,959	\$108,926
Macquarie	\$98,799	\$488,776	\$874,233	\$863,742	\$174,791
Makin	\$51,852	\$236,720	\$581,642	\$663,355	\$211,139
Mallee	\$202,603	\$947,407	\$1,221,062	\$980,078	\$183,916

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

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Maranoa	\$89,695	\$570,920	\$952,334	\$970,067	\$214,740
Maribyrnong	\$78,841	\$348,109	\$652,765	\$739,895	\$203,625
Mayo	\$55,772	\$350,478	\$701,241	\$860,198	\$170,304
Mcewen	\$85,520	\$526,988	\$1,053,935	\$984,733	\$267,669
Mcmillan	\$109,753	\$564,371	\$812,666	\$760,425	\$194,557
Mcperson	\$86,713	\$485,289	\$995,041	\$1,303,319	\$220,333
Melbourne	\$43,348	\$173,489	\$331,009	\$402,666	\$148,959
Melbourne Ports	\$46,952	\$210,581	\$481,159	\$546,239	\$55,629
Menzies	\$56,310	\$425,916	\$804,960	\$852,678	\$154,401
Mitchell	\$95,287	\$531,316	\$990,022	\$1,148,748	\$242,765
Moncrieff	\$69,354	\$368,949	\$624,766	\$775,896	\$155,982
Moore	\$102,212	\$385,738	\$713,502	\$769,989	\$258,592
Moreton	\$112,654	\$377,010	\$666,784	\$878,783	\$248,785
Murray	\$188,365	\$863,508	\$910,867	\$964,940	\$182,359
New England	\$111,032	\$436,653	\$675,561	\$825,452	\$169,230
Newcastle	\$45,019	\$258,121	\$542,088	\$590,747	\$180,245
North Sydney	\$59,041	\$228,908	\$402,910	\$511,187	\$84,281
O'Connor	\$135,832	\$575,324	\$1,165,102	\$1,172,515	\$242,794
Oxley	\$113,244	\$529,765	\$1,012,991	\$1,118,072	\$425,083
Page	\$75,665	\$434,642	\$684,695	\$687,867	\$157,854
Parkes	\$193,239	\$630,287	\$969,253	\$831,301	\$178,101
Parramatta	\$152,412	\$563,667	\$1,055,004	\$1,041,353	\$342,068
Paterson	\$50,649	\$376,753	\$756,007	\$742,322	\$216,110
Pearce	\$163,644	\$658,743	\$1,250,565	\$1,256,863	\$352,344
Perth	\$80,653	\$289,410	\$593,177	\$693,284	\$219,649
Petrie	\$36,505	\$337,446	\$708,334	\$810,768	\$259,038
Port Adelaide	\$68,035	\$255,324	\$617,905	\$772,917	\$268,118
Prospect	\$174,278	\$586,079	\$1,071,544	\$1,076,115	\$388,425
Rankin	\$171,198	\$529,813	\$1,020,606	\$1,061,823	\$417,652
Reid	\$228,510	\$717,319	\$1,320,473	\$1,282,328	\$369,437
Richmond	\$65,045	\$358,290	\$771,111	\$791,454	\$204,493
Riverina	\$181,866	\$695,567	\$1,059,261	\$916,505	\$198,523
Robertson	\$82,439	\$355,965	\$776,692	\$746,760	\$212,864
Ryan	\$56,551	\$285,640	\$524,458	\$663,947	\$140,980
Scullin	\$121,887	\$397,688	\$853,070	\$895,942	\$333,969
Shortland	\$70,387	\$318,458	\$664,322	\$691,463	\$198,966
Solomon	\$59,712	\$282,385	\$469,280	\$596,070	\$286,992
Stirling	\$77,530	\$316,722	\$678,841	\$815,362	\$240,955
Sturt	\$37,424	\$230,943	\$665,520	\$729,547	\$184,320

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

	Total Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Swan	\$78,395	\$310,091	\$534,526	\$636,104	\$187,523
Sydney	\$71,982	\$215,852	\$389,782	\$454,029	\$97,270
Tangney	\$67,306	\$340,828	\$600,817	\$761,173	\$167,736
Throsby	\$105,525	\$316,724	\$830,793	\$856,575	\$325,956
Wakefield	\$64,843	\$339,003	\$602,945	\$665,622	\$250,067
Wannon	\$109,762	\$713,762	\$830,232	\$765,732	\$162,597
Warringah	\$66,237	\$315,386	\$580,405	\$621,688	\$88,529
Watson	\$215,804	\$647,547	\$1,051,994	\$1,044,291	\$276,632
Wentworth	\$55,573	\$275,525	\$437,511	\$481,071	\$72,580
Werriwa	\$195,757	\$828,723	\$1,391,524	\$1,335,499	\$446,766
Wide Bay	\$62,424	\$320,641	\$716,451	\$763,360	\$214,806
Wills	\$71,521	\$338,589	\$700,450	\$670,087	\$187,517
Unknown*	\$1,175,771	\$2,811,666	\$3,054,843	\$2,708,913	\$528,959
Total^	\$15,623,673	\$65,834,222	\$119,384,572	\$125,638,432	\$35,436,875

*The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

^A sum of electorate amounts may produce slightly different results due to rounding

c) by state

	Average Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Australian Capital Territory	\$1,182	\$1,288	\$1,386	\$1,460	\$1,135
New South Wales	\$1,441	\$1,635	\$1,564	\$1,530	\$1,203
Northern Territory	\$1,171	\$1,535	\$1,373	\$1,436	\$1,241
Queensland	\$1,366	\$1,535	\$1,482	\$1,530	\$1,168
South Australia	\$1,196	\$1,477	\$1,428	\$1,399	\$1,066
Tasmania	\$1,185	\$1,524	\$1,303	\$1,430	\$1,090
Victoria	\$1,444	\$1,647	\$1,479	\$1,463	\$1,164
Western Australia	\$1,337	\$1,557	\$1,493	\$1,506	\$1,157
Unknown*	\$1,436	\$1,330	\$1,257	\$1,509	\$1,309
Total	\$1,398	\$1,582	\$1,496	\$1,499	\$1,170

*The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

c) by electorate

	Average Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Adelaide	\$978	\$1,491	\$1,330	\$1,389	\$952
Aston	\$1,022	\$1,386	\$1,333	\$1,396	\$1,041
Ballarat	\$1,051	\$1,596	\$1,558	\$1,478	\$1,227
Banks	\$1,183	\$1,795	\$1,777	\$1,511	\$1,225
Barker	\$1,314	\$1,962	\$1,663	\$1,540	\$1,021
Barton	\$1,588	\$1,879	\$1,581	\$1,593	\$1,288
Bass	\$918	\$1,586	\$1,399	\$1,526	\$1,178
Batman	\$970	\$1,374	\$1,435	\$1,415	\$1,262
Bendigo	\$1,625	\$1,756	\$1,567	\$1,438	\$946
Bennelong	\$1,581	\$1,546	\$1,558	\$1,504	\$1,220
Berowra	\$1,544	\$1,642	\$1,493	\$1,556	\$1,349
Blair	\$1,101	\$1,563	\$1,550	\$1,471	\$1,069
Blaxland	\$1,606	\$1,717	\$1,766	\$1,564	\$1,356
Bonner	\$1,131	\$1,472	\$1,371	\$1,517	\$1,141
Boothby	\$1,372	\$1,470	\$1,252	\$1,316	\$1,157
Bowman	\$1,940	\$1,404	\$1,317	\$1,415	\$1,139
Braddon	\$1,353	\$1,861	\$1,190	\$1,465	\$1,097
Bradfield	\$1,638	\$1,719	\$1,667	\$1,754	\$1,313
Brand	\$1,235	\$1,537	\$1,359	\$1,403	\$1,100
Brisbane	\$1,289	\$1,297	\$1,251	\$1,344	\$881
Bruce	\$1,852	\$1,562	\$1,454	\$1,350	\$1,215
Calare	\$1,206	\$1,705	\$1,602	\$1,515	\$1,064
Calwell	\$1,663	\$1,688	\$1,429	\$1,456	\$1,242
Canberra	\$1,125	\$1,298	\$1,431	\$1,477	\$1,211
Canning	\$916	\$1,313	\$1,402	\$1,479	\$1,081
Capricornia	\$1,352	\$1,406	\$1,458	\$1,388	\$1,105
Casey	\$1,165	\$1,266	\$1,415	\$1,364	\$1,066
Charlton	\$1,529	\$1,440	\$1,472	\$1,315	\$1,050
Chifley	\$1,530	\$1,714	\$1,635	\$1,530	\$1,144
Chisholm	\$1,937	\$1,702	\$1,533	\$1,463	\$1,197
Cook	\$1,075	\$1,570	\$1,392	\$1,514	\$1,248
Corangamite	\$1,207	\$1,698	\$1,461	\$1,477	\$1,128
Corio	\$925	\$1,493	\$1,350	\$1,376	\$1,034
Cowan	\$1,002	\$1,480	\$1,348	\$1,443	\$1,047
Cowper	\$1,263	\$1,648	\$1,455	\$1,526	\$1,119
Cunningham	\$1,087	\$1,557	\$1,534	\$1,445	\$1,213
Curtin	\$1,489	\$1,639	\$1,685	\$1,640	\$1,175
Dawson	\$1,123	\$1,438	\$1,502	\$1,532	\$1,121

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

	Average Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Deakin	\$739	\$1,398	\$1,361	\$1,371	\$945
Denison	\$975	\$1,565	\$1,282	\$1,341	\$1,056
Dickson	\$1,386	\$1,480	\$1,502	\$1,494	\$1,252
Dobell	\$1,168	\$1,508	\$1,420	\$1,420	\$1,059
Dunkley	\$1,549	\$1,528	\$1,359	\$1,396	\$1,013
Eden-Monaro	\$1,484	\$1,561	\$1,435	\$1,483	\$1,042
Fadden	\$1,464	\$1,476	\$1,545	\$1,630	\$1,351
Fairfax	\$1,469	\$1,459	\$1,599	\$1,586	\$1,257
Farrer	\$1,692	\$1,935	\$1,617	\$1,742	\$1,011
Fisher	\$1,158	\$1,618	\$1,483	\$1,672	\$1,362
Flinders	\$1,436	\$1,659	\$1,476	\$1,511	\$1,208
Forde	\$1,333	\$1,478	\$1,447	\$1,536	\$1,089
Forrest	\$1,212	\$1,583	\$1,457	\$1,433	\$1,207
Fowler	\$1,512	\$1,542	\$1,486	\$1,493	\$1,256
Franklin	\$1,353	\$1,285	\$1,376	\$1,421	\$1,056
Fraser	\$1,206	\$1,316	\$1,367	\$1,458	\$1,049
Fremantle	\$1,284	\$1,419	\$1,450	\$1,433	\$1,159
Gellibrand	\$1,605	\$1,433	\$1,440	\$1,453	\$1,144
Gilmore	\$1,127	\$1,421	\$1,493	\$1,625	\$1,153
Gippsland	\$1,009	\$1,824	\$1,454	\$1,531	\$1,297
Goldstein	\$1,350	\$1,490	\$1,561	\$1,511	\$1,405
Gorton	\$1,651	\$1,626	\$1,498	\$1,303	\$1,224
Grayndler	\$1,997	\$1,537	\$1,576	\$1,566	\$1,297
Greenway	\$1,575	\$1,646	\$1,527	\$1,338	\$1,267
Grey	\$1,087	\$1,527	\$1,928	\$1,555	\$1,151
Griffith	\$1,262	\$1,441	\$1,273	\$1,540	\$1,123
Groom	\$1,154	\$1,462	\$1,272	\$1,398	\$1,014
Gwydir	\$1,456	\$1,891	\$1,573	\$1,630	\$1,184
Hasluck	\$1,435	\$1,362	\$1,275	\$1,392	\$1,209
Herbert	\$1,255	\$1,563	\$1,324	\$1,466	\$1,243
Higgins	\$1,304	\$1,598	\$1,489	\$1,576	\$1,066
Hindmarsh	\$1,149	\$1,442	\$1,238	\$1,403	\$996
Hinkler	\$1,176	\$1,697	\$1,408	\$1,429	\$1,097
Holt	\$1,796	\$1,667	\$1,456	\$1,388	\$1,236
Hotham	\$1,321	\$1,624	\$1,352	\$1,443	\$1,282
Hughes	\$1,477	\$1,396	\$1,534	\$1,487	\$1,162
Hume	\$1,425	\$1,848	\$1,725	\$1,566	\$1,103
Hunter	\$1,099	\$1,338	\$1,418	\$1,588	\$1,284

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

	Average Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Indi	\$1,375	\$1,564	\$1,402	\$1,492	\$964
Isaacs	\$1,509	\$1,482	\$1,412	\$1,444	\$1,193
Jagajaga	\$1,133	\$1,594	\$1,332	\$1,535	\$1,145
Kalgoorlie	\$1,364	\$1,555	\$1,655	\$1,522	\$1,341
Kennedy	\$1,742	\$1,826	\$1,628	\$1,601	\$1,182
Kingsford Smith	\$1,305	\$1,494	\$1,510	\$1,607	\$1,363
Kingston	\$1,294	\$1,130	\$1,243	\$1,252	\$999
Kooyong	\$1,985	\$1,762	\$1,555	\$1,590	\$1,232
La Trobe	\$1,102	\$1,518	\$1,350	\$1,332	\$1,149
Lalor	\$1,437	\$1,554	\$1,414	\$1,296	\$1,094
Leichhardt	\$1,262	\$1,543	\$1,508	\$1,455	\$1,188
Lilley	\$1,603	\$1,456	\$1,460	\$1,506	\$1,153
Lindsay	\$1,282	\$1,364	\$1,586	\$1,384	\$1,243
Lingiari	\$1,267	\$1,612	\$1,422	\$1,464	\$1,241
Longman	\$1,403	\$1,429	\$1,574	\$1,430	\$1,089
Lowe	\$1,347	\$1,873	\$1,862	\$1,640	\$1,334
Lyne	\$1,201	\$1,475	\$1,473	\$1,520	\$1,059
Lyons	\$1,325	\$1,407	\$1,258	\$1,395	\$1,053
Macarthur	\$1,374	\$1,613	\$1,597	\$1,519	\$1,286
Mackellar	\$1,359	\$1,621	\$1,568	\$1,538	\$1,197
Macquarie	\$1,220	\$1,603	\$1,474	\$1,430	\$1,120
Makin	\$1,440	\$1,259	\$1,273	\$1,311	\$982
Mallee	\$1,717	\$2,369	\$2,070	\$1,907	\$1,314
Maranoa	\$1,135	\$1,872	\$1,747	\$1,661	\$1,148
Maribyrnong	\$1,714	\$1,457	\$1,404	\$1,445	\$1,227
Mayo	\$1,212	\$1,524	\$1,446	\$1,517	\$996
Mcewen	\$1,258	\$1,452	\$1,460	\$1,423	\$1,217
Mcmillan	\$1,568	\$1,726	\$1,563	\$1,542	\$1,144
Mcperson	\$1,422	\$1,623	\$1,574	\$1,756	\$1,136
Melbourne	\$1,314	\$1,388	\$1,221	\$1,567	\$1,392
Melbourne Ports	\$1,423	\$1,395	\$1,631	\$1,602	\$897
Menzies	\$880	\$1,767	\$1,505	\$1,455	\$1,188
Mitchell	\$1,191	\$1,522	\$1,475	\$1,609	\$1,278
Moncrieff	\$1,261	\$1,618	\$1,491	\$1,492	\$1,006
Moore	\$1,327	\$1,684	\$1,441	\$1,447	\$1,160
Moreton	\$1,817	\$1,618	\$1,440	\$1,615	\$1,276
Murray	\$1,610	\$2,013	\$1,656	\$1,814	\$1,105
New England	\$1,564	\$1,679	\$1,498	\$1,674	\$1,058
Newcastle	\$919	\$1,284	\$1,309	\$1,358	\$1,099

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

	Average Amount Outstanding				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North Sydney	\$1,476	\$1,708	\$1,593	\$1,687	\$1,297
O'Connor	\$1,637	\$1,787	\$1,898	\$1,841	\$1,084
Oxley	\$1,205	\$1,630	\$1,563	\$1,613	\$1,165
Page	\$1,220	\$1,634	\$1,378	\$1,470	\$1,012
Parkes	\$1,695	\$1,727	\$1,700	\$1,605	\$1,001
Parramatta	\$1,386	\$1,601	\$1,586	\$1,358	\$1,196
Paterson	\$1,151	\$1,422	\$1,448	\$1,543	\$1,175
Pearce	\$1,589	\$1,805	\$1,589	\$1,599	\$1,245
Perth	\$1,367	\$1,426	\$1,517	\$1,481	\$1,220
Petrie	\$961	\$1,412	\$1,389	\$1,488	\$1,146
Port Adelaide	\$1,115	\$1,344	\$1,309	\$1,333	\$1,008
Prospect	\$1,556	\$1,597	\$1,531	\$1,418	\$1,261
Rankin	\$1,881	\$1,545	\$1,473	\$1,437	\$1,285
Reid	\$1,771	\$1,893	\$1,758	\$1,696	\$1,348
Richmond	\$1,183	\$1,474	\$1,512	\$1,659	\$1,210
Riverina	\$1,479	\$1,802	\$1,739	\$1,746	\$1,128
Robertson	\$1,499	\$1,471	\$1,508	\$1,422	\$1,163
Ryan	\$1,663	\$1,511	\$1,494	\$1,570	\$1,382
Scullin	\$1,741	\$1,535	\$1,476	\$1,293	\$1,148
Shortland	\$1,066	\$1,311	\$1,305	\$1,377	\$1,118
Solomon	\$1,012	\$1,384	\$1,349	\$1,465	\$1,259
Stirling	\$1,463	\$1,501	\$1,403	\$1,496	\$1,076
Sturt	\$1,011	\$1,276	\$1,482	\$1,489	\$1,407
Swan	\$1,668	\$1,607	\$1,410	\$1,522	\$1,179
Sydney	\$1,600	\$1,799	\$1,652	\$1,663	\$1,410
Tangney	\$1,246	\$1,549	\$1,465	\$1,402	\$1,055
Throsby	\$1,508	\$1,342	\$1,539	\$1,498	\$1,230
Wakefield	\$1,201	\$1,555	\$1,316	\$1,278	\$1,158
Wannon	\$1,770	\$2,131	\$1,801	\$1,841	\$1,153
Warringah	\$1,409	\$1,660	\$1,590	\$1,539	\$1,135
Watson	\$1,944	\$1,760	\$1,675	\$1,496	\$1,293
Wentworth	\$1,634	\$1,849	\$1,838	\$1,593	\$1,273
Werriwa	\$1,529	\$1,866	\$1,585	\$1,506	\$1,241
Wide Bay	\$1,178	\$1,353	\$1,537	\$1,584	\$1,137
Wills	\$1,154	\$1,605	\$1,478	\$1,396	\$1,136
Unknown*	\$1,450	\$1,361	\$1,303	\$1,560	\$1,353
Total	\$1,398	\$1,582	\$1,496	\$1,499	\$1,170

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

- * The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

d) by state

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Australian Capital Territory	\$52,122	\$57,050	\$60,547	\$82,518	\$82,662
New South Wales	\$46,285	\$50,505	\$53,316	\$77,679	\$75,455
Northern Territory	\$38,767	\$43,809	\$46,876	\$69,976	\$73,829
Queensland	\$41,733	\$46,561	\$49,704	\$73,332	\$69,848
South Australia	\$41,748	\$47,773	\$50,515	\$71,666	\$70,064
Tasmania	\$39,214	\$43,614	\$45,681	\$68,188	\$66,249
Victoria	\$46,693	\$51,524	\$53,867	\$75,797	\$73,810
Western Australia	\$44,734	\$49,211	\$52,912	\$75,665	\$74,643
Unknown*	\$43,221	\$46,723	\$49,313	\$73,842	\$70,567
Total	\$44,706	\$49,382	\$52,233	\$75,502	\$73,332

- * The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

d) by electorate

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Adelaide	\$45,684	\$52,614	\$57,061	\$82,119	\$75,836
Aston	\$53,595	\$57,703	\$60,439	\$81,125	\$83,551
Ballarat	\$42,725	\$48,176	\$50,885	\$71,205	\$68,319
Banks	\$49,921	\$53,370	\$55,603	\$77,156	\$78,911
Barker	\$41,297	\$48,471	\$49,906	\$69,369	\$62,182
Barton	\$49,368	\$51,916	\$54,504	\$80,198	\$74,920
Bass	\$38,673	\$42,966	\$46,187	\$68,554	\$64,235
Batman	\$42,291	\$46,609	\$50,638	\$73,267	\$68,694
Bendigo	\$41,090	\$45,795	\$47,625	\$69,386	\$66,009
Bennelong	\$59,412	\$62,490	\$64,395	\$86,663	\$79,435
Berowra	\$64,551	\$67,938	\$72,363	\$94,310	\$86,571
Blair	\$39,085	\$43,319	\$45,039	\$67,052	\$66,000
Blaxland	\$38,786	\$40,106	\$41,967	\$63,357	\$71,816
Bonner	\$47,705	\$52,359	\$56,133	\$82,133	\$76,814
Boothby	\$49,664	\$55,002	\$58,348	\$79,762	\$74,586
Bowman	\$47,408	\$52,128	\$54,833	\$78,684	\$74,322
Braddon	\$38,972	\$43,682	\$45,006	\$64,587	\$63,716
Bradfield	\$81,594	\$87,222	\$90,661	\$121,170	\$106,220
Brand	\$41,517	\$46,659	\$49,683	\$72,511	\$74,726
Brisbane	\$49,960	\$55,585	\$59,562	\$83,261	\$74,657
Bruce	\$44,417	\$48,110	\$51,423	\$70,345	\$69,766
Calare	\$44,300	\$50,519	\$52,247	\$74,676	\$73,376
Calwell	\$41,277	\$46,023	\$47,514	\$68,176	\$72,845

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

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Canberra	\$52,708	\$57,654	\$60,304	\$82,805	\$81,472
Canning	\$45,658	\$48,448	\$52,909	\$75,627	\$74,375
Capricornia	\$45,035	\$50,373	\$51,551	\$75,141	\$76,893
Casey	\$48,488	\$52,851	\$54,294	\$73,419	\$75,211
Charlton	\$43,858	\$48,987	\$51,820	\$77,141	\$73,321
Chifley	\$39,252	\$43,200	\$45,183	\$66,290	\$74,225
Chisholm	\$54,577	\$58,273	\$61,446	\$81,253	\$76,985
Cook	\$59,262	\$62,851	\$67,064	\$87,507	\$85,926
Corangamite	\$47,068	\$52,569	\$55,115	\$76,280	\$76,335
Corio	\$42,580	\$47,969	\$50,965	\$72,346	\$74,586
Cowan	\$45,783	\$48,611	\$51,472	\$71,855	\$73,987
Cowper	\$36,054	\$41,077	\$43,455	\$66,585	\$58,097
Cunningham	\$50,326	\$55,605	\$59,556	\$83,044	\$89,146
Curtin	\$60,712	\$65,242	\$72,616	\$96,971	\$80,575
Dawson	\$42,721	\$48,776	\$52,184	\$75,477	\$77,501
Deakin	\$50,112	\$54,550	\$57,196	\$78,308	\$75,460
Denison	\$40,736	\$44,793	\$47,279	\$71,318	\$67,722
Dickson	\$48,353	\$52,342	\$56,291	\$78,515	\$80,169
Dobell	\$44,575	\$47,884	\$51,678	\$74,132	\$72,195
Dunkley	\$45,126	\$49,019	\$51,593	\$73,470	\$73,740
Eden-Monaro	\$42,862	\$48,701	\$51,465	\$72,891	\$69,291
Fadden	\$40,320	\$45,562	\$49,017	\$69,874	\$65,080
Fairfax	\$36,260	\$41,036	\$46,964	\$68,457	\$60,626
Farrer	\$46,117	\$50,806	\$52,088	\$70,929	\$69,520
Fisher	\$40,166	\$46,182	\$49,931	\$74,136	\$61,944
Flinders	\$43,720	\$48,583	\$50,162	\$71,643	\$68,305
Forde	\$39,119	\$43,675	\$47,220	\$71,323	\$68,080
Forrest	\$43,583	\$47,382	\$49,782	\$71,131	\$70,664
Fowler	\$35,966	\$38,472	\$39,093	\$57,923	\$65,604
Franklin	\$39,562	\$44,190	\$46,631	\$71,038	\$68,701
Fraser	\$51,201	\$56,139	\$60,770	\$82,128	\$83,728
Fremantle	\$45,088	\$50,072	\$53,280	\$76,771	\$81,061
Gellibrand	\$44,135	\$48,622	\$51,699	\$73,217	\$71,131
Gilmore	\$41,705	\$46,239	\$50,301	\$73,817	\$68,687
Gippsland	\$42,674	\$47,874	\$49,707	\$71,728	\$70,015
Goldstein	\$63,547	\$69,666	\$74,573	\$102,940	\$92,083
Gorton	\$44,250	\$48,754	\$51,586	\$70,312	\$73,453
Grayndler	\$45,608	\$50,154	\$54,114	\$75,688	\$72,543
Greenway	\$48,731	\$52,119	\$55,856	\$75,357	\$82,145
Grey	\$39,527	\$51,091	\$54,542	\$72,332	\$69,320
Griffith	\$47,202	\$53,576	\$56,845	\$83,743	\$80,499

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

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Groom	\$41,276	\$46,323	\$48,423	\$71,275	\$64,000
Gwydir	\$40,040	\$45,529	\$44,556	\$68,876	\$66,660
Hasluck	\$40,459	\$44,479	\$47,713	\$66,211	\$68,377
Herbert	\$43,897	\$47,845	\$51,049	\$73,946	\$73,226
Higgins	\$64,409	\$71,755	\$75,552	\$103,712	\$95,868
Hindmarsh	\$46,575	\$50,804	\$54,264	\$79,072	\$80,858
Hinkler	\$39,911	\$43,493	\$48,542	\$78,101	\$70,789
Holt	\$43,689	\$47,444	\$50,036	\$66,892	\$70,779
Hotham	\$48,465	\$52,335	\$55,119	\$74,456	\$75,967
Hughes	\$61,031	\$64,459	\$67,236	\$89,136	\$89,519
Hume	\$47,440	\$52,349	\$54,883	\$77,928	\$76,207
Hunter	\$43,932	\$50,036	\$53,823	\$78,579	\$79,309
Indi	\$44,152	\$48,135	\$52,173	\$70,444	\$70,482
Isaacs	\$45,559	\$49,777	\$53,441	\$72,398	\$74,348
Jagajaga	\$55,430	\$58,730	\$61,569	\$85,631	\$82,662
Kalgoorlie	\$44,052	\$49,586	\$55,310	\$79,775	\$83,234
Kennedy	\$40,347	\$45,067	\$47,813	\$68,818	\$69,631
Kingsford Smith	\$49,534	\$55,082	\$58,923	\$84,375	\$78,065
Kingston	\$39,164	\$43,507	\$45,937	\$64,149	\$67,242
Kooyong	\$68,059	\$73,553	\$83,034	\$100,114	\$87,929
La Trobe	\$49,699	\$54,061	\$57,659	\$77,990	\$77,932
Lalor	\$45,340	\$49,622	\$52,016	\$73,566	\$76,035
Leichhardt	\$38,411	\$42,980	\$46,420	\$69,072	\$64,552
Lilley	\$43,947	\$49,892	\$52,942	\$80,189	\$71,694
Lindsay	\$49,149	\$53,484	\$56,415	\$79,131	\$80,122
Lingiari	\$34,586	\$38,613	\$41,719	\$65,049	\$68,283
Longman	\$38,372	\$41,975	\$45,328	\$66,255	\$64,304
Lowe	\$56,087	\$60,380	\$63,478	\$86,023	\$81,204
Lyne	\$38,135	\$41,956	\$45,286	\$68,782	\$63,894
Lyons	\$38,631	\$42,804	\$43,736	\$65,374	\$67,099
Macarthur	\$47,158	\$49,902	\$53,255	\$77,620	\$76,277
Mackellar	\$62,872	\$67,773	\$71,536	\$99,192	\$91,124
Macquarie	\$49,763	\$53,626	\$56,365	\$78,665	\$76,317
Makin	\$43,217	\$48,156	\$50,434	\$70,385	\$71,422
Mallee	\$45,641	\$53,261	\$50,465	\$71,296	\$63,856
Maranoa	\$42,113	\$46,635	\$48,015	\$69,191	\$72,589
Maribyrnong	\$46,008	\$50,372	\$52,035	\$76,376	\$71,305
Mayo	\$45,085	\$50,405	\$52,437	\$74,288	\$70,605
Mcewen	\$47,755	\$52,010	\$53,873	\$75,930	\$75,904
Mcmillan	\$43,338	\$48,823	\$49,969	\$69,936	\$65,876
Mcperson	\$40,811	\$47,310	\$49,318	\$74,754	\$62,710

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

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Melbourne	\$41,284	\$47,600	\$47,192	\$77,231	\$65,497
Melbourne Ports	\$52,260	\$60,435	\$64,450	\$93,419	\$79,289
Menzies	\$58,318	\$62,486	\$65,701	\$89,615	\$88,484
Mitchell	\$66,028	\$69,291	\$73,603	\$99,781	\$95,189
Moncrieff	\$40,832	\$45,412	\$49,599	\$69,875	\$65,758
Moore	\$51,874	\$57,840	\$59,949	\$82,239	\$83,267
Moreton	\$46,082	\$50,818	\$53,614	\$75,761	\$75,646
Murray	\$45,147	\$49,562	\$48,734	\$67,450	\$63,234
New England	\$39,470	\$43,455	\$44,871	\$69,317	\$61,449
Newcastle	\$43,363	\$47,871	\$52,062	\$77,693	\$73,726
North Sydney	\$70,162	\$77,122	\$80,220	\$117,628	\$97,241
O'Connor	\$40,691	\$46,446	\$51,732	\$75,434	\$64,856
Oxley	\$37,885	\$42,049	\$44,844	\$64,345	\$66,602
Page	\$35,760	\$40,253	\$43,111	\$63,608	\$61,117
Parkes	\$41,915	\$48,066	\$48,749	\$67,883	\$71,682
Parramatta	\$47,460	\$50,062	\$53,128	\$72,764	\$78,097
Paterson	\$40,987	\$45,708	\$50,124	\$72,684	\$70,756
Pearce	\$43,266	\$47,697	\$51,225	\$73,639	\$75,079
Perth	\$42,798	\$46,826	\$49,442	\$71,702	\$68,045
Petrie	\$44,841	\$48,278	\$51,984	\$75,755	\$70,982
Port Adelaide	\$35,659	\$40,069	\$43,120	\$62,792	\$66,286
Prospect	\$45,965	\$48,629	\$49,950	\$70,689	\$77,728
Rankin	\$36,196	\$40,890	\$43,216	\$64,377	\$65,338
Reid	\$38,014	\$40,080	\$42,506	\$60,587	\$68,580
Richmond	\$36,869	\$41,944	\$45,668	\$70,674	\$58,850
Riverina	\$44,918	\$49,570	\$51,165	\$70,233	\$70,536
Robertson	\$46,577	\$50,432	\$53,891	\$77,092	\$73,181
Ryan	\$57,974	\$62,997	\$66,751	\$88,703	\$78,422
Scullin	\$45,620	\$50,016	\$52,850	\$70,552	\$73,941
Shortland	\$42,878	\$47,676	\$50,785	\$76,719	\$71,135
Solomon	\$44,154	\$49,910	\$52,831	\$73,176	\$78,834
Stirling	\$41,617	\$47,027	\$51,001	\$73,641	\$70,718
Sturt	\$47,480	\$52,327	\$56,765	\$77,465	\$74,354
Swan	\$40,291	\$44,801	\$48,086	\$70,916	\$64,633
Sydney	\$40,928	\$46,080	\$51,146	\$84,294	\$79,972
Tangney	\$54,473	\$58,391	\$61,924	\$83,363	\$81,633
Throsby	\$44,724	\$49,860	\$52,369	\$77,890	\$78,123
Wakefield	\$35,584	\$41,411	\$43,483	\$63,418	\$66,357
Wannon	\$46,215	\$53,927	\$52,881	\$72,754	\$68,002
Warringah	\$70,739	\$73,631	\$78,277	\$105,735	\$86,637
Watson	\$43,242	\$44,858	\$47,600	\$67,620	\$70,443

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

	Average ATI for customer and primary partner				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Wentworth	\$63,201	\$64,465	\$70,580	\$101,356	\$80,405
Werriwa	\$45,346	\$48,248	\$50,788	\$70,470	\$76,511
Wide Bay	\$34,023	\$38,465	\$42,070	\$69,556	\$60,724
Wills	\$43,892	\$48,687	\$51,209	\$73,080	\$77,875
Unknown*	\$42,759	\$46,568	\$49,471	\$74,401	\$69,123
Total	\$44,706	\$49,382	\$52,233	\$75,502	\$73,332

- * The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

e) by state

	Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 - 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Australian Capital Territory	3,654	3,323	1,027	552
New South Wales	70,424	66,421	19,634	10,989
Northern Territory	2,470	2363	519	566
Queensland	47,351	43,740	10,821	6,276
South Australia	18,150	16,630	4,007	2,258
Tasmania	6,015	5,408	885	758
Victoria	59,249	53,865	14,318	8,133
Western Australia	22,953	21,635	5,847	3,571
Unknown*	2,619	2,073	632	292
Total	232,885	215,458	57,690	33,395

Note : The number of cases where a part or full ATO refund occurred in the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 financial years has dropped very slightly from the figures provided in March 2005. This has occurred because a very few customers who had a debt in March have subsequently had their entitlement for the financial year recalculated, their overpayment has been cancelled and all monies recovered have been refunded.

- * The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

e) by electorate

	Number of Customers Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 - 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Adelaide	1,015	929	358	124
Aston	2,053	1,744	508	254
Ballarat	1,852	1,543	301	187
Banks	1,364	1,303	464	233
Barker	2,055	1,799	364	221
	Number of Customers Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 - 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Barton	1,228	1,181	431	290
Bass	1,150	1,089	182	128
Batman	1,132	1,060	349	187
Bendigo	1,876	1,619	306	205
Bennelong	1,160	1,137	522	173
Berowra	1,299	1,205	550	168
Blair	1,901	1,651	386	188
Blaxland	1,216	1,190	367	279
Bonner	1,579	1,493	415	225
Boothby	1,377	1,214	358	165
Bowman	1,954	1,718	415	257
Braddon	1,283	1,157	157	169
Bradfield	623	626	347	73
Brand	1,702	1,636	304	294
Brisbane	997	961	324	134
Bruce	1,474	1,362	421	253
Calare	1,678	1,520	348	244
Calwell	2,168	2,032	410	391
Canberra	1,933	1,796	570	299
Canning	1,905	1,746	434	321
Capricornia	2,018	1,756	432	286
Casey	1,948	1,680	444	200
Charlton	1,503	1,407	342	190
Chifley	2,138	2,011	437	522
Chisholm	1,224	1,193	450	153
Cook	1,042	988	377	150
Corangamite	1,810	1,535	332	224
Corio	1,489	1,476	285	235

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

Cowan	1,912	1,783	473	280
Cowper	1,395	1,291	296	118
Cunningham	1,294	1,201	361	193
Curtin	733	710	311	93
Dawson	2,076	1,930	410	303
Deakin	1,346	1,285	396	185
Denison	1,045	925	175	132
Dickson	2,028	1,864	469	239
Dobell	1,717	1,673	430	247
Dunkley	1,581	1,345	349	193
Eden-Monaro	1,580	1,451	393	155
	Number of Customers Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 – 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Fadden	1,461	1,409	434	204
Fairfax	1,529	1,394	360	154
Farrer	1,749	1,500	345	169
Fisher	1,572	1,383	394	162
Flinders	1,535	1,412	369	185
Forde	2,137	1,983	434	262
Forrest	1,850	1,740	452	254
Fowler	1,341	1,326	350	377
Franklin	1,286	1,158	188	157
Fraser	1,802	1,577	484	264
Fremantle	1,506	1,370	404	228
Gellibrand	1,328	1,296	389	237
Gilmore	1,371	1,247	290	159
Gippsland	1,855	1,664	348	167
Goldstein	992	896	389	112
Gorton	2,362	2,289	583	526
Grayndler	752	809	334	168
Greenway	2,271	2,188	598	471
Grey	1,744	1,650	344	203
Griffith	1,076	1,080	357	129
Groom	1,631	1,472	324	198
Gwydir	1,432	1,256	352	151
Hasluck	1,546	1,408	336	244
Herbert	1,905	1,756	338	321
Higgins	607	553	278	79
Hindmarsh	1,271	1,150	336	172
Hinkler	1,825	1,706	404	225
Holt	2,657	2,524	522	510

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

Hotham	1,491	1,427	445	255
Hughes	1,638	1,558	535	240
Hume	1,786	1,579	418	232
Hunter	1,626	1,582	324	226
Indi	1,886	1,633	356	157
Isaacs	1,865	1,703	437	326
Jagajaga	1,569	1,344	437	187
Kalgoorlie	1,814	1,825	430	393
Kennedy	2,102	1,860	391	288
Kingsford Smith	987	1,037	425	211
Kingston	2,062	1,808	345	265
	Number of Customers Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 – 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Kooyong	727	669	344	84
La Trobe	1,939	1,758	450	229
Lalor	2,445	2,374	441	438
Leichhardt	1,964	1,905	432	325
Lilley	1,299	1,200	346	160
Lindsay	1,796	1,626	391	273
Lingiari	1,195	1,132	218	252
Longman	1,870	1,713	323	233
Lowe	957	969	425	167
Lyne	1,654	1,546	329	168
Lyons	1,248	1,076	183	171
Macarthur	1,762	1,697	401	349
Mackellar	1,092	1,048	452	146
Macquarie	1,681	1,521	399	183
Makin	1,854	1,703	385	271
Mallee	1,727	1,431	323	155
Maranoa	1,832	1,597	391	194
Maribyrnong	1,219	1,219	368	220
Mayo	1,835	1,619	398	191
Mcewen	2,229	1,908	540	254
Mcmillan	1,751	1,486	291	164
Mcperson	1,492	1,412	420	172
Melbourne	541	548	214	91
Melbourne Ports	552	513	281	62
Menzies	1,292	1,145	487	146
Mitchell	1,631	1,605	697	244
Moncrieff	1,012	962	308	144
Moore	1,634	1,514	442	228

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

Moreton	1,593	1,468	412	245
Murray	1,788	1,558	339	154
New England	1,484	1,391	324	164
Newcastle	1,341	1,292	366	194
North Sydney	482	496	266	75
O'Connor	1,608	1,474	349	167
Oxley	1,973	1,925	423	362
Page	1,619	1,510	383	160
Parke	1,563	1,380	319	179
Parramatta	1,608	1,551	574	348
Paterson	1,460	1,377	341	194
	Number of Customers Number of Customers with part of full ATO refund withheld			
	2001- 02	2002 - 03	2003 - 04	2004 - 05
Pearce	1,962	1,914	470	296
Perth	1,153	1,090	329	210
Petrie	1,662	1,498	374	238
Port Adelaide	1,719	1,723	382	252
Prospect	1,783	1,635	464	341
Rankin	1,990	1,927	402	305
Reid	1,176	1,237	424	299
Richmond	1,403	1,254	292	144
Riverina	1,842	1,625	328	234
Robertson	1,359	1,322	369	188
Ryan	1,169	1,098	367	126
Scullin	1,962	1,865	427	329
Shortland	1,455	1,344	336	187
Solomon	1,248	1,215	280	308
Stirling	1,156	1,100	356	205
Sturt	1,435	1,351	415	163
Swan	944	890	282	158
Sydney	423	384	174	76
Tangney	1,422	1,302	450	179
Throsby	1,775	1,541	296	270
Wakefield	1,766	1,669	319	231
Wannon	1,670	1,490	323	172
Warringah	750	737	334	112
Watson	1,312	1,269	450	263
Wentworth	443	431	197	77
Werriwa	2,053	2,066	553	474
Wide Bay	1,528	1,434	297	175
Wills	1,296	1,249	376	207

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

Unknown*	3,208	2,713	817	392
Total	232,885	215,458	57,690	33,395

Note : The number of cases where a part or full ATO refund occurred in the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial years has dropped very slightly from the figures provided in March 2005. This has occurred because a very few customers who had a debt in March have subsequently had their entitlement for the financial year recalculated, their overpayment has been cancelled and all monies recovered have been refunded.

*The 'unknown' category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

Output Group: 4.1 Support for Families.....Question No: 098

Topic: Average Incomes of Family Tax Benefit Recipients

Hansard Page: Question on Notice

Senator Evans asked:

Please update the information/tables supplied in response to parts (a) and (b) of Question on Notice 188 of the Budget Estimates hearings (for both 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date)

Answer:

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

	Average actual ATI for 2003-04*
ATO lump sum	\$66,318
Centrelink lump sum	\$56,608
Instalments	\$41,939
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$52,695
Total	\$43,704

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

(a) (ii) The table below shows the average actual adjusted taxable income (ATI) of customers who received FTB Part A at any stage for 2004-05 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

	Average actual ATI for 2004-05*
ATO lump sum	\$73,647
Centrelink lump sum	\$50,723
Instalments	\$39,254
Fortnightly/Lump sum combination	\$54,950
Total	\$40,604

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

(b) For the following four tables, Centrelink and ATO customers who received lump sum grants and were not subsequently reconciled are not included in the following table. Analysis shows this group of customers is too small to significantly alter the income distribution.

For privacy reasons, cells containing fewer than 20 observations have been reported as "<20".

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

(b) (i) The table below shows the distribution of actual adjusted taxable income of customers who received FTB Part A at any stage during 2003-04 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

Actual ATI for 2003-04 (\$)	Number of customers who received FTB part A
0 to less than 5,000	167,159
5,000 to less than 10,000	72,568
10,000 to less than 15,000	183,448
15,000 to less than 20,000	149,871
20,000 to less than 25,000	129,242
25,000 to less than 30,000	120,276
30,000 to less than 35,000	111,682
35,000 to less than 40,000	100,180
40,000 to less than 45,000	98,715
45,000 to less than 50,000	98,245
50,000 to less than 55,000	99,369
55,000 to less than 60,000	101,012
60,000 to less than 65,000	99,494
65,000 to less than 70,000	95,724
70,000 to less than 75,000	88,368
75,000 to less than 80,000	81,222
80,000 to less than 85,000	70,887
85,000 to less than 90,000	50,329
90,000 to less than 95,000	31,688
95,000 to less than 100,000	14,682
100,000 to less than 110,000	8,847
110,000 to less than 120,000	1,671
120,000 to less than 130,000	566
130,000 to less than 140,000	324
140,000 to less than 150,000	215
150,000 to less than 160,000	156
160,000 to less than 170,000	98
170,000 to less than 180,000	63
180,000 to less than 190,000	44
190,000 to less than 200,000	49
200,000 to less than 300,000	192
300,000 to less than 400,000	34
400,000 to less than 500,000	24
500,000 to less than 600,000	<20
600,000 to less than 700,000	<20
700,000 to less than 800,000	<20

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

800,000 to less than 900,000	<20
900,000 to less than 1,000,000	<20
1,000,000 or more	<20
Total	1,976,473

(b) (ii) The table below shows the distribution of actual adjusted taxable income of customers who received FTB Part A at any stage during 2004-05 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

Actual ATI for 2004-05 (\$)	Number of customers who received FTB part A
0 to less than 5,000	153,884
5,000 to less than 10,000	53,685
10,000 to less than 15,000	135,757
15,000 to less than 20,000	85,327
20,000 to less than 25,000	86,991
25,000 to less than 30,000	67,799
30,000 to less than 35,000	61,816
35,000 to less than 40,000	49,772
40,000 to less than 45,000	46,198
45,000 to less than 50,000	45,104
50,000 to less than 55,000	45,145
55,000 to less than 60,000	45,957
60,000 to less than 65,000	46,581
65,000 to less than 70,000	45,244
70,000 to less than 75,000	43,226
75,000 to less than 80,000	40,155
80,000 to less than 85,000	35,204
85,000 to less than 90,000	28,580
90,000 to less than 95,000	16,418
95,000 to less than 100,000	10,769
100,000 to less than 110,000	4,940
110,000 to less than 120,000	789
120,000 to less than 130,000	244
130,000 to less than 140,000	121
140,000 to less than 150,000	64
150,000 to less than 160,000	39
160,000 to less than 170,000	<20
170,000 to less than 180,000	20
180,000 to less than 190,000	<20
190,000 to less than 200,000	<20
200,000 to less than 300,000	35

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

300,000 to less than 400,000	<20
400,000 to less than 500,000	<20
500,000 to less than 600,000	<20
600,000 to less than 700,000	<20
700,000 to less than 800,000	-
800,000 to less than 900,000	<20
900,000 to less than 1,000,000	<20
1,000,000 or more	<20
Total	1,149,929

Note: There are many reasons why families with high incomes can legitimately receive FTB Part A. These include:

- 1) customers with large families;
- 2) customers who received an income support payment for part of the year, or
- 3) customers whose personal circumstances have changed during the year. For example, customers who partnered for part of the year and had their FTB Part A entitlements cancelled for the period when they were partnered with income above the threshold, but received FTB Part A for the period when they were not partnered.

Certain groups of customers are free of the FTB Part A income test:

- 1) Child Disability Allowance (CDA) recipients are eligible for FTB Part A due to the CDA savings provision originally introduced in 1993. CDA was not asset or income tested and CDA qualification also entitled families to a minimum amount of Family Allowance free of any means test prior to January 1993.
- 2) Blind disability support pensioners receive their income support payments and FTB Part A free of income testing in accordance with existing legislation.

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

(b) (iii) The table below shows the distribution of actual adjusted taxable income of customers who received Family Tax Benefit Part B at any stage during 2003-04 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

Actual ATI for 2003-04 (\$)	Number of customers who received FTB part B
0 to less than 5,000	166,085
5,000 to less than 10,000	71,683
10,000 to less than 15,000	182,103
15,000 to less than 20,000	122,826
20,000 to less than 25,000	110,237
25,000 to less than 30,000	102,840
30,000 to less than 35,000	92,801
35,000 to less than 40,000	77,985
40,000 to less than 45,000	71,035
45,000 to less than 50,000	64,669
50,000 to less than 55,000	58,355
55,000 to less than 60,000	51,956
60,000 to less than 65,000	43,159
65,000 to less than 70,000	35,035
70,000 to less than 75,000	27,727
75,000 to less than 80,000	21,570
80,000 to less than 85,000	16,948
85,000 to less than 90,000	13,125
90,000 to less than 95,000	9,982
95,000 to less than 100,000	7,813
100,000 to less than 110,000	10,970
110,000 to less than 120,000	7,217
120,000 to less than 130,000	5,020
130,000 to less than 140,000	3,541
140,000 to less than 150,000	2,617
150,000 to less than 160,000	1,949
160,000 to less than 170,000	1,434
170,000 to less than 180,000	1,157
180,000 to less than 190,000	925
190,000 to less than 200,000	820
200,000 to less than 300,000	3,318
300,000 to less than 400,000	849
400,000 to less than 500,000	322
500,000 to less than 600,000	148
600,000 to less than 700,000	58
700,000 to less than 800,000	53

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

800,000 to less than 900,000	26
900,000 to less than 1,000,000	23
1,000,000 or more	70
Total	1,388,451

(b) (iv) The table below shows the distribution of actual adjusted taxable income of customers who received Family Tax Benefit Part B at any stage during 2004-05 and who have been reconciled as at 30 September 2005.

Actual ATI for 2004-05 (\$)	Number of customers who received FTB part B
0 to less than 5,000	154,021
5,000 to less than 10,000	53,530
10,000 to less than 15,000	135,299
15,000 to less than 20,000	85,025
20,000 to less than 25,000	86,605
25,000 to less than 30,000	67,380
30,000 to less than 35,000	61,003
35,000 to less than 40,000	47,766
40,000 to less than 45,000	42,637
45,000 to less than 50,000	39,074
50,000 to less than 55,000	35,893
55,000 to less than 60,000	32,449
60,000 to less than 65,000	28,675
65,000 to less than 70,000	24,213
70,000 to less than 75,000	19,993
75,000 to less than 80,000	15,863
80,000 to less than 85,000	12,118
85,000 to less than 90,000	8,901
90,000 to less than 95,000	6,367
95,000 to less than 100,000	4,565
100,000 to less than 110,000	5,530
110,000 to less than 120,000	3,115
120,000 to less than 130,000	1,833
130,000 to less than 140,000	1,201
140,000 to less than 150,000	796
150,000 to less than 160,000	562
160,000 to less than 170,000	372
170,000 to less than 180,000	292
180,000 to less than 190,000	231
190,000 to less than 200,000	166
200,000 to less than 300,000	669

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

300,000 to less than 400,000	108
400,000 to less than 500,000	35
500,000 to less than 600,000	<20
600,000 to less than 700,000	<20
700,000 to less than 800,000	<20
800,000 to less than 900,000	<20
900,000 to less than 1,000,000	<20
1,000,000 or more	<20
Total	976,335

Note: Under legislation, eligibility for Family Tax Benefit Part B is based on the income of the secondary earner. Therefore there is no income test applied to sole parents receiving this payment. A large proportion of recipients with high incomes are sole parents. The remainder are couples where the secondary earner earns little or no income.

Family Tax Benefit Part B provides extra help for families with only one main income earner as a key purpose of this payment is to compensate single income families for only having access to one tax-free threshold.

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

Output Group: 4.1 - Support for Families..... Question No: 099

Topic: FTB Recipients – Actual Annual Taxable Income

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please break down by (1) state and territory and (2) federal electorate the number of families with an actual annual taxable income of:

- (a) between \$100,000 and \$200,000,
- (b) \$200,000 and \$300,000,
- (c) \$300,000 and \$400,000,
- (d) \$400,000 and \$500,000,
- (e) \$500,000 and \$600,000,
- (f) \$600,000 and \$700,000,
- (g) \$700,000 and \$800,000,
- (h) \$800,000 and \$900,000,
- (i) \$900,000 and \$1,000,000, and
- (j) above \$1,000,000

who received either Family Tax Benefit Part A or Family Tax Benefit Part B in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.

Answer:

The answer to part (1) is below. The response to part (2) cannot be provided due to privacy restrictions on reporting of cell counts of less than 20.

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

All 2000-01 Family Tax Benefit customers with incomes \$100,000 or above										
	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	\$300,000 to less than \$400,000	\$400,000 to less than \$500,000	\$500,000 to less than \$600,000	\$600,000 to less than \$700,000	\$700,000 to less than \$800,000	\$800,000 to less than \$900,000	\$900,000 to less than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more
Australian Capital Territory	600	33	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
New South Wales	9,322	992	297	121	56	23	22	<20	<20	44
Northern Territory	132	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Queensland	3,587	256	45	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
South Australia	1,014	51	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Tasmania	287	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Victoria	5,831	545	125	41	24	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Western Australia	2,755	149	29	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
No valid value	554	65	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	24,082	2,104	527	202	95	45	31	<20	<20	60

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

All 2001-02 Family Tax Benefit customers with incomes \$100,000 or above												
	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	\$300,000 to less than \$400,000	\$400,000 to less than \$500,000	\$500,000 to less than \$600,000	\$600,000 to less than \$700,000	\$700,000 to less than \$800,000	\$800,000 to less than \$900,000	\$900,000 to less than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more		
Australian Capital Territory	718	33	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
New South Wales	11,186	1,305	364	145	88	37	25	24	<20	<20	40	
Northern Territory	205	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Queensland	4,632	294	46	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
South Australia	1,283	87	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Tasmania	295	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Victoria	7,364	666	187	47	21	23	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Western Australia	3,519	186	45	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
No valid value	564	74	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Total	29,766	2,669	685	238	126	74	44	31	<20	<20	59	

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

All 2002-03 Family Tax Benefit customers with incomes \$100,000 or above												
	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	\$300,000 to less than \$400,000	\$400,000 to less than \$500,000	\$500,000 to less than \$600,000	\$600,000 to less than \$700,000	\$700,000 to less than \$800,000	\$800,000 to less than \$900,000	\$900,000 to less than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more		
Australian Capital Territory	818	42	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
New South Wales	13,256	1,591	458	214	82	55	34	<20	<20	<20	41	<20
Northern Territory	212	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Queensland	5,470	401	73	26	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
South Australia	1,492	120	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Tasmania	332	21	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Victoria	8,590	811	200	78	36	21	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Western Australia	4,277	285	58	21	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
No valid value	542	76	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	34,989	3,355	840	358	146	86	50	25	21	54		54

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

All 2003-04 Family Tax Benefit customers with incomes \$100,000 or above												
	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	\$300,000 to less than \$400,000	\$400,000 to less than \$500,000	\$500,000 to less than \$600,000	\$600,000 to less than \$700,000	\$700,000 to less than \$800,000	\$800,000 to less than \$900,000	\$900,000 to less than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more		
Australian Capital Territory	977	47	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
New South Wales	15,730	1,606	438	196	96	34	33	<20	<20	<20	41	
Northern Territory	334	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Queensland	7,210	428	76	26	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
South Australia	2,009	98	23	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Tasmania	469	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Victoria	10,489	823	240	80	27	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Western Australia	5,480	312	57	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
No valid value	463	59	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	43,161	3,401	865	334	153	59	56	27	24	73		

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

All 2004-05 Family Tax Benefit customers with incomes \$100,000 or above												
	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	\$300,000 to less than \$400,000	\$400,000 to less than \$500,000	\$500,000 to less than \$600,000	\$600,000 to less than \$700,000	\$700,000 to less than \$800,000	\$800,000 to less than \$900,000	\$900,000 to less than \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more		
Australian Capital Territory	376	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
New South Wales	6,132	318	55	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Northern Territory	223	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Queensland	3,194	89	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
South Australia	807	21	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Tasmania	225	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Victoria	4,233	168	37	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Western Australia	2,570	57	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
No valid value	98	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20
Total	17,858	677	110	35	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		<20

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

Output Group: 4.1 - Support for Families..... Question No: 100

Topic: Spending on Administration of Family Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to table 2.1 on page 44 of the FACS Annual Report 2004-05, please explain:

- a) why departmental expenditure on output group 1.1 (family assistance) is projected to fall to \$297.8 million in 2005-06 (compared to an actual cost of \$475.9 million in 2004-05).
- b) Will the significant drop in spending affect staff? If so, how many staff will be affected? Will there be a reduction in staff numbers? If so, by how many?
- c) Please provide a full breakdown of how the \$475.9 million price of departmental outputs was spent in 2004-05.
- d) Please provide a full breakdown of how the projected price of \$297.8 million will be spent in 2005-06.

Answer:

- a) This variance predicted in budgeted expenditure is due to the Machinery of Government changes that occurred in 2004-05.
- b) There is no impact on staffing involved with output group 1.1.
- c) Breakdown of \$475.9 million spent in 2004-2005.

Output Group 1.1: Family Assistance	2004-05
Price of departmental outputs	\$'000
Policy advice	17,754
Purchasing, funding and relationship management	13,809
Research and evaluation	7,891
Service delivery (Centrelink)	425,506
Service delivery (other)	10,943
TOTAL	475,903

- d) Projected breakdown of spending for 2005-06 is similar to 2004-05.

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

Output Group: 4.1 – Support for Families.....Question No: 101

Topic: Health Care Cards for FTB recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What are the eligibility arrangements for HCCs for people who claim the maximum rate of FTB A?
- b) Do families automatically get the card once they claim the maximum rate of FTB A?
- c) Please outline the nature of all compliance checks that are undertaken on the family at the time they receive the card.

Answer:

- a) and b)

If an FTB A claimant already receives an income support payment, they will already have a concession card that also covers their dependants.

If an FTB A claimant does not receive an income support payment, they will automatically receive a FTB HCC if they:

- receive FTB Part A by fortnightly instalments through the Family Assistance Office; and
- have family income in 2005-06 of less than \$33,361 (excluding any child support payments).

If a person chooses to claim FTB Part A through the tax system rather than as fortnightly payments, they will not receive the FTB HCC. However they may apply to Centrelink for a low-income HCC. Currently, the qualifying income limit for a low-income HCC for a single person or a couple with one child is \$612 a week or \$31,824 a year (and \$34 a week for each additional child).

- c) The FTB HCC is linked to the payment which it supplements. Therefore, the compliance focus is on the eligibility for the payment rather than the card. The measures used to ensure entitlement and payment accuracy for FTB A claimants include proof of identity checking at the time of claim, data matching with external agencies such as the Australian Taxation Office, and Centrelink checking against its own records.

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

Output Group: 4.1 – Support for Families.....Question No:102

Topic: Health Care Cards for FTB recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) For each of the last four financial years, what has been the number of families receiving the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit A who also held Health Care Cards?
- b) What has been the annual cost of these cards to the Commonwealth?
- c) Please provide a full breakdown of this cost.

Answer:

- a) 179,580 cardholders as at 30 June 2005.
166,928 cardholders as at 30 June 2004.
137,831 cardholders as at 30 June 2003.
138,728 cardholders as at 30 June 2002.
- b) The Commonwealth costs associated with the FTB HCC are to the Pharmaceutical Benefits and Medicare Benefits Schemes, under the Health portfolio.
- c) See answer to part b).

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

Output Group: 4.1 – Support for Families.....Question No: 103

Topic: Health Care Cards for FTB recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

On reconciliation, if a family is found not to be entitled to the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit A (FTB A), and therefore should not have received a Health Care Card (HCC), are there any arrangements for repaying concessions already claimed by using the HCC? Please outline the nature of the arrangements for recovering the value of these concessions from the client.

Answer:

Entitlement to a HCC is not affected by FTB reconciliation. A range of measures helps to ensure that claimants provide accurate estimates of income for FTB entitlement, and a HCC where applicable.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 104

Topic: Family Relationship Services Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

While much of the attention has been on announcing the Family Relationship Centre (FRC), each of the areas where an FRC will be based has also been allocated additional funding for other Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) services for 2006-07. This has resulted in a focusing of services in particular areas.

- (a) What investigation has been undertaken by the Department to ensure that the necessary services are being located where the greatest client need is?
- (b) What ongoing investigation has been undertaken by the Department to ensure that the types of services that fall under specific headings are actually those required by the Australian population?

Answer:

- a) A needs based planning approach was used by the department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) to identify geographical gaps in service delivery and inform locations for placement of new and extended services for 2006-07. This involved reviewing:
 - a range of data, including rates of family formation and the risk of family breakdown and separation for specific geographical areas. Variables were selected to profile the needs related to the broader FRSP program as well as specific service types (ie. education, men and family relationship services);
 - existing FRSP service provision in the locations including the service types offered (ie. the mix of early intervention and post separation services); and
 - other factors such as the distribution of government and other service hubs, growth areas, residential population, transport routes and accessibility.
- b) The Department has commissioned the following reviews of the FRSP and/or specific service types in recent years:
 - *Review of the Family Relationship Services Program*, Urbis Keys Young, 2004;
 - *Family Relationship Services Program: Client Input Consultancy*, Colmar Brunton Social Research, 2004; and
 - *Evaluation of the Men and Family Relationship Program*, Phoenix Projects, 2002.

The reviews have informed development of the program, but also confirmed the appropriateness of the various service types within the program for meeting the needs of Australian families.

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

Output Group: 4.1 - Support for Families

Question No: 105

Topic: Contact Orders Program – FaCSLink

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

There has been much discussion throughout the community sector that data about their servicing is extremely labour intensive to provide to the Department and the data they receive back through FaCSlink is unreliable.

- a) How much has FaCSLink cost the Australian Public in each of the last five financial years?
- b) Does the Department have any plans/processes in place to improve the reliability of this service? Please fully describe any such plans/processes, including the additional cost (if any) of these items.
- c) Can the Department provide a timeframe for improving the reliability of the data for the community?

Answer:

- a) 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 FaCSlink was not in existence.
1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 FaCSlink was not in existence.
1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 \$303,875.75
1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 \$198,127.63
1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 \$228,282.00 #

•Costs for 2002-2003 include the design, development, testing and implementation of the system and amendments, upgrades and enhancements.

#During 2004-05, additional Helpdesk staff were employed to assist with the increased workload.

- b) The FaCSLink data collection system is, in general, a reliable system, and is reviewed and upgraded on an ongoing basis.

In the next six to 12 months the following changes are expected to occur:

- an additional update to FaCSLink will be released in January 2006, which will rectify minor issues affecting less than one per cent of outlets using FaCSLink which were detected by service providers in the previous update (\$2,587);
 - reporting software will be further upgraded (\$26,160); and
 - a business case is currently being developed for a new database version of FaCSLink for future release.
- c) Improvements made to FaCSLink and data reporting over the last 12 months have increased the level of confidence in FaCSLink data accuracy. As at 31 October 2005 around 70 per cent of service providers accepted the reliability of end of financial year FaCSlink data. Where organisations questioned data accuracy, investigations to date have shown that the FacsLink System has been in error on only three occasions.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No:106

Topic: Family Relationships Services Program – Listing and servicing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

While there are fewer numbers of people living in rural Australia, the issues of families in rural Australia are similar to those in metropolitan areas and these families should be receiving the same level of service.

- a) Please provide a comprehensive listing of all Family Relationships Services Programs (FRSP) by program and location?
- b) Can the Department provide the formula by which these decisions have been made?
- c) How do agencies apply for funding to ensure there is comprehensive servicing across all FRSP programs available to rural and regional families?

Answer:

- a) **Attachment A** lists Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) service types and locations by statistical sub-divisions and Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) status.

Please note the following acronyms are used in Attachment A:

Adolescent Mediation and Family Therapy (AMFT)
Children's Contact Services (CCS)
Conciliation Services (CON)
Contact Orders Program (COP)
Family Relationships Counselling (FRC)
Family Relationships Education (FRE)
Family Relationships Mediation (FRM)
Family Relationships Skills Training (FRST)
Men and Family Relationships (MFR)
Regional Primary Dispute Resolution (PDR)
Specialised Family Violence Services (SFVS)

- b) The FRSP is a long standing program, established by the Australian Government in 1959. The current distribution of FRSP services is the result of a series of decisions made since the inception of the Program by the responsible ministers or delegates in the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) or the Attorney-General's Department.

The process of allocating funding appropriated to the FaCS for the FRSP in the 2005-06 Budget, is described in the answer for question 104.

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

- c) Organisations can apply for funding in locations identified in the New Family Relationship Centres and Other Family Relationship Services Request for Application for Funding Selection Document.

The accessibility of services in rural and regional areas was one of the factors taken into consideration in determination of the distribution of funding (as described in the answers to question 104).

Early intervention service types have been 'bundled' so that communities will have a range of services rather than being limited to only one form of intervention. In many cases early intervention services will also be co-located in areas with Family Relationship Centres (FRC) and other post-separation services. Organisations can apply for any one, or a combination, of the service types allocated to a particular location.

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

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

Output Group: 4.1_Families and Children Question No: 107

Topic: FRSP Additional Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Has the Department had to provide any additional funds to Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) service providers over and above their budgeted allocation to keep them operational in the last five years? Please provide details of every occasion on which this has occurred (name of service, location, additional funds provided etc).
- b) If so, in the process of opening up Family Relationships Services to for-profit organisations, will this practice continue?
- c) What is the risk management strategy that the Department has in place for agencies that receive funding and then don't perform?

Answer:

- a) The Department has not provided additional funds to any FRSP service providers over and above their budgeted allocation to keep them operational in the last five years.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) The Department uses a range of strategies through its funding agreements with FRSP providers to ensure that services have delivered in accordance with their agreements:
 - Performance is monitored on an ongoing basis and report is available on a quarterly basis.
 - Each service provider is assessed annually using the Performance Risk Assessment Tool which assesses the level of risk that an organisation will be unable to meet its contracted obligations.
 - On request Departmental officers, and external organisations providers are available to offer advice and/or assistance to service providers to assist them to continue to meet their operational obligations and improve their business acumen.
 - The Department also funds independent assessments of FRSP service providers against the FRSP Quality Assurance standards and Financial Viability Assurance Reviews.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families.....Question No: 148

Topic: Waived debts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Can we find out, for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 (to date) financial years, the number and value of family tax benefit debts that have been waived under the provisions of the Act relating to administrative error and severe financial hardship?
- b) How does this compare to the total number/value of FTB debts?

Answer:

- a) The number and value of Family Tax Benefit debts that have been waived under the provisions of the Act relating to administrative error and severe financial hardship, for 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as at 25 November 2005) are provided in the table below.
- b) The waived debt amount relating to administrative error and severe financial hardship expressed as a percentage of all debts and customers with a debt over the same period is provided in the table below.

	2004-2005		2005-2006	
	Number of debts	Amount	Number of debts	Amount
No. of waived debts due to administrative error where financial hardship was demonstrated	388	\$0.32m	45	\$0.014m
% of total debt	0.18%	0.20%	0.14%	0.18%

NOTES:

- 1) This Table includes all FTB debt types.
- 2) The financial year shown here is the entitlement year during which the overpayment occurred, not the year during which the debt was raised.
- 3) Method of determining the entitlement year for circumstance debts was to take the midpoint of the period over which the debt occurred and assign the debt to a financial year according to that midpoint.

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

Output Group: 4.1_Support for Families

Question No: 149

Topic: \$600 per child Supplement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the \$600 per child supplement:

- a) If, as a result of a debt a customer receives nothing or less than the full entitlement:
 - i. Are these customers informed of their rights to appeal the raising of the debt? If not, why not?
 - ii. Could we be provided with a copy of the advice that goes to customers about this matter?

- b) Please provide a summary table showing the number of reviews/appeals of these cases, and whether these appeals were upheld/rejected by:
 - i. AROs
 - ii. SSAT, and
 - iii. AAT

Answer:

- a)
 - i. Yes, customers are advised of all their rights to appeal decisions.

 - ii. The standard advice sent to customers relating to their appeal rights is as follows:

If you do not agree with this decision please contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150. We will reconsider your case and change the decision if appropriate. If you still do not agree, you can ask for an Authorised Review Officer (ARO) to look at it. The ARO is an experienced officer who would not have previously been involved in your case. They can change the decision if it is wrong, or if they agree with the decision they can tell you how to appeal to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT). Both the ARO review and the SSAT appeal are free.

Remember, if you do not ask for the decision to be reviewed within 52 weeks of being told about it, any change to that decision, or any backpayment may only take effect from the date you ask.

- b) Information about the number and outcome of reviews/appeals relating to the \$600 per child supplement is not available. Currently the breakdown of data is at a more general level, such as Family Tax Benefit or Newstart Allowance.

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

Output Group: 4.3_Child Care Support

Question No: 108

Topic: Child Care Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: CA102

Senator Evens asked:

- a) How many Child Care Benefit debts are outstanding for each of the financial years since 2000-01?

Answer:

For more information see answer to Question on Notice 111.

Data as at 30 September 2005

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WITH AN OUTSTANDING DEBT

	Number of customers (financial year)			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL	627	5,073	13,015	27,362

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

Output Group: 4.3 - Child Care Support Question No: 109

Topic: In Home Care Program

Hansard Page: CA107

Senator McLucas asked:

How many children with disabilities are currently supported under the In Home Care program?

Answer:

There were 516 children identified in the 2004 Australian Government Census of Child Care Services, as having a disability and attending approved In Home Care services.

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

Output Group: 4.3 – Child Care Support Question No: 110

Topic: State Child Care Regulations

Hansard Page: CA114

Senator Moore asked:

What are the regulations across states/territory and service types including such things as size, location and insurance liability.

Answer:

State and Territory governments are responsible for licencing and regulation of child care services. The State and Territory child care legislation and regulations are listed in **Attachment 1**. Detailed information about state and territory regulation and legislation can be obtained from the relevant state and territory departments.

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

State/ Territory Jurisdiction	Child Care Legislation	Local Government Legislation	Planning Legislation
NSW	<i>The Children's Services Regulation 2004.</i>	<i>The Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 NSW.</i>	Development and building regulations set at a local government level.
VIC	<i>Children's Services Act 1996 Vic</i> <i>Children's Services Regulation 1998 Vic.</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1989</i> <i>The Victorian Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003.</i>	Local governments planning role is determined by local government legislation. Council plans, municipal public health plans and municipal strategic statements are required by statute.
QLD	<i>Child Care Act 2002</i> <i>Child Care Regulation 2003</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	<i>Integrated Planning Regulation 1997</i> <i>Queensland Developments Code Part 22</i> <i>Standard Building Regulation 1993</i> <i>Building Code of Australia 1996 (BCA)</i>
TAS	<i>Child Care Act 2001</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	<i>The Land Use and Approvals Act 1993</i>
SA	<i>Children's Services Act 1985</i> <i>Children's Services (Child Care Centre) Regulations 1998</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i> <i>Local Government Regulation</i> <i>Local Government (Financial Management and Rating) Amendment Bill 2005</i>	<i>Development Act 1993</i>
NT	<i>Community Welfare Act 1983 (NT)</i> <i>Community Welfare (Child Care) Regulations 1987</i> <i>Standards for Northern Territory Child Care Centres</i>	<i>Northern Territory Local Government Act 1993</i>	<i>Planning Act 1999</i>
ACT	<i>Children and Young People Act 1999</i> <i>Regulation: ACT Centre Based Children's Service-Conditions for Approvals in Principle and Licences</i>	NA	<i>Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991</i>
WA	<i>The Community Service Act 1972 WA</i> <i>Community Services (Child-Care) Regulations 1988 WA</i> <i>Community Services (Outsides School Hours Care) Regulation 2002</i> <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>	<i>Town Planning and Development Act 1928</i> <i>Strata Titles Act 1985</i>

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

Output Group: 4.3_Child Care Support

Question No: 111

Topic: Child Care Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evens asked:

Child Care Benefit Reconciliation 2003-04 and Update of Budget QoN 190

- b) Please supply updated information on Child Care Benefit reconciliations for the 2003-04 financial year.
- c) Please supply an update of all of the information/tables supplied in response to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of question on notice 190 of the budget estimates hearings.

Answer:

- a) As at 30 September 2005, around 97 per cent of CCB families had had their 2003-04 CCB entitlements reconciled.
 - Total number of families reconciled: 659,427
 - Total number of families with top-ups: 242,116.
 - Average top-up is: \$274 .
 - Total amount is over \$66 million.
 - Total number of families with overpayments: 163,435.
 - Average overpayment is: \$328.
 - Total amount is just under \$54 million.

(b) Please see Attachment A, B, C & D for the update of QoN 190.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - NOVEMBER 2005

Attachment A

Data as at 30 September 2005

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WITH AN OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

	Number of customers (financial year)			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
ACT	15	98	245	504
NSW	212	1,812	4,689	9,312
NT	4	67	154	317
QLD	131	1078	3,166	7,081
SA	26	210	642	1,550
TAS	3	62	165	435
VIC	143	1,121	2,748	5,648
WA	37	388	933	2,224
UNKNOWN*	56	237	273	291
TOTAL	627	5,073	13,015	27,362

* The "unknown" category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

Attachment B

Data as at 30 September 2005

TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

	Total Amount Outstanding			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
ACT	\$19,712	\$82,528	\$171,036	\$324,463
NSW	\$189,285	\$1,395,565	\$3,316,009	\$5,996,783
NT	\$6,987	\$60,253	\$137,155	\$275,852
QLD	\$126,055	\$954,879	\$2,502,392	\$5,092,909
SA	\$21,565	\$166,059	\$460,344	\$899,407
TA	\$1,530	\$36,570	\$102,311	\$243,775
VIC	\$163,290	\$960,955	\$2,161,961	\$3,847,304
WA	\$46,803	\$314,850	\$679,941	\$1,479,104
UNKNOWN*	\$65,913	\$147,512	\$160,518	\$180,981
TOTAL	\$641,140	\$4,119,171	\$9,691,667	\$18,340,578

* The "unknown" category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - NOVEMBER 2005

Attachment C

Data as at 30 September 2005

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT BY STATE

	Average Amount Outstanding			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
ACT	\$1,314	\$842	\$698	\$644
NSW	\$893	\$770	\$707	\$644
NT	\$1,747	\$899	\$891	\$870
QLD	\$962	\$886	\$790	\$719
SA	\$829	\$791	\$717	\$580
TAS	\$510	\$590	\$620	\$560
VIC	\$1,142	\$857	\$787	\$681
WA	\$1,265	\$811	\$729	\$665
UNKNOWN*	\$1,177	\$622	\$588	\$622
TOTAL	\$1,023	\$812	\$745	\$670

* The "unknown" category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

Attachment D

Data as at 30 September 2005

AVERAGE INCOME OF CCB DEBTOR BY STATE

	Average Income of CCB Debtor			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
ACT	\$65,330	\$70,453	\$71,535	\$69,911
NSW	\$61,775	\$65,808	\$67,696	\$65,336
NT	\$61,742	\$65,237	\$67,864	\$63,341
QLD	\$58,662	\$62,295	\$64,520	\$61,048
SA	\$59,539	\$63,896	\$65,882	\$59,458
TAS	\$57,858	\$61,306	\$62,441	\$56,348
VIC	\$61,572	\$65,739	\$67,350	\$64,243
WA	\$59,739	\$63,872	\$65,523	\$63,284
UNKNOWN*	\$62,209	\$68,203	\$70,197	\$69,951
TOTAL	\$60,588	\$64,587	\$66,442	\$63,203

* The "unknown" category covers customers with overseas addresses, addresses that are post office boxes (rather than street addresses), and invalid addresses (eg for people who are no longer customers).

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

Output Group: 4.3 - Child Care Support Question No: 132

Topic: In Home Care – Parents of Children with Disabilities

Hansard Page: CA108

Senator McLucas asked:

Provide information on whether applications for support for In Home Care were unsuccessful for parents of children with disabilities.

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) does not collect information on whether applications for In Home Care were unsuccessful.

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

Output Group: 4.3_Child Care Support Question No: 147

Topic: Welfare to Work Child Care Arrangements – Allocation of Funds

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Can you tell me what type of child care arrangements is it envisaged that this money will fund in each of the three years from 2006-07 and in what proportion?
- b) How have these figures been modelled and what assumptions do they make about increasing employment of those currently receiving parenting payments?
- c) Does this modelling take into account the relative proportion of these parents currently living in rural areas given variations in the relative likelihood of new jobs being created in these areas?
- d) Does this modelling take into account the education and skill levels of these parents in the type of work likely to be available – given that according to ABS 97.5 per cent of the 236,000 new jobs created last year were high skilled positions that went to people with a university degree, TAFE diploma or equivalent work experience – and given that the majority of single parents have only year ten education?
- e) What are your projections for the numbers of new jobs being created that will be accessible by those with these education and skill levels, and what programs or schemes are in place to create these jobs?
- f) Did these figures allow for the recent policy announcements from the Minister regarding support payments for Nannies? If not, how are those changes likely to impact upon resources available to support other forms of day care?
- g) Is the money to be means tested?
- h) Can you explain the trend in costs over time for the ‘enhanced childcare arrangements’? [In 2005-06 the budget is \$11.6 M the drops to \$7.2M in 2006-07 then \$4.1M in 2007-08 and to \$3.8M in 2008-09].
- i) What is the explanation for this decrease of over 300 per cent over the four years?
- j) How does this relate to the increasing trend in the costs attributed to ‘Increasing participation of parents’?

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

Answer:

- a) The funding for the child care part of Welfare to Work package is mainly to provide:
- additional 84,300 Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) places over four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 (15,000 places have already been allocated for the 2005-06 financial year)
 - 2,500 family day care places and 1,000 in home care places over three years from 2006-07, and
 - additional 52,000 customers will be assisted through Job, Education and Training (JET) Child Care over three years from 2006-07.
- b) The child care part of the modelling assumed that people on parenting payment would have a similar level of workforce participation as the general population if they were required to increase their workforce participation. Therefore, they would need similar levels of formal child care as the general population.
- c) The number of additional child care places was based on the projection of child care needs for those people who would be required to increase their workforce participation. The allocation process of these new places will take account of the specific child care needs in each area, including rural and remote areas.
- d) See answer to part b).
- e) See answer to part b).
- f) Minister Patterson has not announced any new policy in regards to nannies.
- g) The additional child care funding which is means tested is the direct support to individual parents through the Child Care Benefit.
- h) The FaCS Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 indicates that the administered cost for “Enhance Child Care Arrangements to Support Work” over four years is as follows:
- \$11,476 million in 2005-06
 - \$33,381 million in 2006-07
 - \$75,710 million in 2007-08
 - \$114,798 million in 2008-09
- i) See answer to part h).
- j) See answer to part h).

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

Output Group: 5.1 _Supp communities & delivering local solutions Question No: 112

Topic: Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

Hansard Page: CA126-127

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What is the actual selection criteria for the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants?
- b) Have all rounds since 2001 been conducted in the same way?
- c) Has there been any instance of a minister altering the recommendations?
- d) What was the decision to have two rounds in 2004-05 based on? Was that a recommendation from the Department?

Answer:

a) Applications for Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEGs) are assessed against the priority criteria for funding, and are prioritised according to how strongly they meet the priority criteria.

Eligible organisations must involve volunteers and be ‘not for profit’. Grants are only available to Australian community not for profit organisations whose work directly benefits Australian communities. The equipment should directly assist volunteers by making their work easier, safer and/or more enjoyable.

Applications are assessed against the following selection criteria in the Program Guidelines published on the contractor’s website with the online application. Priority is given to organisations that have applied for eligible equipment items and:

- have relatively small operating budgets with limited funding sources and a relatively high volunteer to paid staff ratio
 - demonstrate that their requested equipment will provide maximum benefit to all their volunteers by making their volunteer work easier, safer and/or more enjoyable
 - demonstrate that the organisation’s activities help families and/or communities to build strength and resilience
 - have requested equipment that will have a maximum benefit in the local community for a small outlay, and
 - have not received funding from previous VSEG rounds since 2003. Whilst they could still apply, applicants who had received funding in previous rounds were less likely to be successful in the current round.
- b) Selection has been made on the basis of merit against the priority criteria, which have been refined over time.

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

- c) Funding is a Ministerial decision. Recommendations for funding are provided by the Department to the Minister for consideration and approval. This is confidential policy advice from the Department.

- d) The second round of Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2004 was held in response to the overwhelming popularity of the first round held in 2004. This was a Ministerial decision.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ... Question No: 113

Topic: COAG Trial Wadeye - Spending

Hansard Page: CA128

Senator Evans asked:

In terms of the COAG trial, what is the sort of financial commitment currently in the out years? Please provide a tabulation of the sorts of funds the department has spent.

Answer:

FaCS works in a Tripartite arrangement with the Thammarrurr Regional Council, other Commonwealth agencies and the Northern Territory Government to address specific needs identified by the community. As part of FaCS' role as lead agency, resources are allocated from our programs as appropriate and we seek support from other agencies where their funding or support is more appropriate.

On 6 April 2005 the Prime Minister visited Wadeye and announced a package of over \$2.7 million of practical assistance including announcing an Intensive Support Playgroup for Wadeye. In addition to the \$180,000 expenditure from 2004-2006, \$156,000 in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is committed to support the Intensive Support Playgroup at Wadeye.

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

Department of Family and Community Services administered funding in Wadeye to date

Program Funding	2003-04(\$)	2004-05(\$)	2005-06(\$)
Emergency Relief funding	3,000	3,000	3,000
Family and Community Networks Initiative funding to support family, money management and women initiatives	398,192	278,344	100,000
YouthLinx (formerly the Youth Activities Services and Family Liaison Worker Programme). Wadeye YouthLinx provide after school and school holiday activities, predominantly with a sporting focus.	27,339	27,580	27,834
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		
The National Aboriginal Health Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounds 1 and 2 - for completion of building 34 houses, renovating 14 houses and infrastructure. It also provided approximately 500 days of employment and 200 training days for 32 participants. • A further \$9.5 million to provide additional housing and essential infrastructure works (or equivalent) to address high priority needs in Wadeye. Around 25 additional houses and essential infrastructure would be built. 		9,500,000	9,500,000
Community Infrastructure funding	158,300	135,012	
Municipal Services funding	330,036	316,963	
Intensive support playgroups		30,000	150,000
A vehicle for mobile playgroup		130,000	
Innovative child care project to suit local conditions and needs of local parents		150,000	140,000
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		
Family Violence funding to support the employment of a social worker by Thamarrurr Council to investigate service delivery models for family well-being issues	21,649	50,000	
TOTAL	1,780,280	10,620,899	9,920,834

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

Output Group: 5.1 – Supp communities and delivering local solutions..Question No: 114

Topic: COAG Trial - Evaluation of Interventions

Hansard Page: CA130

Senator Evans asked:

What baseline data will be used to evaluate the interventions?

Answer:

The consultant identified, amalgamated and presented limited baseline data collected by some Australian Government agencies and the Northern Territory Government on specific indicators such as: hospital separations; rates of infectious disease; interaction with the criminal justice system; school enrolments; demographical structure and regional population; and labour force status, income, and housing status.

The COAG trials are based on a set of general objectives that include better coordination of programs and services and the tailoring of government programs and services to the needs of communities. Given the nature of these objectives, a set of specific performance indicators (such as those used to evaluate traditional government programmes) is not appropriate for measuring the trial's effectiveness. Measurement of progress will need to be largely qualitative and is best addressed through the initial formative evaluation process now in train. Existing programs within the trial site continue to have their own performance indicators that reflect the aims of that particular program.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering local Solutions.....Question No: 115

Topic: Community Organisations – One Off Grants

Hansard Page: CA127

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please explain what this measure is?
- b) Why did the projects appear on a DOTARS list for funding earlier in the year and then turn up in the FaCS budget for a one-off scheme?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government provided funding of \$565,000 in the 2005-06 Budget to meet its 2004 election commitments to community organisations.
- b) In considering the administrative arrangements for its election commitments, the Australian Government allocated eight projects to the FaCS portfolio.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ... Question No: 116

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Initiatives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye provide a brief description of the elements of the trial the Department is leading? What specific initiatives are being implemented?

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) is the lead agency for the Australian Government for the COAG Trial in Wadeye. This requires FaCS to provide coordination and leadership across Australian Government agencies and to represent the Australian Government on the Tripartite Steering Committee for the project. This Committee brings together the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the community-based Thamarrurr Regional Council and supports a number of Priority Working Groups.

Specific Australian Government and NT government initiatives already in place or being implemented at Wadeye include:

- establishing a school council that will take responsibility for Thamarrurr sponsored activities at the school and strategies to increase school attendance, including:
 - allocation of extra teachers to establish orientation classes
 - employment of an Education Coordinator which links the Thumarrurr Council with the school and the community
 - provision of a secondary school and roll-out of a secondary school curriculum
 - establishment of a cultural studies curriculum involving many local people in its development
 - the No School, No Pool policy, and
 - maintenance and support for the school.
- providing career development, cultural education, child minding facilities and promoting appropriate and acceptable behaviour and regular school attendance through the Kardu Luruth Ngala project
- managing and operating a swimming pool
- constructing and operating a factory to allow for all year round construction of houses
 - Development of a coordinated employment and training plan, with apprenticeships being offered in the construction industry.
- funding for the Rural Transaction Centre

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

- establishing Thamarrurr Development Corporation to drive economic development for the region, support further development of small privately owned businesses and to build sustainable enterprises in roads construction and maintenance, housing construction and maintenance, and local extractive industries
- developing a broadband link between Daly River and Wadeye and the communities of Palumpa and Peppimenarti
- providing training facilities and accommodation for trainers for the Housing and Construction Program
- promoting women's and family activities through The Palngun Wurnangat Association (PWA), with local women being trained in business and computer skills, development of a sewing business and organising social events for themselves and the community, such activities include:
 - a commercial complex (Mi Patha) comprising a retail centre with a bakery, takeaway food shop and local butcher
 - a women's sewing centre
 - social services
 - a family support program
 - support to young mothers, and
 - cultural preservation and education programs.
- fitting out and purchasing of a mobile clinic and provision of a re-stockable First Aid kit for each of Wadeye's 22 outstations
- engaging a full-time resident General Practitioner to deliver services to Wadeye since August 2005
 - staffing at the Wadeye Health Centre include eight Remote Area Nurses, four Aboriginal Health Workers, two Community Health Workers and two Administration positions
- establishing an Intensive Support Playgroup at Wadeye
- building around 25 additional houses and essential infrastructure at Wadeye under the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS), and
- maintaining 154 houses in Wadeye and 46 houses and 22 shelters at the surrounding outstations provided under the Fixing Houses for Better Health program.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ...Question No: 117

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Costings

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye:

- a) How much has FaCS spent on the COAG trial to date?
- b) Provide a specific breakdown of these funds, including administered funds, and departmental costs.
- c) How much is allocated this year? Provide a specific breakdown of these funds according to administered and departmental expenses.

Answer:

a-b) See Estimates QoN 113 for details of administered funds spent by FaCS for Wadeye. Total Departmental expenditure in relation to Wadeye to date is \$2,203,645.34:

- 2002-03: \$206,074.80 was spent on staff related expenses (eg salaries, travel, training etc).
 - 2003-04: The department spent a total of \$1,110,641.67 including \$668,500 on projects at Wadeye (such as supporting the Thamarrurr Regional Council, construction of the concrete factory, demountables etc); \$305,141.67 on staff related expenses; and \$137,000 for Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR).
 - Note: In 2003-04, FaCS contributed \$500,000 to the Flexible Funding Pool administered by DIMIA for COAG Trials and received \$439,500 from the Pool for Wadeye.
 - 2004-05: The department spent a total of \$765,146.05 including \$385,500 on projects at Wadeye; \$296,646.05 on staff related expenses; and \$83,000 for CAEPR research.
 - Note: In 2004-05, FaCS contributed \$500,000 to the Flexible Funding Pool administered by DIMIA for COAG Trials.
 - 2005-06: \$121,782.82 to date.
- c) See Estimates QoN 113 for details of administered funds committed by FaCS for Wadeye.
The department has allocated \$327,125.35 for staff related expenses in Canberra and the Northern Territory in 2005-06. Further funds will be allocated as required for program administration expenses and small projects in the community. Resources for larger projects in Wadeye are allocated from our administered programs funds.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ...Question No: 118

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Baseline data

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye:

Has the Department identified a baseline data (eg. school attendance figures, incidence of disease, etc) for use in measuring the success of the trial?

If not:

Why not given the 2003 report identified this as an urgent priority?

When will a baseline data be identified?

If so:

When was this dataset formally agreed on?

Can a copy of this baseline data be provided, ie what indicators are included?

When did the Department start tracking this data?

Has the Department done any analysis on the information collected in tracking the baseline data? Has this information been reported on? If so can a copy of that analysis and/or reports be provided?

Answer:

Yes, see the answer to question 114.

- i. The initial report by Dr Taylor was released in June 2004. Dr Taylor amalgamated the limited baseline data that had been collected by some Australian Government agencies and the Northern Territory Government on specific indicators such as hospital separations, rates of infectious disease, interaction with the criminal justice system, school enrolments, demographical structure and regional population, labour force status, income, and housing status.

The Taylor and Stanley report was released in July 2005. In this report, which sought to investigate the cost to the Australian community of Indigenous socio-economic disadvantage at Wadeye, the researchers faced considerable challenges. The methodology in the report is very innovative and therefore some assumptions are contestable.

- ii The reports are both available on the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) website (website addresses have been included in the answer to question 114). The Taylor Report *Social Indicators for Aboriginal Governance: Insights from the Thamarurr Region, Northern Territory* identified the key social and economic

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

indicators for the Thamarrurr region including population, labour force, education and training, housing, health, justice and welfare.

- iii The baseline data in Dr Taylor's report was initially tracked in 2004.
- iv As partners in the COAG trial site at Wadeye, FaCS has been involved in regular discussions about progress at Wadeye and issues in the community with the tripartite steering committee.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ...Question No: 119

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Performance Indicators

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye:

Has the Department identified performance indicators for the trial?

If so, when were they set? What are they? When will they be reported on?

If not, when will they be set? What is the reason for the delay?

Answer:

a-c)The COAG trials are based on a set of general objectives that include better coordination of programs and services and the tailoring of government programs and services to the needs of communities. Given the nature of these objectives, a set of specific performance indicators (such as those used to evaluate traditional government programmes) is not appropriate for measuring the trial's effectiveness. Measurement of progress will need to be largely qualitative and is best addressed through the evaluation process now in train.

Existing programmes within the trial site continue to have their own performance indicators that reflect the aims of the programme.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ... Question No: 120

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Evaluations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a) In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye:
- b) Has the Department conducted any formal or informal evaluation of the trial?

If so, provide a copy of any related documents. If not, when will an evaluation be conducted? Will this information be publicly available?

Answer:

- a) A formal evaluation of the trial has not yet been conducted. However, as partners in the COAG trial site at Wadeye, FaCS has been involved in regular discussions about progress at Wadeye and the issues in the community. These discussions are used to review current activity and inform future directions, priorities and specific activities for the community. Decisions are reflected in the Tripartite Steering Committee Minutes but formal reports have not been produced.
- b) The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) has responsibility for the evaluation of each of the COAG Trial sites. A consultant for each COAG Trial site will be selected to provide an independent report against a common evaluation framework. In the Northern Territory, OIPC is in the process of selecting a consultant.

Any public release arrangements of evaluation reports into the COAG trials will be a matter for government.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ...Question No: 121

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye –OIPC

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye:

- a) Has the Department reported to OIPC or the secretaries group on the progress of the trial? List the dates of reporting. Attach any reports.
- b) Does the Department intend on handing over responsibility for the trial to OIPC? If so, in what timeframe? Has the handover already begun? If so, when did it begin? Why is it handing over responsibility? On what date will responsibility transfer?

Answer:

- a) Reports to OIPC

FaCS works closely with OIPC on the Trial, both through the National Office based Wadeye Unit and FaCS staff based in the Darwin ICC. Regular verbal progress reports are provided to OIPC through the Tripartite Steering Committee arrangements and the SES Band 2 Working Group on Indigenous Affairs.

Reports to Secretaries' Group – The FaCS Secretary has provided regular verbal reports to the Secretaries' Group.

- b) No.

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

Output Group: 5.1_Supp Communities & Delivering Local Solutions ...Question No: 122

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Visits to Trial Site

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye, please list the dates and specify the reason of any visits made to the trial site by:

- a) Minister
- b) Secretary of the Department

Answer:

- a) Minister Patterson
 - 30 July & 1 August 2005 – Meet with community members to discuss community issues
 - 15 July 2004 - Meet with community members to discuss community issues

Minister Vanstone

- 21 March 2003 – Signing of Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) with the community and Northern Territory Government
 - b) Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary *
 - 15-19 May 2005 to attend a Tripartite Steering Committee meeting
- Mr Mark Sullivan, Secretary
- 14 & 15 April 2004 - Update on progress, meet with youth and attend Tripartite Steering Committee.
 - 11 & 12 November 2002 - Initial community consultations, discussions re COAG trial site
- * Dr Harmer also visited Wadeye in July 2004 as Secretary of DEST

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

Output Group: 5.1 Question No: 123

Topic: COAG Indigenous Community Trial in Wadeye – Departmental Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Provide the number and percentage of Indigenous staff in the Department at present? How many are specifically working on the COAG trial? What percentage?

Answer:

The figures provided below are as at 3 November 2005.

Eighty seven staff have self-identified as Indigenous on FaCS' Human Resource Management System (IMPACT). This represents 4.68 per cent of all Departmental staff. There are currently two FaCS staff working on the Wadeye COAG Trial at this time. Both are Indigenous.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

.....Question No: 010

Topic: ANAO audits

Hansard Page: written

Senator Murray asked:

ANAO audits for the last three years have revealed a consistently low level of compliance across most agencies with DOFA confidentiality criteria (February 2003) for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential. The ANAO's latest report on the Order (No. 11 2005-2006, September 2005) states that department and agencies need to give higher priority with this important requirement of the Senate Order.

- a) What specific measures have been or will be taken to address this problem, give it higher priority and raise compliance levels?
- b) What guidance and training are provided to staff about confidentiality criteria and the four tests to determine whether information should be protected?
- c) What internal auditing or checking is performed to test compliance in this area? If none is performed, why not and is the agency considering the adoption of internal controls and checks?
- d) What problems, if any, have the agency and/or relevant staff experienced in complying with the Senate Order? What is the nature and cause of any problems? What measures have been, or could be, adopted to address these concerns?

Answer:

- a) The ANAO Report No. 11 relates to Commonwealth agencies that are subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). Aboriginal Hostels Ltd (AHL) is a small, Australian Government company funded by the Government and tariffs from hostel residents. It is subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act) and is not required to comply with the Senate Order.

AHL contractual processes follow the principles and practices in the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*.
- b) The four principles for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential are considered as part of the way in which commercially-sensitive data should be handled on confidentiality issues. In 2005, the company adopted a policy that all staff be made aware of the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*. A training and awareness program has commenced.
- c) See answer to part a) above.
- d) The AHL Internal Audit Section checks all processes and procedures within the company and takes a pro-active role in promoting compliance awareness.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited Question No: 137

Topic: Outsourced ICT - Spending

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.
- b) Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).
- c) Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12-month period? If not, please provide details of:
 - i. the extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - ii. details of specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - iii. the reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period.

Answer:

- a) In the financial year 2004-05, Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) spent \$287,655 on ICT goods and services.
- b) Leasing – \$158,987. Maintenance – \$128,668.
- c) Yes.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Question No: 138

Topic: Outsourced ICT Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).
- b) For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:
 - i. the extent of any delay;
 - ii. the reasons these projects were not completed on time;
 - iii. any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).

Answer:

- a) and b)

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) had no ICT projects that failed to meet designated project time frames during the past 12 months.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Question No: 139

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Failed Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

Answer:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited had no ICT projects that materially failed to satisfy project specifications in the past 12 months.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Question No: 140

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Abandoned Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.
- b) For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
 - i. any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
 - ii. Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

- a) and b)

Aboriginal Hostels Limited had no ICT projects abandoned in the past 12 months

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

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

Topic: Contract Negotiations – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

What guidance is provided to staff with responsibilities for contract negotiations specifically about the requirements of the Senate Order? If relevant guidance is not provided, please explain why this is not the case.

Answer:

The company is not required to comply with the requirement of the Senate Order as the Order applies to agencies under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). As an Australian Government company, AHL comes under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (1997)*.

However, the company ensures that contract negotiations are conducted to the required professional and Australian Government standards.

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

.....Question No: 145

Topic: Contract Training – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

- a) What training and awareness sessions are provided, either in-house or through other training providers (eg DOFA, APS Commission or private firms) in respect of the order?
- b) Please provide a list of the dates, the identity of the training providers and the content of the training that staff attended in 2005. If training and awareness sessions are not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

a) and b)

Contract negotiation awareness is conducted by management consultation, staff feedback and information from relevant best practice documents such as those from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

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

Output Group: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

.....Question No: 146

Topic: Procurement Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Murray asked:

Has the department/agency revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2005, particularly with respect to the confidentiality elements contained in those guidelines? If so, when did this occur and can a copy be provided? If not, what is the cause of the delay and when will the revision occur?

Answer:

Yes.

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



Australian Government

Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Construction Standards



Mackay Hostel

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

May 2005

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 009

Topic: ANAO Audits – Australian Institute of Family Studies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

ANAO audits for the last three years have revealed a consistently low level of compliance across most agencies with DOFA confidentiality criteria (February 2003) for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential. The ANAO's latest report on the Order (No.11 2005-2006, September 2005) states that departments and agencies need to give higher priority with this important requirement of the Senate Order.

- a) What specific measures have been or will be taken to address this problem, give it higher priority and raise compliance levels?
- b) What guidance and training are provided to staff about confidentiality criteria and the four tests employed to determine whether information should be protected?
- c) What internal auditing or checking is performed to test compliance in this area? If none is performed, why not and is the agency considering the adoption of internal controls and checks?
- d) What problems, if any, has the agency and/or relevant staff experienced in complying with the Senate Order? What is the nature and cause of any problems? What measures have been, or could be, adopted to address these concerns?

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, agency and is not required to report under the Senate Order.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies Question No: 133

Topic: Outsourced ICT - Spending

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- d) Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.
- e) Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).
- f) Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12 month period? If not, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - ii. Details of on specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - iii. The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period.

Answer:

During the past 12 months the Australian Institute of Family Studies has had no outsourced ICT functions.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies Question No: 134

Topic: Outsourced ICT - Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- c) Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).
- d) For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:
 - iv. The extent of any delay;
 - v. The reasons these projects were not completed on time;
 - vi. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).

Answer:

During the past 12 months the Australian Institute of Family Studies has had no outsourced ICT functions.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 135

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Failed Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

Answer:

During the past 12 months the Australian Institute of Family Studies has had no outsourced ICT functions.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 136

Topic: Outsourced ICT – Abandoned Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

1. Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.
2. For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
 - a. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
 - b. Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

During the past 12 months the Australian Institute of Family Studies has had no outsourced ICT functions.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 141

Topic: Contract Negotiations – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

What guidance is provided to staff with responsibilities for contract negotiations specifically about the requirements of the Senate Order? If relevant guidance is not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, agency and is not required to report under the Senate Order.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 142

Topic: Contracts Training – Senate Order

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

- a) What training and awareness sessions are provided, either in-house or through other training providers (eg. DOFA, APS Commission or private firms) in respect of the Order?
- b) Please provide a list of the dates, the identity of the training providers and the content of the training that staff attended in 2005. If training and awareness sessions are not provided please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, agency and is not required to report under the Senate Order.

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

Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies.....Question No: 143

Topic: Procurement Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

Has the department/agency revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2005, particularly with respect to the confidentiality elements contained in those guidelines? If so, when did this occur and can a copy be provided? If not, what is the cause of the delay and when will the revision occur?

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, agency and is not required to report under the Senate Order.