

Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Examination of Budget Estimates 2010-2011
Answers to Questions on Notice
CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
Cross Outcome and Outcomes 1 to 7

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice, tabled papers, and additional information relating to the budget estimates hearings on 31 May and 1 June 2010 and cross portfolio Indigenous matters hearing 4 June 2010

21 OCTOBER 2010

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Budget Estimates Hearings

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF
BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2010-2011**

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and
tabled papers relating to the budget estimates hearings on 31 May and 1 June
2010 and
cross portfolio Indigenous matters hearing 4 June 2010

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

Index of answers received - answers follow in Outcome order

Quest. No.	Senator	Cross outcome	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
T1A tabled at hearing		Tabled by Senator Boyce 31.05.10 Government response to Senate Community Affairs Committee report on FaHCSIA website	24.06.10
T9 tabled at hearing		Tabled by FaHCSIA 31.05.10 Breakdown of staff with a disability	24.06.10
T15 tabled at hearing		Tabled by FaHCSIA 1.06.10 External legal expenditure 2007-08 to 30 April 2010	24.06.10
		Letter from FaHCSIA dated 03.09.10 correcting evidence provided at the estimates hearing on 31.05.10 relating to advertising expenditure	30.09.10
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037	Siewert	Research news	28.10.10
038	Fifield	FaHCSIA Website	28.10.10
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041	Fifield	Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs)	28.10.10
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T5 tabled at hearing		Tabled by Senator Cameron 31.05.10 Davis Langdon Harpa Street Report 11.05.10 <i>Harpa Street, Palm Cove, Housing Project: Indicative Budget Estimates 11 May 2010</i>	24.06.10
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126	Ludlam	National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)	28.10.10
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135	Fifield	National Compact's Launch	28.10.10
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179	Fifield	Disability Action Plan	28.10.10
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181	Boyce	Special Medical Procedure	28.10.10
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203	C. Brown	UN Commission on the Status of Women	28.10.10
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Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

TIA
Provided by Senator Boyce at
Community Affairs Legislation
Committee - at Senate Estimates
31/5/10.

Introduction

The Commonwealth Government welcomes the Senate Community Affairs Committee's report, *A decent quality of life: Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians*.

The Government understands that cost increases in the essentials like food, petrol, gas and electricity bills are having a significant impact on people on fixed incomes, including age pensioners and other seniors.

Before being elected in November 2007, the Australian Labor Party had growing concerns about claims that many age pensioners have difficulty managing on the base pension rate.

Acting on these concerns, the following matters were referred on 14 June 2007 to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs for inquiry and report:

- a. the cost of living pressures on older Australians, both pensioners and self-funded retirees, including:
 - i. the impact of recent movements in the price of essentials, such as petrol and food,
 - ii. the costs of running household utilities, such as gas and electricity, and
 - iii. the cost of receiving adequate dental care;
- b. the impact of these cost pressures on the living standards of older Australians and their ability to participate in the community;
- c. the impact of these cost pressures on older Australians and their families, including caring for their grandchildren and social isolation;
- d. the adequacy of current tax, superannuation, pension and concession arrangements for older Australians to meet these costs; and
- e. review the impact of Government policies and assistance introduced across all portfolio areas over the past 10 years which have had an impact on the cost of living for older Australians.

After hearing evidence and taking submissions from a wide range of groups and individuals, the Senate Committee on Community Affairs released its comprehensive report on 20 March 2008. It highlights a number of issues relating to the adequacy of assistance for seniors and provides evidence that some groups, such as single women and people who rent, are not faring as well as others. The report provides thought-provoking material and provides a solid basis for further work. Through its recommendations, it clearly identified a range of issues for the Government's consideration.

In other action before its election, the Australian Labor Party framed a number of election commitments in its "Making Ends Meet" package that would enable increased financial assistance to be delivered quickly to senior Australians.

Since the election, the Government has been implementing its election commitments, including those that provide more support to senior Australians, and also announced measures in the 2008-09 Budget that provide additional support.

All eligible seniors received a \$500 bonus payment resulting from the Government's first Budget. The \$500 bonus was paid directly into bank accounts before 30 June 2008.

The Government is paying pensioners an increased Utilities Allowance of \$500 a year (singles or couples combined). The first \$125 instalment of the increased Utilities Allowance was paid in March and the second payment was made in June 2008.

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T9

31 May 2010 – Cross Outcomes

Question from Senator Boyce about the breakdown of staff with a disability.

Answer:

As at 24 May 2010

Total number of staff self-identifying as having a disability: 185

Ongoing Full Time - 155
Ongoing Part Time - 15

Non-ongoing Full Time - 11
Non-Ongoing Part time - 4

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T15

EXTERNAL LEGAL EXPENDITURE
2007-08 TO 30 APRIL 2010

	2007-08		2008-09		July 2009 to 30 April 2010	
	(GST inclusive)		(GST inclusive)		(GST inclusive)	
	FaHCSIA \$M	Portfolio \$M	FaHCSIA \$M	Portfolio \$M	FaHCSIA \$M	Portfolio \$M
External legal services expenditure	5.93	10.08	3.14	7.25	2.38	

Note 1: The Portfolio data includes legal services expenditure for FaHCSIA (the Department) and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Indigenous Business Australia, Indigenous Land Corporation, Torres Strait Regional Authority and Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

Note 2: The figures provided in the Department's annual report differ from those provided above because the figures in the annual report are GST exclusive.

Note 3: Legal services expenditure for the Portfolio for the 2009-10 part year is not available.

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Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise that the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has identified an error in an answer that was provided at Senate Estimates in May 2010.

On Monday 31 May 2010, Senator Fifield questioned the Department over its advertising expenditure in the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date. The figures given in response to this question were taken from the following table:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 to date (30 April 2010)
Campaigns	\$0	\$8,030,000	\$1,168,000
Non-campaigns	\$2,073,663	\$2,063,508	\$906,246
Total	\$2,073,663	\$10,093,508	\$2,074,246

The correct figures are:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 to date (30 April 2010)
Campaigns	\$3,284,307	\$8,030,000	\$1,168,000
Non-campaigns	\$2,398,747	\$2,618,694	\$906,246
Total	\$5,683,054	\$10,648,694	\$2,074,246

The error relating to campaign expenditure in 2007-08 occurred because expenditure prior to the 2007 election was inadvertently excluded. When this error was discovered, the Department checked all other figures used and identified some errors in other figures. These had resulted from inconsistent categorisations of some elements of expenditure.

A subsequent analysis of answers provided to Questions on Notice (QoNs) relating to advertising expenditure dating back to November 2007 identified that responses provided to two QoNs from the February 2010 Additional Estimates also contained incorrect figures.

In responding to QoN33 from Senator Humphries on what the Department had spent on advertising and marketing in the two preceding financial years, the figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 as outlined in the first table were provided. The correct figures for advertising and marketing expenditure for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are those outlined in the second table.

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In responding to QoN240 from Senator Fierravanti-Wells on how much the Department had spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007, the Department provided the following answer:

Since November 2007 the Department has spent \$12,789,000 on the purchase of advertising media, comprising:

Campaign advertising:	\$9,198,000
Including:	
Economic Security Strategy (ESS)	\$3,740,000
First Home Owners Boost (FHOB)	\$4,290,000
Secure and Sustainable Pensions (Pensions)	\$1,168,000
Non-campaign advertising	\$3,591,000
This includes advertising for tenders, expressions of interest, requests for submissions, information sessions, consultation and training sessions and event promotions, but not recruitment advertising	
TOTAL	\$12,789,000

The figure provided for non-campaign advertising and, as a result, the total figure is incorrect.

The correct figure for non-campaign advertising from 24 November 2007 to 31 January 2010 is \$5,069,182 and as a result the correct total is \$14,267,182.

These mistakes occurred due to administrative errors and systems have now been put in place to address the situation. Please accept that there was no intention to mislead the committee.

Yours sincerely


Julia Burns
Group Manager
Corporate Support

3 September 2010

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Outcome Number: Cross – IBA **Question No:** 233

Topic: Indigenous Business Australia – Business Development and Assistance Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA57

Senator Scullion asked:

Would you be able to provide me with how many jobs have been created in the business loans stream?

Answer:

For the 11 months to 31 May 2010, the 74 loans approved by Indigenous Business Australia are expected to create/support 260 jobs for both clients and their staff. Of this, 179 were to Indigenous people.

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Outcome Number: Cross – IBA Question No: 234

Topic: Indigenous Business Australia – Business Development and Assistance Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA58

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you please provide the percentage of loans that are considered to be at risk of default?
What percentage of loans are funded to Indigenous business owner applicants?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2010, 29 per cent of accounts, by number, are in arrears (have failed to make a repayment as per their contractual arrangements by a day or more). Indigenous Business Australia estimates that, of clients who are considered high risk or have previously fallen into arrears and have arrangements in place to work out of the position, a maximum of 14 per cent is at risk of default (that is, they have the potential to default within the next 12 months).

Between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2009 Indigenous Business Australia has written 286 loans. Of these, 220 were for new business commencements or purchasing an existing business. 66 loans (23 per cent) were to Indigenous people already in business.

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Outcome Number: Cross – IBA Question No: 235

Topic: Indigenous Business Australia – Equity and Investments Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA58

Senator Scullion asked:

How many of the 870 staff would be characterised by having a particular number of Indigenous employees?

Answer:

As at 8 July 2010, 221 (or 25.4 per cent) of the 870 staff of IBA Investments (subsidiaries and associated companies) are Indigenous.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 001

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)? What level are these staff?

Answer:

164 permanent (ongoing) staff have been recruited since the additional estimates. The levels of these staff were:

APS1	APS2	APS3	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	PAO1	PAO2	PAO3	SPAO1	SES3	Total
3	3	72	11	12	30	19	6	1	4	1	1	1	164

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 002

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?

Answer:

As at 24 May 2010, there were 255 non-ongoing staff in the Department.

Since additional estimates the number of non-ongoing staff has increased by 21.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 003

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Since additional estimates, how many people have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

Since the additional budget estimates FaHCSIA has employed 87 employees on temporary contract. The average time of employment covered by these contracts is 5.5 months.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 004

Topic: Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?

Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?

Since additional estimates?

If so, where and at what level?

Answer:

No.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 005

Topic: Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details, ie reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, no.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 006

Topic: Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

If your Department/Agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 007

Topic: Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, FaHCSIA engages graduates, cadets and trainees. We do not envisage any changes to our intake numbers.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 009

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

The Department's hospitality spend from 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010 was \$190,258.

Due to the resource intensive nature of extracting this data, the Department is unable to provide the level of disaggregation requested.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 010

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

For each Minister/Parl Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

This question should be referred to the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

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Outcome Number: 7 Question No: 011

Topic: Board Appointments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?

What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?

Answer:

The gender ratio on each board across the portfolio as at 29 June 2010 is:

Boards	Female	Male
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	2	3
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee ¹	1	0
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited	2	3
Common Approach to Assessment Referral and Support	10	14
Independent Panel – Inquiry into a National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme	3	4
Indigenous Business Australia	6	3
Indigenous Land Corporation	2	5
National Compact Sector Advisory Group	5	6
National Housing Supply Council	3	6
National Indigenous Clearing House	2	1
National People with Disabilities and Carer Council	10	7
National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	1	4
Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness	6	4
Violence Against Women Advisory Group	8	2
Volunteering Policy Advisory Group	4	6
Total across the portfolio	65	68

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Elected statutory bodies, elected by communities	Female	Male
Anindilyakwa Land Council ²	10	15
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee ¹	2	12
Central Land Council ³	3	8
Northern Land Council ⁴	3	6
Tiwi Land Council ⁵	0	24
Torres Strait Regional Authority ⁶	3	17
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council ⁷	2	5
Total across the portfolio	23	87

Notes:

1. The Minister can appoint up to three members of the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee. As at 29 June 2010, she had appointed the Chairperson. The other members of the Advisory Committee are elected by the Northern Territory Land Councils.
2. - 5. The Anindilyakwa Land Council, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council and Tiwi Land Council have representatives elected by their communities. These Council representatives perform the functions of a board.
6. The Torres Strait Regional Authority Board consists of 20 elected members who are all Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people living in the region and are elected by their community.
7. The Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council's Executive Committee of nine members is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Council. Due to the recent resignation of one female member and one male member there are currently two vacancies on the Executive Committee.

The Social Security Appeals Tribunal data has not been included in the above table as it is a tribunal not a board. The members of the Tribunal are appointed by the Governor-General.

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The gender balance of appointments made to boards across the portfolio since the Government came to office in November 2007 to 29 June 2010 is:

Portfolio boards	Female	Male
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team	0	1
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	0	4
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee	1	0
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited	2	4
Common Approach to Assessment Referral and Support	10	14
Disability Investment Group	2	5
Homelessness Steering Group	2	1
Independent Panel – Inquiry into a National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme	3	4
Indigenous Business Australia	7	4
Indigenous Community Volunteers	0	3
International Repatriation Advisory Committee	3	5
National Compact Expert Panel	5	7
National Compact Sector Advisory Group	5	6
National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children	10	1
National Housing Supply Council	3	6
National Indigenous Clearing House	2	1
National People with Disabilities and Carer Council	10	7
National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	1	5
Northern Territory Emergency Response Review Board	1	2
Northern Territory Emergency Response Review Board Expert Group	4	7
Northern Territory Emergency Response Taskforce	0	2
Pension Review Reference Group	7	6
Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness	6	4
Violence Against Women Advisory Group	8	2
Volunteering Policy Advisory Group	4	6
Total across the portfolio	96	107

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 012

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

Yes. The Department has and continues to comply with requirements for publishing grant information. All grants from 1 January 2009 are on the Department's website which is updated weekly.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 013

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests?

Answer:

No. As at 20 July 2010, the Department is not aware of having received any advice over the last year in relation to how to respond to specific FOI requests. However, general advice has been received, which we understand was provided to all Departments, about how to respond to FOI requests.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 014

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many FOI requests has the Department received? How many have been granted or denied?

Answer:

The Department has received 40 FOI requests from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Together with 11 carried over from 2008/2009, there were a total of 51 under consideration last financial year. Of these:

- 34 decisions made
 - 4 granted in full
 - 25 granted in part
 - 5 denied
- 3 transferred to other agencies
- 8 withdrawn
- 6 on hand as at 30 June 2010.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 015

Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, no conclusive certificates had been issued during the past year in relation to FOI requests.

Please note that conclusive certificates have been abolished by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009* which commenced on 7 October 2009.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 016

Topic: Community Cabinet

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

Since the Additional Estimates held in February 2010, three Community Cabinet Meetings have taken place.

- a) The cost for Minister Macklin, Minister Plibersek and Parliamentary Secretary Shorten's travel and expenses is obtainable from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- b) The number of ministerial staff that travelled with the Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary is obtainable from the Department of Finance and Deregulation. The table below shows the number of Departmental staff that attended each Community Cabinet meeting since the 2010 Additional Estimates.

Community Cabinet Location	Departmental Staff Attendance
Epping, NSW, 15 April 2010	5
Burnie, TAS, 19 May 2010	4
Perth, WA, 9 June 2010	4

c - d) Refer to (a) above. The total Departmental cost for staff to attend Community Cabinet meetings held since the 2010 Additional Estimates is \$8,537.98.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 017

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?

Answer:

Note: The definition of 'Reviews' used focuses on reviews publicly initiated by the Department or by one of its portfolio Ministers. Other work relating to Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, COAG working groups and internal committees are excluded. This approach is consistent with previous responses and updates information provided in answers to Questions on Notice 018 to 021 from the 2010 Additional Estimates.

The Department has previously responded to similar questions on reviews from Senator Barnett (Question on Notice 018 of Additional Estimates 2010 and Senate Question on Notice S1846), Senator Humphries (Question on Notice 055 of Additional Estimates 2009), Senator Ronaldson (Senate Question on Notice S952), and Senator Bernardi (Question on Notice 031 of Additional Estimates 2009).

Since Question on Notice 018 of Additional Estimates 2010 five additional reviews have been completed:

- Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program Mid-term Evaluation – completed March 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/ypirac>.
- Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP): Post Review Assessment (PRA) – completed March 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/housing/sihip_pra/Pages/default.aspx.
- Independent Review of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory - completed April 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/policing_in_nt/Pages/default.aspx.
- The Senate Community Affairs References Committee *Inquiry into Suicide in Australia* – completed June 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/suicide/index.htm.

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- Independent Review Into 2008 Budget Measures – A Review of the operations of the amendments made to the *Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Act 2008* – completed in June 2010 (yet to be tabled).

As at 15 July 2010 there are three reviews which are ongoing:

- Review of International Repatriation Policy and Program by International Repatriation Advisory Committee – due to be completed July 2010. Information about the International Repatriation Advisory Committee is available at:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/repatriation/Pages/international_repatriation_advisory_committee.aspx.
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability and Care Support - due to be completed July 2010. The Terms of Reference for this review are available at:
<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support>.
- Evaluation of the New Scheme of Income Management – due to be completed December 2014.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 018

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including:

- (a) when those reviews were provided to Government,
- (b) estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
- (c) if the Government has responded to the review; or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.

Answer:

a) The Department has previously responded to similar questions on reviews from Senator Barnett (Question on Notice 018 of Additional Estimates 2010 and Senate Question on Notice S1846), Senator Humphries (Question on Notice 055 of Additional Estimates 2009), Senator Ronaldson (Senate Question on Notice S952), and Senator Bernardi (Question on Notice 031 of Additional Estimates 2009).

As at 15 July 2010 and since Question on Notice 018 of Additional Estimates 2010 five additional reviews have been completed:

- Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program Mid-term Evaluation – completed March 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/ypirac.
- Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP): Post Review Assessment (PRA). The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/housing/sihip_pra/Pages/default.aspx.
- Independent Review of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory - completed April 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/policing_in_nt/Pages/default.aspx.
- The Senate Community Affairs References Committee *Inquiry into Suicide in Australia* – completed June 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/suicide/index.htm.
- Independent Review Into 2008 Budget Measures – A Review of the operations of the amendments made to the *Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Act 2008* – completed in June 2010 (yet to be tabled).

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b) The Department does not separately identify the various costs of supporting reviews in its finance systems. Consequently, and as previously advised, a significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and estimate the total costs of all reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007.

c) As indicated in response to Senate Question on Notice S952 to Senator Ronaldson and Question on Notice 058 to Senator Humphries (2009 Additional Estimates) and Question on Notice 020 to Senator Barnett (2010 Additional Estimates), the Government responds in accordance to its responsibilities in relation to all completed reviews.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 019

Topic: Departmental Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

- (a) How many reviews are ongoing?
- (b) How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
- (c) What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

Answer:

a) As outlined in Question on Notice 017, as at 15 July 2010 there are three ongoing reviews in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency:

- Review of International Repatriation Policy and Program by International Repatriation Advisory Committee – due to be completed this month. Information about the International Repatriation Advisory Committee is available at:
www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/repatriation/Pages/international_repatriation_advisory_committee.aspx.
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability and Care Support - due to be completed this month. The Terms of Reference for this review are available at:
www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support.
- Evaluation of the New Scheme of Income Management – due to be completed December 2014.

b) Since answering similar questions in the context of Additional Estimates 2010, five reviews have concluded:

- Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program Mid-term Evaluation – completed March 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/ypirac.
- Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP): Post Review Assessment (PRA) – completed March 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at: www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/housing/sihip_pra/Pages/default.aspx.
- Independent Review of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory - completed April 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available at:
www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/policing_in_nt/Pages/default.aspx.
- The Senate Community Affairs References Committee *Inquiry into Suicide in Australia* – completed June 2010. The Terms of Reference and Report are available:
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- Independent Review Into 2008 Budget Measures – A Review of the operations of the amendments made to the *Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Act 2008* – completed in June 2010 (yet to be tabled).
- c) A further two reviews are planned for 2010-11. These are:
- Evaluation of the Paid Parental Leave Scheme, and
 - Review of Role and Functions of Native Title Representative Bodies.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 020

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008-09 and 2009-10 FYTD.

Answer:

The number and value of consultancies entered into by FaHCSIA in the period November 2007 to 30 June 2009 and for the 2008-09 financial year can be found in the answer to Senate question on notice S1883.

For the period 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010, FaHCSIA has used a total of 233 consultancies with total expenditure of \$15.2 million. Of these, 178 are new consultancies with expenditure of \$10 million and 55 are ongoing consultancies with expenditure of \$5.2 million.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 021

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Is the Department/Agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, yes. With regard to the second question, published information is consistent with Departmental contract advice.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 022

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

Details of planned procurement processes, including consultancies, appear in FaHCSIA's Annual Procurement Plan. The 2009-10 Annual Procurement Plan was published on the AusTender website on 1 July 2009, with an update published on 12 April 2010.

The 2010-11 Annual Procurement Plan was published on AusTender on 1 July 2010.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 023

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.

Answer:

As at 20 August 2010, FaHCSIA has paid its accounts in accordance with Government policy (ie 90 per cent within 30 days), achieving 93 per cent of all payments within 30 days.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 024

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year? Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, FaHCSIA has not made any interest payments to organisations in respect of overdue invoice amounts.

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Outcome Number: Cross Question No: 025

Topic: Buildings' Energy Efficiency

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please list every building occupied by the Department. For each building, has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?

Answer:

As at 20 August 2010, the majority of FaHCSIA staff are located in Tuggeranong Office Park and Centraplaza in Canberra, both of which are rated at 4.5 stars.

Premises	Audit Yes/No/ In progress	If no, why?	If yes, action taken	Rating
Tuggeranong Office Park, Block 2 Section 14 Division of Greenway, Tuggeranong, ACT	Yes		Lighting upgrade including timers and occupancy sensors, computer shutdowns, water efficient showerheads & timers on BW units	4.5 stars
32 Corinna St, Phillip, ACT	No	Lease Expires Feb 2012; No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Eastwing, Block 9 Section 12, Greenway, ACT	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*
Greenway Waters, Block 11 Section 67, Greenway, ACT	No	Lease Expires June 2011; No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return		

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		would not be realised.		
Guilfoyle House, Cnr Anketell & Reed Street, Greenway, ACT	No	Lease expires Feb 2012; No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Hume Store, Unit 2, 55 Raws Crescent, Hume ACT	No	Warehouse storage space		
Juliana House, 10 Bowes Street, Phillip, ACT	Yes	Expires September 2010	Partial upgrade to sensor lighting	Not rated*
Tuggeranong IT Store, Block 10, Section 12, 184- 192 Reed Street, Greenway, ACT	No	Warehouse storage space		
Suite 0201, Bank House, Woden Town Centre, Phillip, ACT	No	Expires August 2010; No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Block 80 Section 8, Centraplaza, 16 Bowes Street, Phillip, ACT	In progress			4.5 Stars
Block 21 Section 17, 1 Holwell Street (44 Cowlshaw Street), Greenway, ACT		All Subleased		
15 Bowes Street, Phillip, ACT	No	Short term 2 year lease, expires Feb 2012. No legislative requirement.		
70 Sheppard Street, Hume ACT	No	Warehouse		

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17 Duke Street, Coffs Harbour NSW	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
1 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan, NSW	Yes		Lighting upgrade, computer shutdowns	Not rated*
280 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW	In progress			
Suite B05A, Village Centre, Batemans Bay, NSW	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
300 Elizabeth Street, NSW	No	All Subleased		
65 Church Street, Dubbo, NSW	No	Part sub leased to DEEWR; No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
180 Peel Street, Tamworth, NSW	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Rutherglen Community Centre, Blackett, NSW	No	Desk in Community Centre		
Cnr Thompson & O'Reilly Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
16 Hartley Street, Alice Springs, NT	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		

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60 Smith Street, Darwin, NT	No	NTER Site expires Nov 2010		
39-41 Woods Street, Darwin, NT	In progress			
Lot 512, 14 Katherine Terrace, Katherine, NT	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Lot 1622 Chesterfield Street, Nhulunbuy, NT	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
1-9 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
100 Creek Street, Brisbane, QLD	No	No legislative requirement		
38 Sheridan Street, Cairns QLD	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
42-44 Simpson Street, Mt Isa, QLD	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Cnr Fitzroy & 36 East Street, Rockhampton, QLD	Yes			Not rated*
31A Hawthorne Street, Roma, QLD	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
235-259 Stanley Street, Townsville,	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*

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QLD				
Office 1, Main Administration Building, Weipa, QLD	No	Two rooms from local authority.		
11-29 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, SA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
42-44 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, SA	No	All sub leased		
Corner Merghiny and East Terrace, Ceduna, SA	No	Owned site. Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
38-40 Stirling Road, Port Augusta, SA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
199 Collins Street, Hobart, TAS	No	No legislative requirement Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		Base building is 4.5 stars
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC	No	No legislative requirement		
163 Welsford Street, Melbourne, VIC	No	Occupy desk in Vic State Gov Office		
1 Short Street, Broome, WA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
346 Hardman Street, Derby, WA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return		

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		would not be realised.		
5 Chapman Road, Geraldton, WA	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*
39-43 Boulder Road, Kalgoorlie, WA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Lot 2250, Coolibah Drive, Kununurra, WA	No	No legislative requirement; Due to small size of the tenancy a return would not be realised.		
Level 10, 55 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*
Level 12, 152-158 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*
3 Brand Street, South Hedland, WA	Yes		Lighting upgrade	Not rated*

* Audits conducted and energy efficient measures put in place, but formal rating not sought due to size or length of lease.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 026

Topic: MP Contact and Electorate Visits

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Is it general practice to notify the local MP that the Minister is going to visit the electorate?

Answer:

The Minister's visits are determined by the Minister's Office.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 029

Topic: MP Contact and Electorate Visits

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Can I please have a list of all of the Minister's electorate visits since December 2007, if she appeared with a Member of Parliament or a Senator and when the local Member of Parliament was notified and the nature of each visit.

Answer:

A list of Minister Macklin's visits is available from Minister Macklin's website at:

www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/visits/Pages/default.aspx

The Department does not hold information regarding who Minister Macklin appeared with and how they were notified.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 030

Topic: Electorate Level Reporting

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

In regard to Additional Estimates QoN no 32, can I please have the reports tabled or provided to the Committee?

- a. If not, why not?
- b. If the full reports cannot be tabled, can I please have a summary of the following:
 - i. Report Title
 - ii. Request Date
 - iii. Date provided
 - iv. Who requested such a request

What was the purpose of the request?

Answer:

The Department does not prepare progress reports on implementation of Government/FaHCSIA grant programs by electorate. The Department, from time to time, prepare briefs with factual information on a specific location (which may include one or more electorates) to support a senior official or Ministerial visit or event. These are not published.

For its grant programs, FaHCSIA uses data based on the details of the organisation receiving grant funding (this is available on our website), rather than data showing where the service is being provided. This does not accurately provide a picture of the communities being assisted, as funded organisations can have many outlets covering a wide geographic area. To address this FaHCSIA is currently implementing enhanced data collection and reporting to better understand the locational “footprint” of the organisations directly funded by the Department. This will provide an ability to analyse program coverage for policy development purposes.

Early versions of some of this data have been shared with Ministers. The Department is still working to improve the quality of the data to ensure its accuracy across spatial boundaries which include Statistical Division, Statistical Sub-Division, Statistical Local Area and Commonwealth Electorates. Further work on the quality of data needs to occur before the data would be suitable for publication.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 031

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA4

Senator Fifield asked:

How many FaHCSIA staff have left the organisation since the last estimates – resigned or retired?

Answer:

Since additional estimates there were 32 resignations and 5 age retirements.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 032

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10-CA4

Senator Fifield asked:

For 2008-09, can you please provide the staff travel budget that is expenditure on travel easy to get such as air travel (not bus fares and tram fares)?

Answer:

In the 2008-09 financial year, FaHCSIA's expenditure on airfares was \$10,503,307.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 034

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: 31/5/10-CA7

Senator Fifield asked:

Are you able to provide the figure for sustenance for the year to date?

Answer:

“Sustenance” is included in the working meetings data in the answer to question 036.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 035

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: 31/5/10-CA9

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you advise if the hospitality expenditure for the year to date has declined from the previous year?

Answer:

Hospitality expenditure for 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010 has declined compared to the period 1 July 2008 to 30 April 2009.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 036

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: 31/5/10-CA9

Senator Fifield asked:

In regard to working meetings, can you please provide a breakdown of, in broad terms, venue hire, food, beverages, the external meetings and the reward and recognition?

Answer:

FaHCSIA Departmental expenditure recorded for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010 as Catering – Working Meals was \$240,519, Catering – External meetings was \$214,762 and Recognise and Appreciate People Scheme and Rewards was \$19,750.

The Department's financial system is not configured to provide a breakdown of venue hire, food and beverages without significant resourcing implications.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 037

Topic: Research News

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA24

Senator Siewert asked:

In regard to the internal review of the evidence dissemination systems, did you go to outside stakeholders? Interested in if any survey work of external stakeholders to see how they used Research News and what the feedback from the external stakeholders was: who it is used by? How much is the department saving by not continuing with Research News? Please provide a time line for when the new process is going to be on board.

Answer:

Why was *FaHCSIA Research News* discontinued and who was consulted?

FaHCSIA Research News was a periodic newsletter produced by the Department's Research and Analysis Branch. The newsletter showcased some of the research activity that was occurring in the department. *Research News* provided an update of the longitudinal surveys funded by FaHCSIA, workshops and seminars held at FaHCSIA, summaries of FaHCSIA research publications, articles on selected external publications and a list of upcoming conferences.

Before the March 2010 issue, Research News was released as a printed product and also released online. In September 2009, a decision was made to make this an online-only newsletter in order to reduce production and printing costs and create a more interactive and user friendly product.

E-notifications and hard copy advice was sent to approximately 260 external stakeholders about the impending withdrawal of the printed version. FaHCSIA did not receive any feedback on this decision, either through return emails or the publications line. Usage of the online-only newsletter was reviewed after the release of the March 2010 issue. Analysis of viewing statistics revealed that recipients were only skimming the content. Additional internal review of use by FaHCSIA staff also revealed that the content was only used by a small number of staff.

Due to low consumption and high cost of preparation (staff time) relative to usage, a decision was taken to cease production of this newsletter.

How much will the department save by not producing FaHCSIA Research News?

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The Department will save approximately \$24,000 per issue and \$72,000 per year by discontinuing this product (this includes a small amount of funds spent on typesetting the document).

What processes are in place to ensure the information is available elsewhere and when will this take place?

Much of the information contained in *Research News* is available elsewhere. Information on the longitudinal surveys are available on their respective websites (see: www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/, www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/ and www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/families/lsc/Pages/default.aspx). In addition, targeted email updates are sent to key stakeholders on survey mailing lists.

The articles on workshops and seminars held at FaHCSIA are mainly of benefit to FaHCSIA staff. This information is already provided on the FaHCSIA intranet seminars page and through associated notifications.

FaHCSIA research publications and their executive summaries are available on the FaHCSIA research publication page of the website (see: www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/research/Pages/default.aspx). Release of publications is also promoted through the news items on the FaHCSIA website. Additionally, subscribers to research publications receive e-notifications and/or hard copy publications.

Forthcoming conferences are advertised to staff through the Department's internal R&E Network Bulletin. This information is also readily available to external stakeholders through the conference list page of the Australian Institute Family Studies website (see: www.aifs.gov.au/institute/conf/confmenu.html?tbm=1). In addition, each conference has its own website.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 038

Topic: FaHCSIA Website

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA25

Senator Fifield asked:

In regard to the budget night website issue, why did it take several hours after other portfolios links were up for the FaHCSIA link to work?

Answer:

The Department loaded its Portfolio Budget Statement and supporting information onto FaHCSIA's website at 9.15 pm approximately on Budget night, in line with a Senate Tabling Office direction that the material should not be published until the documents had been tabled in the Senate.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 039

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA26

Senator Moore asked:

Can you provide the number of staff in the department with over 20 years service?

Answer:

As at 24 May 2010, there were 333 staff in the Department with over 20 years of service in the APS.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 041

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs)

Hansard Page: 31/5/10-CA28 and CA29

Senator Fifield asked:

Of the contracts that the department have with ADEs, how many of those are as a result of taking up the exemption of the need to go for tender?

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, there are none that required an exemption.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 043

Topic: Advertising

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA21

Senator Boswell asked:

Is there a commitment for the government that they will not use advertising for three months before an election?

Answer:

The Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies of March 2010 represent the Government's policy in relation to information and advertising campaigns.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 044

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA34

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of staff in the Office for Women – full time, part time, ongoing, non-ongoing?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2010, the total number of staff in the Office for Women, including Safety Taskforce Branch, was 57. The breakdown was as follows:

Total Office for Women Staff	57
Ongoing	55
Non-Ongoing	2
Full time	48
Part time	9

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 045

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA74

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you please provide the number of staff in the department with a disability?

Answer:

As at 24 May 2010, there were 185 staff in the department who self identified as having a disability.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 054

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA20

Senator Ryan asked:

Was there contact with the Minister's offices about the Parliamentary Library's request to access data?

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, there was no contact with the Minister's office about the Parliamentary Library request.

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Outcome Number: Cross **Question No:** 129

Topic: FaHCSIA Reports

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA127

Senator Humphries asked:

Can all currently prepared reports on the progress of the implementation of government/FaHCSIA programs at the electorate level be provided for the current financial year to date?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided for QoN 030.

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Outcome Number: Cross - IBA

Question No: 232

Topic: Indigenous Business Australia – Business Development and Assistance Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA56

Senator Scullion asked:

What percentage of the portfolio is in the demographic where it has been difficult and you are having to assist? Is it all of the portfolio, part of it, half of it, a small amount?

Answer:

Indigenous Business Australia's practice following loan approval is to make independent business support available to provide assistance to the loan client and monitoring information to Indigenous Business Australia. Where a loan client misses a repayment, contact is made with the client in order to assess what actions may need to be taken regarding the loan. The kinds of assistance generally provided are deferred repayments, interest only, negotiated instalments and zero interest. As at 8 July 2010, loan clients comprising one-third of the portfolio were benefiting from assistance of this type.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 008

Topic: Government advertising

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?

(by ‘communications program’ it is meant communication of a government message to the public – possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums. The recent (current) Government TV advertising campaign on health reform and specific health initiatives are examples, BER signage is an example, advertising on the Government’s proposed new tax system would be another example.)

A breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.

Answer:

The communication program undertaken by the Department between Additional Estimates hearings 2010 and Budget Estimates hearings 2010 is:

Communication program	Total spend
International Day of People with Disability. This program included television and radio community service announcements (airtime at no cost), a promotional postcard as well as Facebook and Twitter promotions.	\$31,300 (approximately)

Communication programs planned to be undertaken:

Communication program	Total spend
Respectful Relationships social marketing campaign – “The Line Campaign”	\$17 million over four years
Paid Parental Leave campaign	\$12.092 million over two years

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 033

Topic: Campaigns

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA6

Senator Fifield asked:

How much has the Department spent in 2006-07 on campaigns and non-campaign advertising?

Answer:

The Department spent \$9,359,808 on campaign advertising and \$3,294,496 on non-campaign advertising in 2006-07. These figures are GST inclusive and include recruitment advertising.

This information can be found in the 2006-07 Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Annual Report.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio - EOWA

Question No: 189

Topic: Non-complying companies and the EOWA non-complying list

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Commonwealth purchasing officers are supposed to check the non-complying companies appearing on the EOWA non-compliant list, is it fact that this procedure is actually not part of the Act but, rather, a general government policy?

Answer:

Contract Compliance Policy is contained in the *Guidance on Complying with Policies of the Commonwealth in Procurement* (FMG10) list of interacting policies (Department of Finance and Deregulation).

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio - EOWA

Question No: 190

Topic: Non-complying companies and the EOWA non-complying list

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Are government departments and agencies required to report if any listed organisations seek to enter into any contract to provide goods or services?

Answer:

EOWA has been advised by the Procurement Policy Branch, Department of Finance and Deregulation, that government departments and agencies are not required to report if any listed organisations seek to enter into any contract to provide goods or services.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio - EOWA

Question No: 191

Topic: Non-complying companies and the EOWA non-complying list

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What guarantees can be made that purchasing or other relevant officers in all government departments and agencies automatically check the non-complying list whenever they have to make a decision?

Answer:

The following response was provided by the Procurement Policy Branch, Department of Finance and Deregulation:

“The Australian Government Procurement Policy Framework contains governance measures that ensure compliance with procurement-connected policies. For example, before approving a spending proposal under Regulation 9 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997*, an approver must be satisfied that the proposal is not inconsistent with government policy.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation publishes guidance on procurement-connected policies. The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace – Contract Compliance Policy is contained in the *Guidance on Complying with Policies of the Commonwealth in Procurement* (FMG10) list of interacting policies, including a link to the list of non-compliant organisations. Procuring officials are obliged not to contract with an organisation that appears on the list.”

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio - EOWA

Question No: 192

Topic: Non-complying companies and the EOWA non-complying list

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has there ever been any instance of a non-complying company or organisation providing goods or services to any Commonwealth department or agency because of a failure to consult the list on the EOWA website? Are there any penalties for purchasing officers if they do enter into some contract or arrangement with a non-complying company?

Answer:

In 2004, EOWA was made aware by an employee from the Navy that the Army and Navy in Cairns had been trading with an employer non-compliant with the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (EOWW Act). Once the Defence Department discovered this organisation was non-compliant, they advised the relevant employer they were unable to continue trading with them until they became compliant with the EOWW Act. The organisation in question submitted a compliant report shortly after that advice.

Regarding penalties for purchasing officers, the advice below was received from the Procurement Policy Branch, Department of Finance and Deregulation:

“Chief Executives have responsibility for the management of their agencies and compliance with Government policy. The role of seeking to ensure the conduct of employees is compliant with relevant legislation and policy is consistent with these responsibilities.

If an FMA Act agency identifies an instance of non-compliance with relevant legislation and/or policy, this would need to be reported by the Chief Executive in the agency's Certificate of Compliance. The circumstances of the breach, including any remedial action will also need to be reported. For further information, see Finance Circular 2009/06: Certificate of Compliance – FMA Act Agencies, available at <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/finance-circulars/2009/06.html>”.

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 064

Topic: Family Relationship Program

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Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA15

Senator Siewert asked:

Did all funding for the Family Relationships Program get expended last year?

Answer:

No, there was an underspend of \$0.611 million as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Family Relationship Services expenditure for 2008-09

Program	Budget \$m	Expenditure \$m	Underspend \$m
National Illicit Drug Strategy	3.103	3.072	0.031
Family Violence Partnerships Program	12.233	11.978	0.255
Family Violence Regional Activities Program	5.399	5.399	0.000
Family Relationship Services Program	73.380	73.055	0.325
TOTALS	94.115	93.504	0.611

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 066

Topic: FTB A Appeals Process

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA17

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you advise whether anything has gone to the Federal Court?

Answer:

In 2008-09, there were no FTB related appeals to the Federal Court.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 069

Topic: Baby Bonus

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA 21-22

Senator Boyce asked:

Do you anticipate that the amount of recipients being paid Baby Bonus would have been slightly higher in other circumstances – that is, if Paid Parental Leave (PPL) was not implemented?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the ABS estimate of number of babies to be born in 2011-12 is 290,000. The estimated take-up rate for Baby Bonus is currently 94 per cent. We would expect the current take-up of Baby Bonus to remain the same in the absence of PPL.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 070

Topic: Administrative costs for Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA26-27

Senator Boyce asked:

Of the administrative funding, what proportion has been spent on computer programs, development of systems etc? Is it possible to disaggregate those figures in terms of what is being set up and will continue to be used by FAO, in terms of paying employers, and what has been set up and will be used just for the payment of employees?

Answer:

The Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme commences in 2010-11. The first claims can be received from 1 October 2010 and the first payments will be made from 1 January 2011. The Centrelink IT system development and build supports the new claim process for all applicants, as well as the funding of employers to pay Parental Leave pay and the direct payment of the remaining recipients through the Family Assistance Office (FAO).

Centrelink received departmental funding of \$21.8 million for implementation and ongoing operation of the scheme for 2010-11. An additional \$4.6 million represented a capital injection for internally developed software.

Of the \$21.8 million in 2010-11, most of the funding is allocated to additional staffing, with a component for administrative expenses. The proportion spent on computer programs and systems development is provided as follows:

- Staffing costs for IT development and maintenance are around 30 per cent of the total new staffing costs.
- The other administrative expenses component is comprised of \$3.9 million for IT system costs (for contractors, system development and software) and \$2.2 million for general administrative expenses (application forms, letters, information materials, communications and marketing, and postage).

As a comparison, Centrelink received departmental funding of \$18.1 million for 2011-12, the first full year of operation of the scheme.

- Staffing costs for IT reduce to around six per cent of the total new staffing costs.
- IT administrative expenses reduce to around \$0.7 million per year, and general administration costs to \$1.2 million, mainly due to a smaller communications and marketing component.

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It is not possible to further disaggregate the IT figures in terms of what is being set up and will continue to be used by FAO, in terms of paying employers, and what has been set up and will be used just for the payment of employees.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 071

Topic: Paid Parental Leave – Funding for Extra Staff

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA29

Senator Boyce asked:

How does that break up in terms of staff and what else will it be expended on? Could we have the number of extra staff that those organisations will get?

Answer:

Centrelink, the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal received a total of \$18.1 million over five years in the 2010-11 Budget for the Paid Parental Leave – Implementation measure.

The departmental funding and the Average Staffing Levels (ASL) for Centrelink and the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman, and the funding allocated to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal in the 2010-11 Budget are provided in the following tables.

Most of the funding provided is for staffing costs. The remainder is allocated to general administration and system costs.

Centrelink

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Dept funding	\$0.4m	\$3.5m	\$4.3m	\$2.9m	\$2.3m
ASL	2.3	20.5	35.8	25.9	19.7

Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Dept funding	0	\$0.2m	\$1.8m	\$1.4m	\$1.0m
ASL	0	1.5	15	12	8

Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT)

The SSAT received \$0.3 million on the basis of the number of employer cases that the SSAT is expected to hear in a given year.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 072

Topic: Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – Feedback on the PPL Booklets

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA33

Senator Adams asked:

Have you had any feedback from members of Parliament?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the Department has not received any feedback from members of Parliament about the *Paid Parental Leave - Information for Parents* and *Paid Parental Leave - Information for Employers and Consultation Outcomes* booklets. The Department has received requests to provide additional booklets to two members.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 164

Topic: Support for Siblings of People with a Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

As the Department may be aware, there has been limited research in Australia into the mental and physical effects of growing up with a disabled sibling. What steps will the Government be taking to support further research into this topic?

How many siblings does the Government believe would be eligible for these programs?

Answer:

The Department undertakes a wide range of research into various aspects of Australian families to produce evidence that informs policies and programs. Funding is available to undertake a range of research projects that are relevant and useful to policy priorities.

The Department will consider how this topic fits with the FaHCSIA Research and Evaluation Plan 2009-10 and its Evidence Priorities for 2009-12 and what capacity there may be to fund further research in this area.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 251

Topic: Communities for Children Plus (CfC Plus)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Was a select tender process used in allocating the Communities for Children Plus provider in Kempsey?

Answer:

Yes a restricted tender process was used to select a provider in Kempsey.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 252

Topic: Communities for Children Plus (CfC Plus)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Was there local consultation or an opportunity for organisations already working in Kempsey to express an interest in the role?

Answer:

Organisations identified and invited to apply had extensive experience in delivering the Communities for Children model, and had demonstrated capacity to establish the new Communities for Children Plus site.

Under the Communities for Children and Communities for Children Plus service delivery model, a collaborative approach is taken to local service delivery. Local organisations are involved in strategic planning, and funds are directed to local providers as services are rolled out to meet identified community needs.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 046

Topic: Support for siblings of people with a disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What programs or funding does the department have in place to support siblings of people with a disability?

Answer:

See answer to Question on Notice number 049.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 047

Topic: Support for Siblings of People with a Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

Families Australia has identified support for siblings of people with a disability or chronic illness as an area for improvement in their 2010 election proposals, and has called for a national NGO to coordinate support services for siblings. What is the department's position on Families Australia's proposal?

Answer:

The Department is aware of the Families Australia 2010 election proposal for a national non-government organisation to coordinate support services for siblings of people with disabilities or chronic illness.

Families Australia is funded by the Department under the National Secretariat Program which provides scope for Families Australia to work with the Department to further develop this proposal.

The Government is also developing a National Carer Strategy.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 048

Topic: Support for siblings of people with a disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What commitments will the Government be making regarding sibling support services for the coming years?

Answer:

The Department is not able to comment on what commitments the Government may be making in coming years.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 049

Topic: Support for siblings of people with a disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

Is the Department familiar with Siblings Australia Inc and the key role it plays in offering sibling support services? What support does the Government currently provide for this organisation, and how does the Government plan to support it in coming years?

Answer:

The Department is familiar with Siblings Australia Inc.

In 2008-09, following a request from Siblings Australia Inc, the Government provided funding of \$75,000 (excluding GST) for:

- a scoping project to collect information on Siblings Programs around Australia to map current practices undertaken by different organisations and develop a directory of sibling services; and
- the development of the Siblings Australia Conference 2009: Creating Connections, which was held in November 2009.

The Department is not able to confirm what commitments the government may make to Siblings Australia in the future.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 050

Topic: Single Mothers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department looked at any strategies to help single mothers off income support and into full time secure employment? If not, why not?

Answer:

As at 10 August 2010, income support payments for single mothers are the responsibility of the Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 051

Topic: Single Mothers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department looked at any strategies to help young women understand that 'doing it alone' comes with significant burdens and may not equate to the unrealistic representations presented in the media? If not, why not?

Answer:

The FaHCSIA funded Raising Children Network at [www.http://raisingchildren.net.au/](http://raisingchildren.net.au/) provides information and support to all parent groups including single parents, young parents and parenting as a teenager. The website offers opportunities to share experiences and information through discussion forums and other media such as short videos featuring younger parents talking about their parenting experiences, including information on young parent support groups and playgroups, advantages and disadvantages of being a young parent and strategies for coping with the demands of children.

The Australian Government has provided funding for a new, expanded national 24 hour Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Helpline 1800 882 436 which commenced on 1 July 2010. Women, their partners and families will be able to call the Helpline for advice and information about pregnancy, birth and the first 12 months of a baby's life.

The independent charitable organisation, Royal District Nursing Service Ltd, will provide this free service, offering information and counselling on a wide spectrum of topics relating to pregnancy, birthing and life with a new baby, including issues such as nutrition for mothers and babies, breastfeeding, relationship support and health care options.

The \$17 million helpline will be able to refer to or provide information on other organisations with special areas of expertise, for example the Breastfeeding Hotline, adoption agencies, Post and Antenatal Depression Association (PANDA), BeyondBlue and Family Planning.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 053

Topic: Baby Bonus

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department examined the cost of abolishing baby bonus means testing for families with a stay at home parent? If not, why not?

Answer:

No. As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, it is Australian Government policy to means test the Baby Bonus.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 055

Topic: Early Intervention Services

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA5

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you please provide funding for each of the programs (Early Intervention Services) for 2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07?

Answer:

The funding for each Early Intervention Program for each financial year between 2006-07 and 2009-10 is as follows:

Amount by Financial Year (\$m)				
Program	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Family Relationships Counselling	15.603	18.418	20.662	21.117
Adolescent Mediation & Family Therapy	3.201	3.268	3.334	3.407
Family Relationships Education *	1.015	0.910	-	-
Family Relationship Skills Training *	0.334	0.153	-	-
Men & Family Relationships	9.106	11.789	13.937	14.244
Program Support Organisations	0.716	0.613	0.826	0.926
Family Relationships Education & Skills Training	9.090	11.553	15.167	15.501
Family Relationships for Carers	1.041	1.578	1.742	1.514
Sugar Industry Relationships Counselling	0.215	0.174	0.000	0.000
Family Relationship Services for Humanitarian Entrants	1.281	1.308	1.334	1.364
Family Support Drought Response Teams	1.520	3.761	6.250	6.396
Men's Access Line	2.925	3.003	3.063	3.130
Specialised Family Violence Services	3.853	3.954	4.051	4.140
Totals	49.900	60.482	70.366	71.739

* These two program streams became part of the Family Relationships Education & Skills Training in 2008-09.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 059

Topic: Data

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA10 and CA12

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the degree of accuracy for the data that was used for the decision making by AG's on the funding cuts? Why would AG's have used 2007-08 data rather than the most recent data?

Answer:

This is a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 060

Topic: List of Streams

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA10-11

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide me a list of the 30 streams of activity?

Answer:

The 30 streams of activity under the Family Support Program in 2009-10 are:

Early Intervention Services program streams (FaHCSIA Funded)

1. Men and Family Relationship Services (MFR)
2. Adolescent Mediation and Family Therapy (AMFT)
3. Specialised Family Violence Services (SFVS)
4. Family Relationship Education and Skills Training (FREST)
5. Family Relationship Counselling (Counselling)
6. Family Relationships Services for Humanitarian Entrants (FRSHE)
7. Family Relationship Services for Families in Special Circumstances (FRSFSC)
which includes Family Support Drought Response Teams (FSDRT)
8. Family Relationship Services for Carers (FRSC)
9. Mensline Australia (Mensline)
10. National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS) (Replaced by Kids in Focus – Family Drug Support (KIF) 1 May 2010).

Post Separation Services program streams (AGD Funded)

11. Family Relationship Centres (FRC)
12. Children's Contact Services (CCS)
13. Parenting Orders Program (POP)
14. Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)
15. Regional Family Dispute Resolution (RFDR)
16. Supporting Children after Separation Program (SCaSP)
17. Post-Separation Cooperative Parenting (PSCP)
18. Family Relationship Counselling (Counselling)
19. Family Relationships Online (FRO)
20. Family Relationship Advice Line (FRAL)

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Children and Parenting program streams (FaHCSIA Funded)

21. Communities for Children (CfC)
22. Communities for Children Plus (CfC+)
23. Indigenous Parenting Support Services (IPSS)
24. Indigenous Children's Program (ICP)
25. Invest to Grow (ITG)
26. Indigenous Supported Playgroups (ISP)
27. Community Playgroups (CP)
28. Supported Playgroups (SP)
29. Locational Supported Playgroups (LSP)
30. Responding Early, Assisting Children (REACH)

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 061

Topic: Areas of Disadvantage

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA13

Senator Siewert asked:

How have any of the funding cuts impacted on access to those services in the most disadvantaged areas?

Answer:

This is a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 063

Topic: Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA14

Senator Fifield asked:

Has the Department received any representations from organisations seeking a deferral of the cuts?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, FaHCSIA has not received any representations seeking a deferral of the cuts to services funded by the Attorney-General's Department.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 250

Topic: Communities for Children Plus (CfC Plus)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Was the recently announced \$3.5M for Communities for Children Plus in Kempsey a new site for C4C, ie there wasn't one previously running there?

Answer:

The Communities for Children Plus site in Kempsey is a new site. It is one of eight sites committed as part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 065

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part A

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA15

Senator Fifield asked

How many families got the full Family Tax Benefit Part A in 2008-09 and 2007-08?
Could you also provide the families receiving part FTB A in 2008-09 and 2007-08?

Answer:

This information is available in the FaHCSIA annual reports for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Source:

1. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2007-08, page 209.
2. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2008-09, pages 163 and 164.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 067

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part B

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA17

Senator Fifield asked

How many families received the full Family Tax Benefit Part B in 2008-09 and 2007-08?
And how many received part FTB B in 2008-09 and 2007-08?

Answer:

This information is available in the FaHCSIA annual reports for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Source:

1. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2007-08, page 209.
2. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2008-09, page 163 and 164.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 068

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA17

Senator Fifield asked

What is the total cost of FTB A and FTB B for 2008-09 and 2007-08?

Answer:

This information is available in the FaHCSIA 2007-08 and 2008-09 annual reports.

Source:

1. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2007-08, page 207.
2. FaHCSIA Annual Report 2008-09, page 299.

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Outcome Number: Outcome 1

Question No: 057

Topic: Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 CA 8-9

Senator Fifield asked:

Are you able to provide a list of each (Family Relationship) Centre and its funding level for the last three financial years? Could you also provide the total appropriation for the centres for 2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07?

Answer:

Attached is a list of each Family Relationship Centre and its funding level for the past four financial years.

The total amount administered by FaHCSIA for Family Relationship Centres on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department was:

2009-10:	\$74,663,154.99
2008-09:	\$76,425,282.05
2007-08:	\$48,670,081.34
2006-07:	\$21,944,540.00

Note: The large increase in 2008-09 was mainly due to 25 new Family Relationship Centres being contracted, including one-off funding for establishment made available to help set up services.

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FRC funding by Centre for Financial periods 2006-07 to 2009-10 was as follows:

Organisation	State	FRC Name	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	2009-10 \$	TOTAL \$
Anglicare WA	WA	FRC Joondalup	1,092,000.00 *	1,106,764.00	1,352,465.60	1,211,421.82	4,762,651.42
Centacare Townsville	QLD	FRC Townsville	1,237,540.00 *	1,257,402.34	1,505,110.60	1,308,001.59	5,308,054.53
Eastern Access Community Health Inc	VIC	FRC Ringwood	1,659,000.00 *	1,429,400.00	1,603,786.80	1,564,566.92	6,256,753.72
Southern Family Life Services Incorporated T/A Family Life	VIC	FRC Frankston	831,000.00 *	842,325.00	945,088.66	921,976.94	3,540,390.60
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Lismore	983,000.00 *	997,517.00	1,194,027.86	1,091,844.20	4,266,389.06
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Sutherland	1,084,000.00 *	1,101,659.00	1,346,227.30	1,205,834.08	4,737,720.38
Mallee Family Care Inc	VIC	FRC Mildura	764,000.00 *	774,939.00	927,601.99	848,218.78	3,314,759.77
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC Penrith	983,000.00 *	989,349.00	1,110,049.58	1,082,903.82	4,165,302.40
Relationships Australia (QLD)	QLD	FRC Strathpine	915,000.00 *	925,026.00	1,037,879.18	1,012,498.31	3,890,403.49
Relationships Australia (SA) Inc	SA	FRC Salisbury	1,074,000.00 *	1,085,323.00	1,489,950.00	1,187,953.31	4,837,226.31
Relationships Australia (Victoria) Inc	VIC	FRC Sunshine	1,301,000.00 *	1,317,090.00	1,023,264.00	1,441,636.66	5,082,990.66
Relationships Australia Canberra and Region	ACT	FRC Canberra	1,155,000.00 *	1,168,024.00	1,310,522.92	1,278,474.69	4,912,021.61
Relationships Australia Northern Territory Inc	NT	FRC Darwin	1,429,000.00 *	1,453,904.00	1,776,670.68	1,591,388.07	6,250,962.75
Relationship Counselling and Mediation Services T/A Relationships Australia TAS	TAS	FRC Hobart	824,000.00 *	861,724.00	1,053,026.72	943,210.34	3,681,961.06
UnitingCare NSW.ACT T/A UnitingCare Unifam	NSW	FRC Wollongong	944,000.00 *	954,635.00	1,071,100.48	1,044,907.19	4,014,642.67

* Establishment funding was paid in 2005-06

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Organisation	State	FRC Name	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	2009-10 \$	TOTAL \$
Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council T/A Anglicare NSW	NSW	FRC Nowra (South Coast)	215,000.00 #	986,000.00	1,106,292.00	1,079,238.13	3,386,530.13
Anglicare WA	WA	FRC Mandurah	92,000.00 #	447,000.00	501,534.00	489,269.21	1,529,803.21
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc T/A Centacare	VIC	FRC Ballarat	186,000.00 #	877,000.00	983,994.00	959,930.87	3,006,924.87
The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane T/A Centacare	QLD	FRC Gold Coast	275,000.00 #	1,276,000.00	1,431,672.00	1,396,661.11	4,379,333.11
Centacare Catholic Family Services	VIC	FRC Geelong	188,000.00 #	893,000.00	1,001,946.00	1,017,298.80	3,100,244.80
Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie Inc T/A Centacare Catholic Family Services	SA	FRC Port Augusta	256,000.00 #	1,157,000.00	1,298,154.00	1,266,408.23	3,977,562.23
The Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton Centacare Family Services T/A Centacare Family Services	WA	FRC Geraldton	182,000.00 #	827,000.00	927,894.00	905,202.77	2,842,096.77
Centrecare Inc	WA	FRC Midland	258,000.00 #	1,195,000.00	1,340,790.00	916,427.40	3,710,217.40
Community Services Australia Ltd	QLD	FRC Ipswich	156,000.00 #	740,000.00	830,280.00	809,975.88	2,536,255.88
FMC Relationship Services T/A Family Mediation Centre	VIC	FRC Morwell/Traralgon	197,000.00 #	922,000.00	1,034,484.00	1,009,186.16	3,162,670.16
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Greater Newcastle	343,000.00 #	1,619,000.00	1,816,518.00	1,772,095.88	5,550,613.88
Lifeline Community Care	QLD	FRC Sunshine Coast	221,000.00 #	1,035,000.00	1,161,270.00	1,240,503.60	3,657,773.60
Relationships Australia Canberra & Region Inc	NSW	FRC Wagga Wagga	176,000.00 #	847,000.00	950,334.00	927,094.01	2,900,428.01
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC Blacktown	201,000.00 #	954,000.00	1,070,388.00	1,044,212.15	3,269,600.15
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC North Ryde	359,000.00 #	1,667,000.00	1,870,374.00	1,824,634.85	5,721,008.85
Relationships Australia (QLD)	QLD	FRC Cairns	279,000.00 #	1,376,000.00	1,543,872.00	1,506,117.31	4,704,989.31
Relationships Australia (QLD)	QLD	FRC Upper Mount Gravatt	284,000.00 #	1,354,000.00	1,519,188.00	1,482,036.95	4,639,224.95
Relationships Australia (Victoria) Inc	VIC	FRC Berwick	191,000.00 #	912,000.00	1,477,774.98	998,240.54	3,579,015.52

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Organisation	State	FRC Name	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	2009-10 \$	TOTAL \$
Relationships Australia (Victoria) Inc	VIC	FRC Greensborough	302,000.00 #	1,415,000.00	1,715,700.00	1,548,805.23	4,981,505.23
Relationship Counselling and Mediation Services Inc T/A Relationships Australia Tasmania	TAS	FRC Launceston	209,000.00 #	996,000.00	1,117,512.00	1,090,183.75	3,412,695.75
Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc	SA	FRC Noarlunga	231,000.00 #	1,102,000.00	1,236,444.00	1,206,207.32	3,775,651.32
UnitingCare NSW.ACT T/A UnitingCare Unifam	NSW	FRC Campbelltown	189,000.00 #	889,000.00	997,458.00	973,065.62	3,048,523.62
UnitingCare NSW.ACT T/A UnitingCare Unifam	NSW	FRC Fairfield	225,000.00 #	1,065,000.00	1,194,930.00	1,165,708.53	3,650,638.53
Upper Murray Family Care Inc	VIC	FRC Wodonga	176,000.00 #	838,000.00	940,236.00	917,242.96	2,871,478.96
Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Rockhampton T/A Centacare Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton	QLD	FRC Rockhampton	278,000.00 #	1,283,000.00	1,439,526.00	1,119,243.30	4,119,769.30
Anglican Community Care Incorporated	SA	FRC Mount Gambier	N/A	112,000.00 #	468,300.00	478,602.60	1,058,902.60
Anglicare WA	WA	FRC Broome (Kimberley)	N/A	191,000.00 #	1,022,700.00	1,045,199.40	2,258,899.40
The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane T/A Centacare	QLD	FRC Chermside	N/A	270,000.00 #	1,312,500.00	1,341,375.00	2,923,875.00
Centacare Diocese of Sandhurst	VIC	FRC Shepparton	N/A	282,000.00 #	1,350,300.00	980,006.60	2,612,306.60
Centacare New England North West	NSW	FRC Tamworth	N/A	196,000.00 #	995,400.00	1,404,323.05	2,595,723.05
The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba Centacare T/A Centacare	QLD	FRC Toowoomba	N/A	227,000.00 #	1,095,150.00	1,376,304.82	2,698,454.82
Community Connections (Victoria) Limited	VIC	FRC Warrnambool	N/A	113,000.00 #	470,400.00	480,748.80	1,064,148.80
CatholicCare	NSW	FRC Bankstown	N/A	227,000.00 #	1,063,650.00	1,087,050.30	2,377,700.30
FMC Relationship Services T/A Family Mediation Centre	VIC	FRC Chadstone	N/A	216,000.00 #	1,026,900.00	1,049,491.80	2,292,391.80
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Gosford	N/A	230,000.00 #	1,061,550.00	1,084,904.10	2,376,454.10

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Organisation	State	FRC Name	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	2009-10 \$	TOTAL \$
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Coffs Harbour	N/A	166,000.00 #	774,900.00	791,947.80	1,732,847.80
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Taree	N/A	115,000.00 #	497,700.00	508,649.40	1,121,349.40
Interrelate Family Centres Limited T/A Interrelate	NSW	FRC Dubbo	N/A	174,000.00 #	928,200.00	948,620.40	2,050,820.40
Lifeline Community Care	QLD	FRC Logan	N/A	255,000.00 #	1,213,800.00	1,132,871.67	2,601,671.67
Lifeline Community Care	QLD	FRC Bundaberg	N/A	211,000.00 #	1,041,600.00	1,064,515.20	2,317,115.20
Mackillop Family Services Ltd	NSW	FRC Broadmeadows	N/A	229,000.00 #	1,079,400.00	1,103,146.80	2,411,546.80
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC Sydney City	N/A	380,000.00 #	1,858,500.00	1,899,387.00	4,137,887.00
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC Bathurst	N/A	196,000.00 #	952,350.00	973,301.70	2,121,651.70
Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	FRC Brookvale/Northern Beaches	N/A	193,000.00 #	891,450.00	911,061.90	1,995,511.90
Relationships Australia (SA) Inc	SA	FRC Adelaide	N/A	313,000.00 #	1,326,264.70	1,522,728.90	3,161,993.60
Relationships Australia (Victoria) Inc	VIC	FRC Melbourne City	N/A	361,000.00 #	1,587,630.00	1,753,445.40	3,702,075.40
Relationships Australia Western Australia Incorporated	WA	FRC Perth City	N/A	444,000.00 #	2,175,600.00	2,223,463.20	4,843,063.20
Relationships Australia Western Australia Incorporated	WA	FRC Bunbury	N/A	217,000.00 #	1,029,000.00	1,051,638.00	2,297,638.00
Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society T/A Anglicare NSW	NSW	FRC Parramatta	N/A	230,000.00 #	1,050,000.00	1,073,100.00	2,353,100.00
Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Rockhampton T/A Centacare Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton	QLD	FRC Mackay	N/A	185,000.00 #	896,700.00	977,443.87	2,059,143.87
TOTAL			21,944,540.00	48,670,081.34	76,425,282.05	74,663,154.99	197,715,438.81

Donates establishment funding

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No:

062

Topic: Waiting Lists for Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA14

Senator Siewert asked:

Are there centres that do have particularly long waiting lists? What are you doing about the waiting lists?

Answer:

Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) manage their own waiting lists by undertaking an initial client intake process that includes screening for safety and identifying client needs. This information is then used by FRCs to triage the more urgent matters and to refer clients to appropriate services, if required.

Data obtained by the Department between April and June 2010 confirmed that 71 per cent of FRCs provided their first face to face session with clients within three weeks of the client contacting the service; and that the average waiting time for the intake appointment was 2.6 weeks.

FRCs reporting waiting times of greater than 4 weeks for first appointments include:

Frankston (Vic)	4-8 weeks	Newcastle (NSW)	> 8 weeks
Gosford (NSW)	4-8 weeks	Salisbury-Elizabeth (SA)	4-8 weeks
Joondalup (WA)	4-8 weeks	Toowoomba (QLD)	4-8 weeks
Mandurah (WA)	4-8 weeks	Wodonga (Vic)	4-8 weeks

FRCs attribute this waiting time to a combination of high levels of demand, client availability and the recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled staff.

FRCs reporting waiting times of greater than eight weeks for clients to commence family dispute resolution (FDR) include:

Campbelltown (NSW)	Gosford (NSW)	Salisbury-Elizabeth (SA)
Chermside (QLD)	Newcastle (NSW)	Sutherland (NSW)
Coffs Harbour (NSW)	Noarlunga (SA)	Taree (NSW)
Dubbo (NSW)	Nowra (NSW)	Traralgon (Vic)
Fairfield (NSW)	Rockhampton (QLD)	Wodonga (Vic)
Frankston (Vic)	Sunshine Coast (QLD)	Wollongong (NSW)

FRCs attribute this waiting time to the availability of clients (including the willingness of the other party to attend FDR), the increasing complexity of issues, high level of demand and recruitment of suitable qualified practitioners.

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FRCs use the waiting time for FDR services to undertake a more comprehensive screening and assessment of client need and for clients to attend information/education sessions in preparation for the FDR process. This may also result in clients being referred to other support services (such as anger management courses) that support the client to maximise the outcomes from the FDR process.

Improved functionality of FRSP Online will allow information on waiting times to be collected. This improvement to the data collection system will enable the Department to identify and monitor local, national and seasonal trends and benchmark waiting times for clients. It would then be a matter for the Attorney-General's Department to identify what policy changes are needed to address waiting times.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No:

253

Topic: Communities for Children Plus (CfC Plus)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Why was the tendering process for Communities for Children Plus different to that used for allocating contracts for Family Relationship Services?

Answer:

A direct or restricted selection process was conducted for each of the eight Communities for Children Plus services in accordance with the Department's selection strategy guidelines.

This process was selected in order to draw on the existing capabilities and expertise of high performing organisations. This process may also be used, where necessary, in allocating contracts for Family Relationship Services.

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Outcome Number: 1

255

Question No:

Topic: Parenting Payments for Single Mothers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What proportion of welfare recipients that receive any type of parenting payment are single mothers below 30?

Answer:

Parenting Payment is the responsibility of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No:

056

Topic: Humanitarian Refugees

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA5

Senator Fifield asked:

[In respect of the number of humanitarian refugees seen under the Humanitarian Entrants Program] Is that a number that has grown over the funding? Has that grown over the last few years?

Answer:

- The number of humanitarian entrants seen via the Family Relationship Services for Humanitarian Entrants (FRSHE) program under Family Relationship Services is provided in Table 1.
- Funding for the FRSHE program is provided in Table 2.

Table 1: Clients seen through the FRSHE program.

Financial Year	Registered Clients Seen	Unregistered Clients Seen	Total Clients Seen
2006-07	400	1,075	1,475
2007-08	680	2,165	2,845
2008-09	1,045	1,217	2,262
2009-10	1,220	1,392	2,612

Table 2: Funding for FRSHE over the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 is: \$5.287 million

Financial Year	Funding \$m
2006-07	1.281
2007-08	1.308
2008-09	1.334
2009-10	1.364

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Outcome Number: 1

058

Question No:

Topic: Family Relationship Services for Carers

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA9

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you break that down by location?

Answer:

Under the Family Relationships for Carers program, 3,705 clients were seen in the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. (3,271 were seen in the period from 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010 as quoted in hearings). The following table provides a breakdown of the number of clients by outlet. (The outlet is the location from which the clients are serviced by centre-based or outreach activities).

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Table 1: Clients seen by outlet through the Family Relationships for Carers program 2009-10.

State	Outlet	Number of Unregistered Clients	Number of Registered Clients
ACT	FACES Family Adolescent Centre	<20	<20
ACT	Red Hill	<20	<20
NSW	Burwood	27	<20
NSW	Burwood Outreach	<20	<20
NSW	Central Coast	51	44
NSW	Coffs Harbour	34	81
NSW	Dubbo	64	<20
NSW	Dubbo Outreach	<20	<20
NSW	Kirrawee	143	32
NSW	Lismore	70	27
NSW	Lismore Outreach	<20	<20
NSW	Newcastle	110	30
NSW	Newcastle Outreach	173	65
NSW	Orange	61	25
NSW	Port Macquarie	56	43
NSW	Sydney North Norwest	344	35
NSW	Sydney North Norwest Outreach	172	34
NT	Alice Springs	<20	<20
NT	Darwin	108	<20
NT	Tennant Creek	<20	<20
QLD	Brisbane	105	53
SA	Family Services	232	141
TAS	Hobart	61	71
TAS	Huonville	<20	<20
TAS	Launceston	22	25
VIC	Ringwood	433	298
WA	East Perth-Kinway	236	26
WA	Joondalup City of Joondalup	<20	20
WA	Kinway Albany	<20	<20
WA	Kinway Gosnells	<20	<20
WA	Rockingham	<20	<20
	Total	2,517	1,188

Data source FRSP Online 15 October 2010.

Registered clients provide demographic information including name, date of birth, marital status, etc. Un-registered clients do not provide personal information and are often part of one off group sessions, seminars or community education activities.

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Outcome Number: 1

052

Question No:

Topic: Baby Bonus

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Department examined measures to increase the baby bonus to assist stay at home mothers? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Department is not able to comment on advice that may or may not have been provided to Government.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No:

254

Topic: Parental Support for Single Mothers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many single mothers receive any sort of parental support? Can a list of what type of support and how many single mothers receive that support be provided? If not, why not?

Answer:

Family Assistance payments that are the responsibility of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) are in Table 1. Income support payments for single parents such as Parenting Payment are the responsibility of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Table 1: Single mothers in receipt of Family Assistance payments

Payment Type	Single Mothers*
FTB Part A & B	523,900
Baby Bonus	42,426

***Note:** Data taken from Centrelink FTB instalment single mother customers as at 25 June 2010. Some customers claim the payments at the end of the financial year as a lump sum.

The data includes some third party carers, such as grandparents or other kinship carers.

Baby Bonus for single mothers is from full year 2009-10 Centrelink data.

In addition, under the Family Support Program, community-based organisations are funded to provide a range of children, parenting and family relationship services to improve child development, child safety, family functioning and family relationships.

These services are available to all families, including single parent families. Clients also include families and children navigating life transitions, vulnerable and at risk families and children in highly disadvantaged communities, and families and children experiencing separation and divorce.

Services work in the best interest of children to strengthen family relationships and foster more resilience within families and communities and include:

- the Family Relationship Services Program, including family law services
- Communities for Children and Communities for Children Plus
- Kids in Focus (National Illicit Drug Strategy)

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- Invest to Grow
- Child Care Links
- Indigenous Children Program
- Indigenous Parenting Support Services
- Playgroup Program
- Responding Early Assisting Children Program.

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Media Releases

Pension rise to help with cost of living

Date:
22/03/2010

Alternative Format

- [Defence Pension rise to help with cost of living ZIP\(DAISY\) \[555kB\]](#)
([mediareleases/2010/Documents/jm_m_pensionrise_22march2010.zip](#))

[What is DAISY?\(/about/Pages/daisy.aspx\)](#)

From today, Australia's three million age, disability, and carer pensioners, and veterans' income support recipients, will receive higher pensions payments to help meet increases in the cost of living.

Pension payments will increase by \$29.20 a fortnight for singles on the maximum rate, and \$44.00 a fortnight for couples combined on the maximum rate. These increases are regular indexation increases, and are in addition to the Budget pension rise paid last year.

Following these increases, total pension payments for those on the maximum rate, including the base rate and pension supplement, will be:

- \$701.10 a fortnight for singles, and
- \$1,057.00 a fortnight for couples combined.

These pension rises deliver on the Rudd Government's commitment to improve support to older Australians.

After years of neglect, the Government has overhauled the pension system to make it adequate and sustainable for the millions of age and disability pensioners, carers and veterans who depend on it.

New analysis shows that Australian pensioners have benefited from significant pension increases over the last year from the Budget pension rise and improved indexation arrangements.

Single pensioners on the maximum rate now receive \$100 more a fortnight than they received before the Rudd Government improved the pension in September last year.

Date	Single \$ per fortnight*	Couples (combined) \$ per fortnight*
1 July 2007	538.27	890.17
1 July 2008	575.21	942.01
1 July 2009	599.29	981.29
Today (20 March 2010)	701.10	1057.00
Today without pension reform **	630.97	1034.07

** per fortnight equivalent includes Pharmaceutical Allowance, and pro rata Utilities and Telephone Allowances (paid quarterly before 20 September 2009). All of these allowances are now paid fortnightly as part of the new pension supplement. Today's figures include the base pension and pension supplement.*

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The Hon Jenny Macklin MP

Minister for Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

payments continued, and same fortnightly

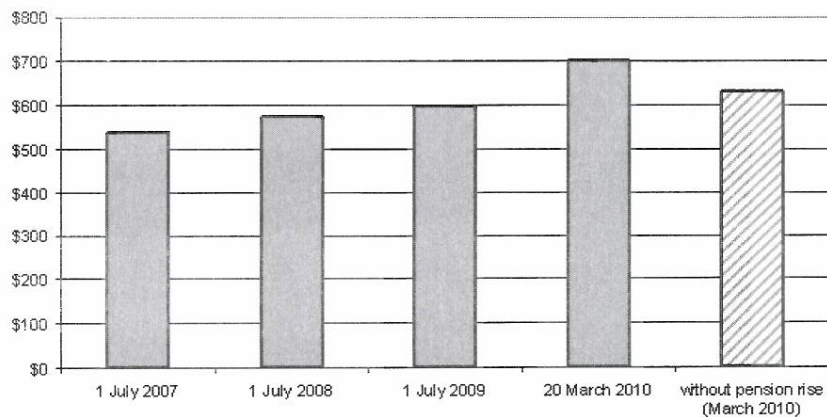
uses to income support payments such as
increase.

ch 20, and pensioners will be paid on their

regular pension pay day in the next fortnight.

Age Pension

single, total payments, \$ per fortnight



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Courier Mail
14/09/2009
Page: 3
General News
By: Melanie Christiansen
Region: Brisbane
Circulation: 214468
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Size: 601.97 sq.cms
Frequency: MTWTFSS-

T2 TABLED BY SENATOR BOYCE
AT F&HCSIA ESTIMATES 31.05.10

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Rent sucks pensioners dry

Payment boost eaten up by soaring costs

Melanie Christiansen
SOCIAL AFFAIRS REPORTER

NEXT week's long-awaited pension boost will still leave thousands of renters struggling, with housing costs chewing up more than 40 per cent of their payments.

New Centrelink figures have revealed a bleak picture for poorer Australians, who qualify for rental assistance payments.

They show more than 185,000 age pensioners are paying an average \$150.50 a week in rent. But they get an average of just \$43.50 in weekly rental assistance to top up pensions of up to \$284.90 a week for a single pensioner.

The single pension rate will rise to about \$320 from September 20, with the increase promised in the May Budget and a twice-yearly inflation

adjustment.

But even with that, National Seniors chief executive Michael O'Neill said many renting pensioners would still have difficulty affording food, transport, medical expenses and other necessities.

"For them, life is a desperate struggle to keep your head above water," Mr O'Neill said. "Once you take out 40 per cent (of your income) for the rent, that's when people start going without, whether it's food or medicine or social activities. And that has potential health consequences."

Brisbane retiree Michael Sullivan agreed life was spartan for those trying to pay rising rents with just their government payments.

The 70-year-old age pensioner faced a crisis when the owners of his rented home of eight years wanted to more than double the rent.

"They renovated the house and the rent was going from \$150 a week to \$375," he said. "I went to my doctor and he told the Housing Commission if I didn't get something quickly, it would probably cause severe stress or a heart attack."

Now in public housing, Mr Sullivan said most single pensioners in the private rental market were forced to share to make ends meet.

That's the situation Sunshine Coast pensioner Heidi Malik is now confronting. Ms Malik, 72, sold her home when she couldn't afford maintenance on

the property out of her pension.

Now she says the money she made from the sale of her home is being steadily whittled away on rent and other living costs.

"I'm just about running out of money altogether," she said. "I'm looking at sharing because I can't see any other solution."

The Centrelink figures show it's a predicament facing more seniors, with the number claiming rental assistance growing by about 9000 between June 2007 and March this year to 185,320.

The data reveals an even worse situation for unemployed renters with the average rent \$168 a week but average assistance just \$45 a week.



STILL STRUGGLING.
Pensioner Michael Sullivan has been lucky enough to get out of the private rental market.
Picture: Jeff Camdon

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Weekend Post
Saturday 29/5/2010
Page: 5
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Region: Cairns
Type: Regional
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T4 TABLED BY SENATOR CAMERON
2 FAHCSIA ESTIMATES 31.05.10

Brief: FAHCSIA REG

Cove units on the money

Brad Ryan

ryanb@tcp.newsltd.com.au

AN independent review of Palm Cove's contentious public housing plan should bust myths about money "wasted" on the project, the federal housing minister says.

Tanya Plibersek, who met two Palm Cove Committee members in Canberra on Thursday, has hit back at their claims too much is being spent on the project, saying it represents "good value for money".

Ms Plibersek yesterday released a report, by consulting firm Davis Langdon, which says the project's design and construction was "within our expected benchmark range of costs".

However, the report does not factor in the \$1.35 million price tag for the land, on the corner of Harpa and Oliva streets, behind the resort town's tourism-dependent Espla-

nade strip.

Campaigners say that in itself represents wasted taxpayer cash.

The Davis Langdon report focuses on design and construction fees, which it says should be about \$4.4 million. The State Government says it is paying \$4.2 million.

Ms Plibersek said this showed the Government was getting the equivalent of a "discount" on construction of \$200,000.

"The Queensland Government sought this advice to reassure themselves that they were getting value for money," Ms Plibersek told *The Weekend Post*.

The committee has made the value-for-money issue key to its fight against the 18-unit development.

They fear the development threatens the tourism-reliant town, and say investors have already begun

taking their money elsewhere.

The group previously commissioned a study by the same firm that said construction costs "seemed excessive", but the report released yesterday said the initial report was based on "misleading" information.

Kate Dewar and Chris Blyth, from the committee, left Thursday's meeting with Ms Plibersek with little hope their pleas would be heeded.

"I feel if she was a woman of integrity she would think 'well, there seems to be a problem in Cairns, Joe Hockey mentioned on (ABC TV program) *Q and A* there's a problem in Cairns, perhaps we should delve into it,'" Ms Dewar said.

The pair also met Liberal Senator Gary Humphries, who is expected to take the issue to a Senate Estimate Committee discussion next week.

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T5 tabled by Senator Cameron

Davis Langdon
Harpa Street, Palm Cove, Housing Project
Indicative Budget Estimate
11 May 2010

<http://www.palmcovefight.com.au/docs/Davis%20Langdon%20Report.pdf>

Note: the attachment was tabled in the Senate on 24.06.10 and has not been included in the electronic volume

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T6 tabled by Senator Humphries

NBESP projects 20.04.10

Note: the document was tabled in the Senate on 24.06.10 and has not been included in the electronic volume

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T8 TABLED BY SENIATOR CAMERON AT FALLESIA ESTIMATES 31.05.10

Harbour Drive Apartments
24 Harbour Drive Trinity Park

Old Govt mock-up of Trinity Park.

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T14 Response to QONs (taken by Office of Housing 31 May 2010)

a) How was the National Dialogue conceived? Who was responsible?

Universal design for accessibility has been an issue for the disability, aged care and early childhood sectors for some time.

On 21 May 2009, Parliamentary Secretary Shorten met with Ms Amelia Starr, Convener of the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD) to discuss universal housing design and concerns over the *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2009* (the Premises Standards).

ANUHD is a national network of housing industry bodies, housing professionals, government professionals, designers & builders, researchers and home occupants who support and promote the principles of universal design.

The Premises Standards do not cover Class 2 buildings which are apartment type buildings or Class 1a buildings which are stand alone houses such as detached houses or Townhouses.

Other bodies, such as the Housing Industry Association, had indicated a desire for consistent requirements and information on appropriate and practical responses to accessibility.

After an approach by Parliamentary Secretary Shorten to Ms Rein, Parliamentary Secretary Shorten and M Rein jointly invited stakeholders to attend a National Dialogue on Universal Housing which was held on Tuesday 27th October 2009 at Kirribilli House.

At the time of the Dialogue, the Government was preparing its response to the House Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report on the Draft Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, Access all Areas.

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At the first National Dialogue it was agreed to form a high level working party to achieve substantial progress.

b) Is there a terms of reference?

There are no terms of reference.

At the first Dialogue the first summit representatives agreed on the need to codify a national approach to Universal Design which would incorporate:

- The value of universal design to the community
- A definition and a set of principles of 'universal design'; and
- What its features are in relation to housing.

Representatives committed to 'forming a high level working party to achieve substantial progress in the next six months.'

A full statement from the Dialogue is provided in the media release from the summit on 27 October which is provided at **Attachment A**.

c) Can the Committee have copies of the agenda for each meeting?

See attached Agenda at **Attachment B**.

d) Who participated at each meeting?

See list of participants (**Attachment C**): for meetings on

- 27 October 2009 (Ms Rein attended)
- 17 December 2009
- 2 March 2010 (Ms Rein attended)
- 27 April 2010

e) What are the parameters of Ms Rein's role – is it part of her role as the Patron of the International Day of Disability and the National Disability Awards?

Ms Rein has not had an active role in developing the policy outcomes of the Dialogue. The outcomes of the Dialogue are due to the engagement and mutual agreement of all participants.

Ms Rein has played a role in hosting some of the meetings of the dialogue. She attended for part of two meetings and conveyed to other participants her personal experiences and the value she saw in the building industry

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working with the disability sector to improve the lives of people with disability.

Ms Rein made Kirribilli House in Sydney available for meetings on 27 October 2009 and 2 March 2010, with another planned for 8 June 2010.

Ms Rein's role as Patron for International Day and the National Disability Awards is completely separate from any involvement with the National Dialogue on Universal Design.

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Media Release

BILL SHORTEN MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services

Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction

Tuesday, October 27, 2009\

National Dialogue Agrees to Improve Accessible Housing Options

Participants in a National Dialogue on Universal Design have agreed to work together towards a national approach to promoting Universal Design and to provide Australians with a greater range of homes.

Universally Designed homes are those which include features which meet the changing needs of occupants across their lifetimes, as they age or acquire a disability.

Participants in today's dialogue, convened by Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities Bill Shorten and held at Kirribilli House in Sydney, unanimously agreed that more work was needed to make Universally Designed homes more available and to educate the community about their benefits.

Mr Shorten said the agreement showed the strong support for the principles of Universal Design and its role in making housing more accessible for people with disability.

"I would like to thank all participants in today's dialogue for their contributions, and their desire to find a way to improve provision of Universally-Designed housing," Mr Shorten said

"People with disability face serious challenges when finding housing that meets their needs.

"Universally Designed homes, which are built for the whole of the population to live in for their whole lives, give people with disability greater independence and choice about where they live.

"A lot of great work has been done in universal design, but the building industry and governments need to work together to make this kind of housing more widely available.

"Today we began a much needed discussion, with some excellent ideas to tackle the effects of the rising prevalence in disability, and Australia's ageing population." Representatives at the forum included those from disability organisations, as well as representatives from the building industry.

They were:

□ Amelia Starr; National Convenor, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design

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- ☐ Rhonda Galbally; Chair, National People with Disabilities and Carers Council
- ☐ Ivan Donaldson; General Manager, Australian Building Codes Board
- ☐ Graeme Inness; Race and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.
- ☐ Michael Small; Senior Policy Officer, Disability Rights Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission
- ☐ David Waldren; General Manager-Carlton Brewery, GROCON
- ☐ Rod Fehring; CEO, Lend Lease Primelife
- ☐ Mike Zorbas; General Manager Government Relations, Stockland
- ☐ Ron Silberberg; Managing Director, Housing Industry Association
- ☐ Peter Verwer; Chief Executive, Property Council of Australia
- ☐ Wilhelm Harnisch; CEO, Master Builders Australia
- ☐ David Parken; CEO, Australian Institute of Architects
- ☐ Chris Lamont; Group Manager, FaHCSIA
- ☐ Dougie Herd; Executive Director, Office of the Disability Council of NSW
- ☐ Angela Jurjevic; Executive Director, Housing and Building Policy, DPCD (Victoria)

Representatives unanimously agreed on the need to codify a national approach to Universal Design which would incorporate:

- ☐ The value of universal design to the community
- ☐ A definition and a set of principles of 'universal design'
- ☐ What its features are in relation to housing.

The forum expressed a commitment to form a high-level working party to achieve substantial progress within six months.

It was agreed that there is a need to work closely with industry and the community, including around education and training. It is understood that all participants need to be included and that change won't be instantaneous.

As an aspirational goal, all new homes will be of agreed universal design standards by 2020, with interim targets and earlier completion dates to be determined for some standards.

\

Australian Bureau of Statistics research shows that between 1981 and 2003, the number of people with a disability more than doubled from 1.9 million to 3.9 million. The ABS estimates that the number of Australians with disabilities will continue to increase through the first half of this century, due to the ageing of Australia's population.

Mr Shorten said he hoped builders and developers would expand the range of Universally Designed houses and apartments in recognition of this growth.

"A few simple design features, such as a reinforced bathroom walls, and easy-to-operate windows can make a home suitable for a person with a disability at minimal cost."

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"For builders, that means their potential market is expanded."

"Homebuyers today recognise that environmental sustainability is an important factor in buying a new home."

"We need to ensure that consumers become aware of the importance of 'social sustainability' as well, and the advantages of having a home that can be easily adapted as they age or if they acquire an impairment."

The full statement of the forum is as follows:

There was a clear consensus about the critical nature of the issue of universal design.

'Universal' means designing Australian homes to meet the changing needs of their occupants across their lifetimes.

We all agree that we need to provide Australians with choice about housing design and work harder to explain the benefits of universal design. In other words that universal design is about making life easier for young families, people who have short term injuries, as well as senior Australians and people with disability.

We agreed on the need to codify a national approach. This would incorporate:

- 1) The value of universal design to the community*
- 2) A definition and a set of principles of 'universal design'*
- 3) What its features are in relation to housing, of which there is already a fair amount of recognised consensus.*

We agreed it is important to have a national approach, in other words the code should apply nationally to allow harmonisation across the country.

The code will deal with the minimal or basic solutions to design, through to more aspirational features for homes. Essential elements on which consensus was achieved are: wider doorways and passages; wet areas, such as bathrooms, on an entry level; and reinforced bathroom walls to allow grab rails to be easily fitted in the future.

More than 15,000 public and social housing dwellings are being built under the Rudd Government's economic stimulus plan that incorporate universal design features. This will provide important feedback about universal design and lessons for the future.

It was agreed that there is a need to work closely with industry and the community, including around education and training. It is understood that all participants need to be included and that change won't be instantaneous.

Everyone is committed to forming a high level working party to achieve substantial progress in the next six months.

Part of the document to be developed by the group will be technical in nature and will be accessible to designers, builders and consumers.

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As an aspirational target, all new homes will be of agreed universal design standards by 2020, with interim targets and earlier completion dates to be determined for some standards.

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National Dialogue on Universal Housing – Agenda

Tuesday 27th October 2009
Kirribilli House, Sydney

9:00am - 9:10am	Welcome and introductions <i>Ms Cynthia Banham (MC)</i>
9:10am - 9:30am	Scene setting <i>Ms Therese Rein</i> <i>Why we need to consider universal housing design. The challenge facing Australia</i>
9:30am - 9:45am	Purpose and aim of the Dialogue <i>The Hon Bill Shorten MP</i> <i>What is the purpose of the National Dialogue? What do we want to achieve?</i>
9:45am - 10:10am	Where are we now? A national snapshot. <i>Ms Amelia Starr, National Convenor, The Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD).</i> <i>Presentation – To include a brief introduction to universal housing, the principles that underpin this approach and an overall snapshot of the initiatives that are occurring nationally.</i> <i>10 min (Q & A)</i>
10:10am - 10:35am	Recent developments and innovation — The Victorian experience <i>Ms Angela Jurjevic, Executive Director, Housing and Building Policy, Department of Planning and Community Development.</i> <i>Presentation – Update on recent initiatives in Victorian.</i> <i>10 min (Q & A)</i>
10:35am - 10:50am	Morning Tea
10:50am - 11:40am	Promoting awareness and action — Panel discussion <i>Session to be chaired by Cynthia Banham. Lead contributors:</i> <i>Mr Peter Verwer, Chief Executive Officer, Property Council of Australia</i> <i>Mr Ron Silberberg, Managing Director, Housing Industry Association</i> <i>Mr Graeme Innes, Disability Discrimination Commissioner</i> <i>Mr Wilhelm Harnish, Chief Executive Officer, Master Builders Australia</i> <i>Mr Ivan Donaldson, Australian Building Codes Board</i>
11:40am - 1:10pm	Removing barriers and promoting action — Facilitated workshop session <i>Session facilitated by Cynthia Banham</i> <i>This session will build on the discussion points raised by the stakeholders and will pose a number of questions for small group discussion. Questions for this session include:</i>

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	<p>1. <i>What are the key barriers to constructing more UD housing?</i></p> <p>2. <i>What are the drivers for industry, consumers and Government to go down this path?</i></p> <p>3. <i>What options should be considered as part of the solution?</i></p>
1:10pm - 1:45pm	Lunch
1:45pm - 2:30pm	<p>Removing barriers and promoting action — Feedback</p> <p><i>Session facilitated by Cynthia Banham</i></p> <p><i>In this session each group will present the outcomes of their discussions on the questions above. This will be followed by a group discussion of these issues and the merits of a nationally consistent approach.</i></p>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	<p>NEXT STEPS — Discussion</p> <p><i>The Hon Bill Shorten MP</i></p> <p><i>Summarise the day's outcomes and establish what steps the group wants to take next.</i></p> <p><i>End of formal proceedings</i></p>
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Afternoon Tea

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National Dialogue on Universal Housing

Objectives

To bring together Government, the Housing Industry and other key housing stakeholders to discuss and seek agreement on the way forward to progress the application of Universal Design principles to all new housing in Australia.

The dialogue will:

- encourage a shared understanding of the principles of universal design;
- encourage a shared understanding among participants of changing demographics and projected increasing demand for universal design housing;
- focus on key issues to be addressed to increase supply of universal design housing; and
- encourage leadership in developing strategies to progress the principles of universal design to housing.

Key areas to be discussed

- The mechanisms, initiatives and incentives needed to support a nationally consistent approach to universal housing design.
- The opportunities and barriers to adopting universal design features into new housing construction in Australia.
- What universal design features or initiatives could be adopted as part of a nationally consistent approach.
- How to balance regulation, industry initiatives and education in promoting universal design.

What is universal design?

Universal housing is a relatively new concept that has emerged from ‘barrier-free’ or ‘accessible design’ movements. It refers to the design of products, buildings and environments that are usable by everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Universal design is broader than just ‘accessible’ or ‘barrier free’ design in that it produces design solutions that benefit the majority of users. Accessible design has a tendency to lead to separate and discriminating design for people with disabilities, for example, a ramp that leads to a different entry than the main stairway. Universal design, on the other hand, provides a considered solution that can accommodate the broader needs of the population whilst also responding to the needs of people with a disability and older people.

The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities.

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What is universal housing?

Universal design is an approach to building homes and living spaces which:

- meet the needs of home occupants regardless of age or ability;
- are capable of adapting to meet the changing needs of home occupants;
- can be economically adapted to respond to the current and future needs of homes occupants.

Source: Australian Network for Universal Housing Design – website

Demographics

One in five Australians has a disability

In 2003, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) which revealed that one in five Australians (3,958,300 or 20 per cent) experience long term impairment.

People with a physical disability represent the largest population

While the population of people with disabilities is diverse, physical disability is the most prevalent type of disability in the community.

Source: AIHW, *Australia's Welfare No.8*, Canberra, December 2007, Ch. 4.

The majority of people with a disability live in private housing

People with a disability are well represented in the home ownership market with 84 per cent of people under the age of 60 years living in a private dwelling. This figure increase to 90 per cent for people with disability over the age of 60 years.

Source: ABS, Disability, Ageing and Carers: Summary of Findings: 4430.0, 2003

The incidence of disability is increasing for indigenous people

In the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, a total of 19,600 Indigenous people (4 per cent) were identified as needing assistance with self-care (eating, washing, dressing or toileting), physical mobility or communication.

The number of people with disabilities is increasing

Between 1981 and 2003, the number of people with disabilities more than doubled from 1.9 million to 3.9 million. This includes a significant increase in the number of people with severe or profound core activity limitations from 453,000 to 1.2 million.

The ageing of the population is driving the overall increase

The ABS estimates that the number of Australians with disabilities can be expected to increase through the first half of this century, due to the ageing of Australia's

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population. By 2051, the ABS projects that about 25 per cent of Australians will be aged 65 years or over, compared with 12 per cent in 1997.

People with disabilities are living longer

Between 1988 and 2003, the expected years of life with a disability increased from 14.7 to 18.6 years for men and from 16.0 to 20.7 years for women. The expected years of life with a severe or profound limitation increased from 3.2 years to 5.4 years for men, and from 6.0 to 8.3 years for women.

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AGENDA

2ND National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design

Thursday 17th December 2009

Stockland

Level 2, 133 Castlereagh St, Sydney

11:00am – 11:10am	<i>WELCOME & CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</i>
11:10am – 11:20am	<i>PURPOSE AND AIMS OF THE DIALOGUE</i> – What do we want to achieve at the 2 nd National Dialogue meeting?
11:20am – 11:30am	<i>WHERE ARE WE STARTING FROM?</i> – What were the agreed Outcomes from the previous Dialogue? Have we had any developments since the last Dialogue?
11:30am – 12:30pm	<i>DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN</i> – Facilitated discussion on the proposed draft Strategic Plan. Does the plan articulate what we want to achieve? Does it include the right elements and is it comprehensive?
12:30pm – 1:15pm	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
1:15pm – 2:00pm	<i>DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED MODEL STANDARDS</i> – What are the member's response to the proposed model standards? What works? What needs to be improved? Do members agree to what has been proposed for new and existing dwellings? How should these standards be used?
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<i>AGREED ACTIONS and NEXT STEPS</i>
3:00pm – 3:15pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>

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AGENDA

3rd National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design

Tuesday 2 March 2010

9 am – 1 pm

Kirribilli House

Sydney

9:00am – 9:10am	<i>WELCOME & CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</i> (Cynthia Banham – MC)
9:10am – 9:20am	<i>Agreed outcomes from the previous Dialogue</i> (The Hon Bill Shorten MP) <i>- Draft Strategic Plan – working groups to develop specific elements of the plan</i>
9:20am – 9:50am	<i>Working Group 1: Objectives</i> (Kristin Tomkins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Report back and discussion</i> - <i>Next Steps</i>
9:50am – 10:20am	<i>Working Group 2: Draft Model Guidelines</i> (Amelia Starr) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Report back and discussion</i> - <i>Next Steps</i>
10:20am – 10:45am	<i>Working Group 3: Market Research</i> (Angela Jurjevic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Report back and discussion</i> - <i>Next Steps</i>
10:45am – 11:00am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00am – 11:30am	<i>Working group 4: Implementation</i> (Peter Verwer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Report back and discussion</i> - <i>Next steps</i>
11:30am – 12:10pm	<i>Facilitated discussion</i> (Cynthia Banham) <i>Progress to date – is the work of the working groups on track to developing a national approach to promoting Universal Design and provide Australians with a greater range of homes</i> <i>Linkages and interdependencies across working groups</i> <i>Next steps</i>
12:10pm – 12:45pm	<i>Discussion of outcomes and priorities for the National Dialogue</i> (Therese Rein and Bill Shorten)
12:45pm – 1:00pm	<i>Other business and close</i>
1:00pm – 1:35pm	<i>Lunch</i>

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AGENDA

4th National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design

Tuesday 27 April 2010
1.00pm – 4.00 pm
Stocklands Boardroom
Level 25, 133 Castlereagh Street
Sydney

1.00pm – 1:10pm	<i>WELCOME & CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</i> (Ms Cynthia Banham – MC)
1.10pm – 1.20pm	<i>Agreed outcomes from the previous Dialogue</i> (The Hon Bill Shorten MP) <i>- Draft Strategic Plan – working groups to develop specific elements of the plan</i>
1.20pm – 1.40pm	<i>Working Group 1: Objectives</i> (Kristin Tomkins) - <i>Report back and discussion</i>
1.40pm- 2.00pm	<i>Working Group 2: Draft Model Guidelines</i> (Amelia Starr) - <i>Presentation of Draft Model Guidelines</i>
2.00pm – 2.20pm	<i>Working Group 3: Market Research</i> (Angela Jurjevic) - <i>Report back and discussion</i>
2.20pm – 3.00pm	<i>Working group 4: Implementation</i> (Peter Verwer) - <i>Report back and discussion</i> - <i>Marketing / Advertising opportunities.</i>
	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
3.20pm – 4.00pm	<i>Facilitated discussion</i> (Cynthia Banham) <i>Where to from here? How are we going to monitor the success of the strategy against the agreed milestones?</i> - <i>Framework of accountability and measures of success</i> - <i>Implementation and roll out</i> - <i>Skills and Industry development</i> <i>Next steps</i>
	<i>Discussion of outcomes and priorities for the National Dialogue</i> <i>The Hon Bill Shorten MP</i>
	<i>Other Business</i>
4.00pm	<i>Meeting Close</i>

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Budget Estimates, 31 May, 1 and 4 June 2010

National Housing Dialogue

Participants at National Housing Summit 27 October 2009

- The Hon Bill Shorten MP
- Ms Thérèse Rein
- Amelia Starr; National Convenor, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design
- Rhonda Galbally; Chair, National People with Disabilities and Carers Council
- Ivan Donaldson; General Manager, Australian Building Codes Board
- Graeme Inness; Race and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
- Michael Small; Senior Policy Officer, Disability Rights Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission
- David Waldren; General Manager-Carlton Brewery, GROCON
- Rod Fehring; CEO, Lend Lease Primelife
- Mike Zorbas; General Manager Government Relations, Stockland
- Ron Silberberg; Managing Director, Housing Industry Association
- Peter Verwer; Chief Executive, Property Council of Australia
- Wilhelm Harnisch; CEO, Master Builders Australia
- David Parken; CEO, Australian Institute of Architects
- Chris Lamont; Group Manager, FaHCSIA
- Dougie Herd; Executive Director, Office of the Disability Council of NSW
- Angela Jurjevic; Executive Director, Housing and Building Policy, DPCD (Victoria)

Participants of Meeting 17 December 2009

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| - The Hon Bill Shorten MP | - Mr Peter Verwer |
| - Ms Amelia Starr | - Mr Wilhelm Harnisch |
| - Mr Dougie Herd | - Mr David Parken |
| - Mr Ivan Donaldson | - Mr Ian Yates |
| - Ms Rhonda Galbally AO | - Mr Neil Fisher |
| - Ms Angela Jurjevic | - Ms Cynthia Banham |
| - Mr Graeme Innes AM | - Mr Greig Ryan |
| - Mr Michael Small | - Ms Leanne Merrett |
| - Mr Mike Zorbas | - Ms Julia Thomson |
| - Ms Kristen Tomkins | - Mr Michael Harvey |

Apologies

- Mr Richard Lindsay
- Mr Rod Fehring
- Mr Stephen Johnston
- Mr. David Waldren
- Mr Chris Lamont

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Budget Estimates, 31 May, 1 and 4 June 2010

Participants of Meeting 2 March 2010

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| - The Hon Bill Shorten MP | - Mr David Parken |
| - Ms Thérèse Rein | - Mr Ian Yates |
| - Ms Amelia Starr | - Mr Neil Fisher |
| - Mr Dougie Herd | - Ms Cynthia Banham |
| - Dr Rhonda Galbally AO | - Ms Leesa Croke |
| - Ms Angela Jurjevic | - Mr David Smith |
| - Mr Graeme Innes AM | - Ms Leanne Merrett |
| - Mr Michael Small | - Mr Greig Ryan |
| - Ms Kristin Tomkins | - Ms Julia Thomson |
| - Mr Peter Verwer | - Mr Michael Harvey |
| - Mr Wilhelm Harnisch | |

Apologies

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Mike Zorbas | - Mr Adrian Beresford-Wylie |
| - Mr David Waldren | - Mr Richard Lindsay |
| - Mr Paul Walsh | |

Participants of Meeting 27 April 2010

The Hon Bill Shorten MP	Mr David Parken (dial-in)
Ms Julia Thomson	Mr Ian Yates
Ms Cynthia Banham	Mr Neil Fisher
Ms Amelia Starr	Mr Adrian Beresford-Wylie
Ms Angela Jurjevic (dial-in)	Mr Tony Arnel
Ms Kristin Tomkins	Mr Greig Ryan
Mr Peter Verwer	Ms Cathlyn Hoekzema
Mr Dougie Herd	Mr David Smith
Mr Michael Small	Mr Jon Casimir
Mr Mike Zorbas	Mr Ivan Donaldson
Mr Wilhelm Harnisch	Mr Michael Harvey
Mr Mark Quinlan	

Apologies

Ms Leesa Croke	Mr Graeme Innes AM
Ms Leanne Merrett	Mr Paul Walsh
Mr David Waldren	Mr Richard Lindsay
Dr Rhonda Galbally	

T12

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens
Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion
Parliamentary Secretary for the Voluntary Sector

23 October, 2009

Media release

First Meeting of National Volunteering Strategy Advisory Group

Transforming Australia's volunteer movement was the subject of today's meeting of the Volunteering Policy Advisory Group, which met in Canberra to discuss the National Volunteering Strategy.

The Advisory Group, appointed and chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens, will be a key source of expertise and advice to guide the Australia's vision for volunteering to 2021.

The National Volunteering Strategy will be released to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Year of Volunteering in 2011.

Senator Stephens said the strategy will articulate our shared vision for volunteering in Australia and outline the Australian Government's commitments to supporting and encouraging Australia's diverse volunteers.

"I am delighted with the expertise of the Advisory Group members and welcome the opportunity to work with such a wide range of volunteering champions," Senator Stephens said.

"Their input into the National Volunteering Strategy will ensure it aligns with the needs of the community.

"To be effective, the strategy must be informed by practitioners, volunteers, volunteer organisations and current research."

"This gives us the opportunity to work together to find fresh approaches to promoting Australia's strong volunteering movement."

"Volunteers are crucial to the wellbeing of our society, reaching out to people every day, building strong social connections and rich cultural, sporting and environmental institutions within their communities."

"Their work is vital to achieving the Australian Government's vision of an inclusive Australia where everyone feels valued and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential," Senator Stephens said.

Volunteers also play a significant economic role with voluntary work contributing approximately \$14.6 billion to the Australian economy each year.

Volunteering Policy Advisory Group Second Meeting, 1 December 2009, Communiqué

The second meeting of the Volunteering Policy Advisory Group was held on Tuesday 1 December 2009.

The Advisory Group is providing expert advice on Australia's volunteering vision to 2021 and helping develop Australia's National Volunteering Strategy.

The strategy will articulate a shared vision for volunteering in Australia and how the Australian Government will support and encourage volunteering into the future.

Further details of the group can be found on the social inclusion website, at <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Initiatives/Pages/Volunteering.aspx>

At the first meeting, the group agreed that the National Volunteering Strategy needs to reflect a transformational agenda for the next decade, promoting new ways to deepen and strengthen Australia's volunteer movement. It is important to ensure that people from varied backgrounds and with a range of skills and abilities can access and participate in volunteering activities.

The second meeting provided an opportunity to build on the strong foundations laid at the first meeting, as members began to transform their ideas into more concrete proposals. A range of ideas were considered, centring on the themes of:

- Celebrating 2011 (the ten year anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteer);
- Volunteer Management (recruitment, retention and recognition);
- Innovation and future thinking (including corporate partnership and best practice and standards).

Further discussion continued around:

- Encouraging diversity;
- Research and education; and
- Evaluation and monitoring to measure impact.

Members agreed on a range of ideas to develop further for possible inclusion in the National Volunteering Strategy

The group will meet again in mid February.

Further information about the progress of the National Volunteering Strategy is available on the Social Inclusion website, at <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Initiatives/Pages/Volunteering.aspx>

Volunteering Policy Advisory Group Third Meeting, 19 February 2010, Communiqué

The third meeting of the Volunteering Policy Advisory Group was held on Friday 19 February 2010.

The Advisory Group is providing expert advice on Australia's volunteering vision to 2021 and helping develop Australia's National Volunteering Strategy.

The National Volunteering Strategy will:

- identify key barriers to volunteering;
- seek to develop and encourage appropriate policy responses to address these barriers; and
- provide a cohesive policy framework to support more strategic decision making in relation to volunteering.

The group welcomed Mr Matt Miller, CEO of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), who recently joined the advisory group. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the national sports system in Australia, with more people volunteering in the sport and recreation sector than any other. Mr Miller's role on the advisory group will assist in identifying key issues that may impact on volunteers and ensure that the strategy is relevant to a broad cross section of people who volunteer in the Australian community.

The group furthered their thinking on Celebrating 2011 (the ten year anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteer).

Ways to address the issues associated with volunteer management, recruitment, retention and recognition, identified as key priorities by stakeholders, were also discussed.

Some innovative ideas were also put forward in the areas of corporate partnership and best practice and standards.

Members agreed on a range of ideas to continue developing further for possible inclusion in the National Volunteering Strategy.

The group is keen to ensure the strategy reflects the needs of the Australian community. To this end, opportunities for consulting with their networks about the National Volunteering Strategy over the coming months were also discussed.

The group noted advice from Gregory Andrews of Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) about the impact on volunteering of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, the anniversary of which has recently been marked. Since the Apology, ICV's volunteer application numbers have grown at record levels from month-to-month. According to ICV, the Apology has created the foundations to make Reconciliation a reality.

The group will meet again in April.

Further information about the group and the progress of the National Volunteering Strategy is available on the Social Inclusion website, at <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Initiatives/Pages/Volunteering.aspx>

Volunteering Policy Advisory Group Fourth Meeting, 6 May 2010, Communiqué

The fourth meeting of the Volunteering Policy Advisory Group was held on Thursday 6 May 2010.

The Advisory Group is providing expert advice on volunteering and helping develop Australia's National Volunteering Vision and Strategy.

The Strategy will outline a vision for volunteering in Australia and a framework for achieving that vision.

The group welcomed Ms Dimity Fifer, CEO of Australian Volunteers International, as a new member. Ms Fifer's role in the group will assist in identifying key issues that impact on volunteers both globally and locally and ensure the National Volunteering Vision and Strategy is relevant to those who volunteer outside Australia's borders.

The group discussed the evolving nature of volunteering in Australia and the need this generates for innovation in supporting volunteering. The group agreed that there is a role not only for government, but also for not-for-profit organisations and the corporate sector in developing and implementing innovative approaches.

The group emphasised the importance of the National Volunteering Vision and Strategy being forward thinking and the need to continue public dialogue about what volunteering in Australia will look like in the coming years. No longer is volunteering thought of as simply one person helping another – it is a two way process which benefits everybody involved.

The Strategy needs to have a vision that reflects the dynamism and diversity of volunteering and acknowledge its important role in shaping the nation.

The group also consolidated its views on key themes for inclusion in the National Volunteering Vision and Strategy, including risk management for volunteers and volunteer-based organisations, recognition of volunteer efforts and innovative approaches to overcome barriers to volunteering.

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens thanked the group for their valuable contributions over the past six months in developing the framework of the National Volunteering Vision and Strategy.

The group will meet for the final time in July 2010.

Further information about the group and the progress of the National Volunteering Vision and Strategy is available on the [Social Inclusion website](#).

Australian Government Victorian Bushfires Summary Report

In the immediate aftermath of the February 2009 Victorian bushfires, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments responded quickly to the need for urgent relief and humanitarian assistance. The Commonwealth has continued to work with the VBRRA to ensure the longer term rebuilding and recovery of all of the impacted communities.

The Commonwealth's funding commitment to the Victorian bushfire response, recovery and reconstruction effort has totalled more than \$466 million and has included payments to individuals, community organisations and direct assistance to the Victorian Government through programs such as the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and under the Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery.

This funding has supported a wide range of recovery programs, including the cleanup of fire damaged dwellings, comprehensive case management and mental health services, community service hubs, small business and primary producer assistance, tourism support, environmental recovery and the construction of memorials and community facilities. A summary table of Commonwealth expenditure is included in this report.

The Commonwealth continues to promote its services regularly across the bushfire regions to ensure people are aware of their entitlements and to provide advice, through agencies under the Human Services portfolio, including Centrelink, Medicare Australia, CRS Australia, Hearing Australia and the Child Support Agency, together with the Australian Tax Office, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and the Department of Health and Ageing.

Local councils and communities also continue to access a broad range of assistance through Commonwealth Government programs, particularly those with a focus on skills and infrastructure investment.

The Prime Minister, Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Shorten visited Flowerdale for the launch of the Statewide Plan on 16 October 2009, an important part of the ongoing reconstruction process.

The Parliamentary Secretary for the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, continues to visit the impacted communities on a regular basis. The Parliamentary Secretary is playing an important role as a liaison between those communities and the Commonwealth, and continues to work collaboratively with the Victorian Government, VBRRA and other agencies involved in the recovery effort to promptly resolve any issues as they arise.

The Commonwealth Government is committed to working with the Victorian Government wherever possible to assist with the implementation of any recommendations made by the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, which is due to deliver its final report by 31 July 2010. Many families and communities were devastated by the bushfires and it is important to learn from these experiences.

A Fact Sheet and has been prepared that describes both the full range of assistance the Commonwealth has delivered to support those impacted by the bushfires and the number of measures now being developed and implemented that are designed to better assist the states and territories to prepare for and respond to disasters, including bushfires, in the future.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE 2009 VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES FACT SHEET

The impacts from the 7 February 2009 Victorian bushfires were far reaching, affecting the emotional and social well-being of communities, the physical infrastructure, the economy of the areas and the environment. These impacts will continue to be felt as the recovery and rebuilding process continues.

The Commonwealth Government is working closely with the Victorian Government to support the recovery efforts of the individuals, families and communities directly impacted, demonstrated through our commitment to date of more than \$466 million towards the reconstruction and recovery efforts, including:

- more than \$82 million in financial assistance to impacted people through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, Income Recovery Subsidy and Funeral/Memorial Assistance;
- \$7.5 million for a mental health response package providing increased psychological services for people affected by the bushfires;
- over \$20 million towards case management and a one-stop-shop to access a range of government and non government services available through the community services hubs; such as access to accommodation, finance, employment, education, counselling, health and legal services and other personal assistance;
- a jointly funded \$10 million Community Recovery Fund to help restore community infrastructure, such as local sporting clubs, and a range of community preparedness and resilience building activities such as the building of memorials;
- a \$51 million small business support package and more than \$15 million to support people who lost income as a result of the bushfires through the Income Recovery Subsidy;
- more than \$24 million under the Government's Jobs Fund program to create new jobs and employment opportunities through the rebuilding of schools, community facilities and other vital infrastructure lost in the fires, including nearly \$17 million retargeted to the *Rebuilding Together: A Statewide Plan for Reconstruction and Recovery*;
- a jointly funded \$10 million tourism industry support package to assist regional tourism operators;
- a \$10.8 million Caring for our Country Bushfire Recovery Program for targeted natural resource management bushfire recovery activities;
- over \$23 million for specific bushfire recovery projects, such as rebuilding town halls and arts and community centres, under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program as well as the opportunity to submit new or revised applications for projects under the program;
- \$52.31 million towards the longer term reconstruction efforts under the *Statewide Plan*; and
- a \$220 million advance payment to Victoria, and an additional \$17.06 million for a range of exceptional circumstance assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

With Commonwealth leadership and funding a number of new measures have been implemented or progressed as a direct result of the bushfires, including \$26.3 million towards the development of a national telephone-based emergency warning capability, and \$110 million over four years for a number of initiatives, including the new Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP), providing funding for a range of emergency management activities intended to build resilience and minimise the impact of natural disasters in Australia in the future.

Commonwealth financial contribution to the Victorian Bushfire Recovery

Black Saturday is a day that will forever be etched in the memory of all Australians. More than 170 people lost their lives; over 2,000 properties were destroyed; 430,000 hectares burnt out; 13,000 kilometres of fencing destroyed; nearly 60 businesses lost or damaged; over 3,500 agricultural assets affected; 31 state/community infrastructures affected, and to date, over 10,000 insurance claims totalling more than \$1 billion.

In addition to over \$466 million contributed to the recovery and reconstruction effort, the Commonwealth has also committed over \$1 billion in spending across Victorian bushfire affected areas under the *Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan*, which is helping to generate significant economic activity across these areas, and create employment opportunities for local job seekers.

Measures Supporting Victorian Bushfire Recovery

The Commonwealth response has involved many portfolios. The following information on Commonwealth measures indicates relevant agency contributions (acronyms are explained at the end of this document).

People and Communities

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)

Direct and immediate financial assistance, totalling \$65.4 million, was provided to more than 59,000 individuals and families adversely affected by the bushfires through the Government's AGDRP. (FaHCSIA)

Community Recovery Fund

The Victorian and Australian Governments jointly established a \$10 million Community Recovery Fund to assist community development and recovery following the devastating bushfires. The Fund operates under the NDRRA and is designed to assist in community recovery, aid community development and strengthen community capacity building for the future. Funding was made available for community sports clubs, Community Development Officers, memorials and commemorative events in affected communities, community grants and local community projects. (AGD)

Donated goods distribution

The Commonwealth Government will reimburse Victoria half of its expenditure on the storage, management and distribution of donated goods to bushfire affected people. (AGD)

Early Childhood Services in Bushfire Affected Communities - Additional assistance

The Commonwealth Government provided \$273,200 to 29 playgroups across Victoria to ensure high quality early childhood service to bushfire affected communities. (FaHCSIA)

Emergency Relief Program

Additional funding of \$6 million was provided to 171 Emergency Relief organisations to help service providers meet the increased demand for emergency relief in Victorian bushfire affected areas and to link clients with other community supports to help their recovery. The objective of Emergency Relief is to assist bushfire affected people in financial crisis to deal with their immediate crisis situation in a way that maintains the dignity of the individual and encourages self reliance. (FaHCSIA)

Family Support Program

Funding of \$440,000 was provided to 11 community organisations to provide additional counselling support services to bushfire affected families under the Family Support Program. (FaHCSIA)

Income Recovery Subsidy

Around \$16 million was provided through the Income Recovery Subsidy offering temporary income support to employees, small business operators, and farmers who lost income as a direct result of the fires. (FaHCSIA)

Legal Advice

The Commonwealth Government provided \$220,000 for Victorian community legal centres to provide free legal advice to those adversely affected by the bushfires. (AGD)

Mental Health Response to the Victorian Bushfires

The Commonwealth Government provided \$7.5 million of funding to go towards the provision of mental health support for individuals and communities affected by the bushfires. This program is providing increased psychological services, telephone based counselling services, community capacity building support, including training for non health professionals, and training and support for mental health professionals. (DoHA)

National Schools Chaplaincy Program

The Commonwealth provided \$165,000 to Access Ministries to provide additional chaplaincy services for school communities affected by the bushfires. (DEEWR)

Personal hardship and distress relief assistance

The Commonwealth Government will reimburse Victoria half of its expenditure on eligible Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance measures, including personal hardship and distress relief assistance to victims and personal and financial counselling. (AGD)

Re-establishing identity

The Commonwealth Government assisted affected individuals re-establish their identity through:

- re-issuing of key proof of identity documents;
- updating contact details;
- replacing passports free of charge;
- issuing travel documents to any affected overseas born Australian citizens without the need for an overseas birth certificate;
- determining identity matters for overseas nationals; and
- assisting Australians or foreign nationals to re-acquire copies of documents issued by foreign countries.

(DHS, DFAT, Centrelink, Medicare, DIAC)

Residential and Community Aged Care Risk Management for Emergency Events

The Government established emergency arrangements for people who required respite care through the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre. The Government also provided a \$1.5 million package to support aged care providers and clients. This package included payments of up to \$10,000 to assist elderly people and their carers replace uninsured independent living aids lost in the fires, \$500,000 for the Victorian Government for extra Home and Community Care (HACC) Program services, and other additional funding for extra aged care assessments for people living in fire affected regions. (DoHA)

Special Child Care Benefit

The Government provided \$3.091 million towards the Special Child Care Benefit which provided full childcare fee relief for parents of children who were affected by the Victorian bushfires. (DEEWR)

Support for Young People

The Commonwealth provided \$990,000 to six community organisations to deliver counselling and recreational services to young people in fire affected communities. (FaHCSIA)

Tax Assistance and Advice

The Australian Taxation Office established a dedicated Emergency Support Info Line and introduced a number of measures to ease the burden on affected individuals and businesses. These included the provision of extensions of time to pay debts and meet other taxation obligations, such as the lodgement of activity statements and tax returns. Refunds were fast tracked and assistance with the reconstruction of tax records continues to be provided. (ATO)

Taxation Legislation Amendment

An amendment was made to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth) to allow the Treasurer to declare an event as a disaster for the purposes of more rapidly establishing tax deductible disaster relief funds.

In addition, the Government amended the tax laws to allow the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund to conduct a broader range of charitable and community activities than a charity could ordinarily undertake, including long term assistance to orphaned minors, reimbursement to individuals and organisations who had done charitable works at their own expense but who missed out on receiving help, extra assistance for farmers and extra payments for families in transitional housing. (Treasury)

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Contribution

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments committed \$2 million each to the Appeal Fund. (AGD)

Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service and Community Service Hubs

The Commonwealth Government committed \$20.3 million towards the jointly established Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service and the Victorian Bushfire Community Service Hubs.

Over 100 Commonwealth case managers provided support to clients, addressing a broad range of issues such as accommodation, health, material aid, rebuilding and financial assistance. The community service hubs acted as a “one-stop-shop” for those seeking access to government services. This new initiative provided central points of contact in affected communities. (DHS)

Volunteer Resource Centres

The Commonwealth Government provided additional funding of \$390,000 to 13 Volunteer Resources Centres in areas adversely affected by the bushfires. These Centres were able to provide extra support and direct volunteers to areas in need of assistance. (FaHCSIA)

Reconstruction and Rebuilding

Building the Education Revolution - Funding for Destroyed Schools

Bushfire affected areas were given priority access to draw on Victoria’s share of the Commonwealth’s \$16.2 billion ‘Building the Education Revolution’ Program. A total of \$2.125 million has been directly allocated to reconstruct facilities in three bushfire affected schools (Marysville Primary School, Middle King Lake, and Strathewen Primary School). (DEEWR)

Clean-up and Demolition Program

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments provided support to help communities to rebuild through a program for site clean-up and demolition (cost shared under the NDRRA). (AGD)

Community Infrastructure Program funding for bushfire recovery projects

Local councils in fire affected regions were given the opportunity to submit new or revised applications for projects under the \$250 million and \$550 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) to better

meet their immediate needs. Over \$23 million has been provided for specific bushfire recovery projects under the RLCIP. (DITRDLG)

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants - Accelerated payments

In response to the Victorian bushfires, the Commonwealth advanced the payment of \$40.6 million, in quarterly payments, for 24 local governments directly affected by the fires. (DITRDLG)

National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing

The Commonwealth provided \$2.4 million, under the pre-existing \$6.4 billion Social Housing Initiative, towards the building of 11 affordable housing units in Marysville and Kinglake. (FaHCSIA)

Rebuilding Together: A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery

The Statewide Plan commits \$193 million to deliver hundreds of projects with \$117 million from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, \$56 million from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund and \$20 million in philanthropic and corporate donations. The Plan targets rebuilding in four main areas: people; reconstruction; economy; and the environment:

- \$93.4 million to support people and communities as they rebuild;
- a further \$60.5 million to actively support and drive the reconstruction task;
- more than \$21.6 million to be allocated to help stimulate economic recovery in fire affected communities; and
- new funding of \$17.5 million to be used to rehabilitate the environment and address environmental problems caused by the fires.

In February and March 2010 consecutively, the Victorian Premier and the Prime Minister signed the National Partnership Agreement on the *Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Plan*, providing the Commonwealth's component of \$31.1 million directly towards the recovery and reconstruction of communities affected by the bushfires. This is in addition to the \$21.21 million committed under the NDRRA towards the Statewide Plan. The Commonwealth will also reimburse half of Victoria's expenditure on the restoration or replacement of eligible essential public assets not covered under the 'Rebuilding Together Plan' through the NDRRA. (AGD, FaHCSIA)

Solar Hot Water Rebate for Re-built Homes in Bushfire-affected Areas

The Solar Hot Water Rebate was extended, with additional funding of \$5.4 million, to those re-building after the Victorian bushfires. The extension will run until June 2012. (DCCEE)

Economic, Business and Environmental Recovery

Business Relief Package

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments provided support, including clean up and recovery grants and concessional interest rate loans, to those small businesses and primary producers directly affected by the Victorian Bushfires through a \$51 million assistance package cost shared under the NDRRA. (AGD)

Caring for our Country Bushfire Recovery Program

The Commonwealth Government's \$10.8 million Caring for our Country Bushfire Recovery Program is providing assistance to landholders and to community, local government and non-government organisations to undertake targeted natural resource management bushfire recovery activities for eligible fire affected regions of Victoria. (DEWHA, DAFF)

Employment Strategy for Bushfire affected Areas, including the Jobs Fund

An employment strategy was developed, in consultation with the Victorian Government, for areas affected by the bushfires. The strategy included the provision of funding, training and employment assistance. A DEEWR officer was outposted to VBRRA to coordinate DEEWR employment activities, to implement the employment strategy, and as liaison with VBRRA. Job Services Australia providers undertook outreach services in key affected areas. Green Corps, National Green Jobs Corps and Work Experience activities have provided rehabilitation, recovery, and material aid such as computers to affected areas.

Forums were conducted in Traralgon and South Morang in May 2009 to discuss employment issues with local stakeholders. The results of an employer survey undertaken in October 2009 on the effect of the bushfires upon employment opportunities have assisted in better targeting training and placement activity. Examples of activities include the Whittlesea Centrelink Jobs Expo in December 2009, attended by people, from across bushfire affected areas, which focused on supporting the bushfire recovery priorities as well as the “Building the Recovery” information session in Murrindindi Shire highlighting available construction opportunities and how local businesses and tradespeople could be involved.

A total of \$4.8 million, under the Job’s Fund initiative, was initially provided for five community projects including \$1.12 million to turn the car museum in Marysville into a community and business centre. In addition, \$15.4 million dollars was retargeted from the Jobs Fund with the associated creation of new employment opportunities and economic activity. In March 2010, two additional projects were announced under the Local Jobs stream of Round Two of the Jobs Fund, providing \$2.5 million to the Kinglake and La Trobe communities. (DEEWR)

Exceptional Circumstances Relief

Extensions to all Victorian Exceptional Circumstances (EC) declared areas provided much needed assistance to farmers and small businesses, including interest rate subsidies, income support, access to health care cards and youth concessions. (DAFF)

Tourism Industry Support Package

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments are providing support to regional tourism operators who have been affected economically by the bushfires through a \$10 million Tourism Industry Support Package which targets marketing, the bringing forward of postponed events, and infrastructure (cost shared under the NDRRA). (AGD)

Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund

Local economies and businesses are continuing to show signs of recovery, with additional support now available to existing and new businesses wanting to establish in affected areas through the new \$10 million Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments (under the Statewide Plan). (FaHCSIA)

Initiatives in Response to the Victorian Bushfires

Following the Victorian bushfires the Commonwealth has implemented and progressed a number of measures to assist the states and territories to prepare for and respond to bushfires in the future. The approach to managing emergencies and disasters is designed to prepare Australia for all hazards that may arise (including bushfires) and ensure measures are implemented to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies under a broad disaster resilience framework.

Prevention and Preparedness

Australian Climate Change Science Program

This program, which includes the \$1.4 million 'Projecting Future Climate and its Extremes' project, aims to improve the understanding of the causes, nature, timing and consequences of climate change so that industry, community and government decisions can be better informed. (DCC)

Building Regulation – Bushfire shelters and review of AS3959-2009

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) developed a national standard for private bushfire shelters and is participating in reviews of aspects, and application, of Australian Standard 3959 2009 arising from deliberations of the Royal Commission with the aim of further reducing the risk of loss of life and property as a result of bushfire. AS 3959 prescribes measures for assessing the level of bushfire attack and for the design and construction of buildings in order to improve their resistance to ember attack, radiant heat or flame generated by bushfire. (DIISR)

Bushfire Advice and Alerts – Revised Arrangements

This initiative, a revision of existing arrangements in which the Bureau of Meteorology provides strong assistance to fire agencies in the provision of fire weather information and operational support, aims to reduce the risk of loss of life and property by introducing new measures, such as changes to the fire danger rating system. The Bureau is collaborating with fire agencies to develop messaging that increases the efficiency and effectiveness of systems that manage agencies' responses to bushfire. (BoM)

Centrelink Emergency 'Reserve Force'

As of 4 December 2009, there were approximately 1,200 employees signed up to the 'reserve force' to help improve Centrelink's emergency preparedness. (Centrelink)

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

The Government provided \$532,781 towards research into the effects of climate change on the intensity, rate of spread, and difficulty of suppression of bushfires. (DCC)

Common Alerting Protocol Project

This \$50,000 multi-stage project aims to establish whether 'CAP' is the most appropriate standard for all hazard emergency warning systems in Australia and, if so, whether to adopt that standard in all Australian jurisdictions. (AGD)

Commonwealth Pre-Season Operational Briefing

This national briefing, which is intended to be an annual event, aims to improve pre-seasonal and seasonal bushfire hazard preparedness and planning between Commonwealth Agencies and the States and Territories. (AGD)

Cooperative Research Centres Program – Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre

The Commonwealth has announced that the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre will receive an additional \$15 million, from 2010-2013, to undertake specific research tasks arising from the experience of the Victorian bushfires and to implement programs relating to safe prevention, preparation and suppression, fire management, community self-sufficiency, protection of people and property, education, training, communication and community outreach. (DIISR)

Development of a National Disaster Resilience Strategy

The Commonwealth is developing jointly with States, Territories and Local Government a National Disaster Resilience Strategy. This new initiative aims to, by the end of 2010, address the complexity of building disaster resilience by bringing together the representative views of all governments, business, non-government sector and the community through a national, coordinated, whole-of-government approach. This Strategy aims to establish a mechanism through which all stakeholders can work collaboratively with a shared sense of responsibility to improve disaster resilience. (AGD and PM&C)

Development of a National Telephone-based Emergency Warning Capability

The Commonwealth has committed over \$26 million to assist States and Territories in developing a telephone-based emergency warning capability. This includes providing funding to Victoria, for the establishment of the national telephone-based emergency warning system, Emergency Alert which sends warnings to fixed line telephones and mobile telephones based on the customer's registered service address. Emergency Alert was operational on 1 December 2009 and has been used to send warnings about emergency incidents, including bushfires, in a number of states. AGD conducted the procurement process and provides ongoing contract management for the Location Based Number Store (LBNS), which serves as the data source for Emergency Alert, and Western Australia's telephone-based warning system, StateAlert. The LBNS holds and geo-codes telephone number and address data drawn from the Integrated Public Number Database (IPND). Work was already underway prior to the bushfires to amend the Telecommunications Act 1997, to allow access to IPND information for emergency warning purposes (DBCDE and AGD). Funding has also been provided to the States and Territories to conduct research into the feasibility of delivering warnings to mobile phones based on the handset's location at the time of an emergency. (AGD)

Digital Regions Initiative

The four year \$60 million 'DRI' will fund digital enablement applications projects, such as remote cameras, telemetry and video conferencing, to improve services in the key sectors of health, education and emergency services in regional, rural and remote communities across Australia. (DBCDE)

Enhancements for Call Centre Surge Capacity

The Commonwealth Human Services portfolio worked with the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment to develop this initiative to strengthen the integration of call centre surge operations in the event of a disaster through establishing protocols that assist with the efficient sharing of information about call volumes and predicted weather patterns. (DHS)

Joint Service Delivery in Disaster Recovery

This new initiative aims to identify ways to improve joint Commonwealth and State delivery of service and support to disaster affected communities and individuals. (DHS)

National Aerial Firefighting Arrangements

The Commonwealth Government announced an additional \$4 million under the national aerial firefighting arrangements for 2008-2009, and in May 2009 announced \$12.8 million over the next four years for the national aerial firefighting fleet. (AGD)

National Work Plan to Reduce Bushfire Arson in Australia

This National Work Plan was developed jointly by the Commonwealth, States and Territories to institute a more preventative and collaborative approach to reducing bushfire arson. It specifically focuses on activities that will benefit from a national approach, and from sharing resources and expertise. (AGD)

Natural Disaster Resilience Program

As part of a range of initiatives totalling \$110 million, the Commonwealth has established a Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP), providing funding for a range of emergency management activities intended to build resilience and minimise the impact of natural disasters in Australia. Priority areas for the Program are disaster mitigation, support for volunteers, consideration of the impacts of climate change and partnerships with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. The Program is managed through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (NPA) between the Australian, State and Territory governments. (AGD)

Reducing Demand on Triple Zero during a Disaster – National Tailored Recorded Voice Announcement Protocol

During large scale emergencies, people may call the Triple Zero Emergency Call Service seeking information, rather than because they need emergency assistance. The activation of a Tailored Recorded Voice Announcement will assist in redirecting Triple Zero callers seeking information to appropriate information sources, such as a State Information Hotline. AGD undertook extensive consultation within the Commonwealth, across State and Territory agencies, with the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association and with Telstra, (in its capacity as the Emergency Call Person) in drafting the Protocol. As a result of the development of the Protocol, States and Territories and Telstra, are now putting in place arrangements for using Tailored Recorded Voice Announcements. (AGD)

Remote Forest Fire Detection Cameras - Trial

This new trial, which will run until April 2010, aims to determine the reliability and effectiveness of remote forest fire detection camera systems. (AGD)

Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme

Following the Victorian bushfires significant enhancements were made to the Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme to make this mobile communications option available to more people and organisations in fire affected and fire prone areas of Victoria. The \$8.9 million Scheme, which has been extended until June 2013, improves the affordability of mobile communications for people living and working in areas without terrestrial mobile coverage by providing subsidies for the purchase of satellite phone handsets.

Response and Recovery

AGDCC Fire Weather Report and Bushfire Incident Brief

These briefings provide summaries of Fire Weather Warnings and information issued by the Bureau of Meteorology together with information about bushfire activity to Government agencies, and are intended to assist with the coordinated responses to bushfires across the country. (AGD)

Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)

AGD, through Emergency Management Australia, coordinated 20 requests for physical assistance, including the supply and transportation of 150 mattresses/sleeping bags for emergency relief centres, aerial imagery capability, forensic specialists - including an odontologist - and equipment to support disaster victim identification operations, the supply and construction of shelter and the provision of 160 personnel to assist in search and recovery operations. (AGD)

Centrelink's Emergency Management Guide

This initiative, which builds on existing measures, aims to improve the procedural, tactical, and operational and record keeping aspects of Centrelink's emergency response functions. (DHS)

Coordinating Offers of Assistance

AGD, through Emergency Management Australia (EMA), established an 'Offers of Assistance' team to coordinate all offers of domestic and international assistance. These offers were logged and forwarded to the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner Victoria (OESC) for cataloguing and consideration. EMA received 45 offers of international assistance from foreign governments through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, six of which the OESC accepted. EMA received and catalogued 19 offers of domestic assistance for OESC consideration. (AGD)

Disaster Response Framework

The aim of this new initiative is to provide a framework which is able to effectively support taxpayers, businesses and tax agents affected by disaster events. This will involve relaxation of tax obligations and the provision of tailored assistance to taxpayers and businesses. (ATO)

Emergency Management Australia's Incident Management Facility - Development of Major Activation Procedures

This measure aims to formalise the briefing and coordination procedures that Emergency Management Australia can use when activating an Incident Management Facility (IMF) during a state of emergency. (AGD)

Emergency Management - Technology Infrastructure Services and Support

This initiative involves testing new technology to see whether it is able to provide Centrelink with more mobile, reliable, flexible and efficient information communication services for disaster response. (DHS)

Foreign States Immunities Amendments

The amendments made to the *Foreign States Immunities Act 1985* (Cth) confer immunity from tort proceedings on firefighters from the United States when providing bushfire assistance in Australia. (AGD)

Identity Management in a Disaster

The aim of this new initiative is to streamline arrangements for issuing proof of identity documents by having a readily available form in all disaster recovery or relief centres. (DHS)

Improved Commonwealth Payment Capability for Emergency Relief Payments

This new initiative aims to improve the Commonwealth's ability to deliver relief payments to those affected by emergency or disaster events, whilst also reducing the reliance in urgent situations on cash, manual cheques and electronic benefits transfer cards. (DHS)

National Emergency Call Centre Surge Capability Project

The Commonwealth allocated \$2.7 million per annum towards the 'NECCSC', which provides agencies with an 'overflow' emergency call centre capability in the event that local resources are overwhelmed as a result of an emergency or disaster event. (DHS)

National Employment Standards - Legislated Entitlement to Community Services Leave

The *Fair Work Act 2009* provides employees, including casual employees, an entitlement to take leave to carry out certain community service activities including voluntary emergency management activities. (DEEWR)

National Lineworker Refresher Training Recognition Protocol for Emergency Situations

The Commonwealth provided \$93,500 to establish a set of refresher training units that provide line workers with the skills needed to work more quickly and effectively on inter-state, or different, electricity networks during a natural disaster. (DRET)

Rapid Inventory Collection System

Geoscience Australia is making its 'RICS' available for natural hazard impact assessments for both pre- and post-disaster situations. The RICS is able to quickly collect information regarding damaged or undamaged infrastructure following a natural hazard event such as a major bushfire or tropical cyclone. (Geoscience Australia)

Review of Incident Management Response and Communication Protocols

This is part of an ongoing process that aims to develop and/or enhance DEEWR's stakeholder response and communication plans to support emergency, business continuity and pandemic planning and assist in delivery of recovery responses. (DEEWR)

Revisions to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

The Commonwealth Government has extended the period within which the States and Territories may seek partial reimbursement for the costs of personal and financial counselling to 24 months from the end of the financial year in which the NDRRA-eligible disaster occurs. (AGD)

Wireless Priority Service System Upgrade

The Commonwealth has provided additional funding of \$6.8m over two years to upgrade the Wireless Priority Service System to provide 3G mobile phone priority access during times of network congestion caused by a disaster event for up to 30,000 key decision makers and emergency response personnel. and 30,000 users on a 3G network. (AGD)

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Agencies listed

AGD - Attorney-General's Department

AGDCC - Attorney-General's Department Coordination Centre (Commonwealth)

ATO – Australian Tax Office

BoM – Bureau of Meteorology

DAFF - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

DBCDE - Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

DCCEE - Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

DEEWR - Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

DEWHA - Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

DFAT - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DIAC - Department of Immigration and Citizenship

DIISR - Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

DITRLDG - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

DHS - Department of Human Services

DoHA - Department of Health and Ageing

DRET - The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

FaHCSIA - Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

PM & C – Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Commonwealth Government Victorian Bushfires Expenditure and Commitment As at 31 May 2010	
Realised Expenditure (\$ million)	
Financial assistance to individuals	Commonwealth Expenditure
Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment	\$65.400
Income Recovery Subsidy	\$15.900
Funeral/Memorial Assistance	\$0.885
Sub-total	\$82.185
2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Expenditure (\$ million)	
Measure	Commonwealth Contribution
2009 Victorian Bushfire Public Appeal Fund	\$2.000
Program Commitments (\$ million)	
NDRRA Program Commitments	Commonwealth Contribution
Commonwealth commitment to NDRRA programs	\$237.060
Note: In 2008-09, the Commonwealth Government made an advance payment of \$220 million to the Victorian Government under NDRRA. An additional \$17.06 million has been committed by the Commonwealth for a range of exceptional circumstance assistance to be funded under the NDRRA, based on an estimate for 2008-09 expenditure (not yet claimed). The Commonwealth's commitment is for a range of measures, including the Personal Hardship and Distress Payments, the Small Business and Primary Producer Package, the Clean-up and Demolition Package, the Community Recovery Fund and the Tourism Industry Support Package.	
Funding Bushfire Recovery (\$ million)	Commonwealth Contribution
Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service, hotline, social workers and Community Service Hub staff	\$20.300
Continuity of Care for aged care clients and services/respite care	\$1.500
Emergency Relief (\$5.5 million expended)	\$6.000
Mental health measures (\$7.5 million over two financial years)	\$7.500
Grants to GP Practices for infrastructure for additional mental health staff	\$0.012
GP Locum services to bushfire affected areas.	\$0.500
Legal assistance for victims	\$0.220
Caring for Our Country - Environmental works	\$10.800
RLCIP - Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail (Stimulus package product)	\$13.276
RLCIP - Farm Vigano Community & Cultural Centre in Whittlesea (Stimulus package product)	\$2.452
RLCIP - redevelopment of the Horsham Town Hall (Stimulus package product)	\$5.000
RLCIP - stage two of the Healesville Arts & Community Precinct	\$2.900
Family Relationship Services Program	\$0.440
Child care benefits	\$3.091
National Schools Chaplaincy Program	\$0.165
Supporting Young People	\$0.990
Volunteer Management Program	\$0.390
Jobs Fund - 5 projects announced 23/8/09 in bushfire affected areas (Rnd 1)	\$4.800
Jobs Fund - Latrobe Bushfire Recovery Community Jobs Project (Rnd 2)	\$1.738
Jobs Fund - Kinglake Sustainability Leadership Centre (Rnd 2)	\$0.751
Building the Education Revolution Primary Schools for the 21st Century- round 3 funding for schools destroyed in the bushfires (Stimulus package)	\$2.125
Rebuilding Affordable Homes (Stimulus package product)	\$2.400
Solar Hot Water Rebate for Fire Victims (by 2012)	\$5.400

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Primary Care	\$0.158	
Sub-total	\$92.910	
Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA)		
Commonwealth share for the <i>Rebuilding Together, A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery</i> , which is jointly funded with the Victorian Government and administered by VBRRA.	\$52.310	\$21.21 million of this will be provided by the Commonwealth via NDRRA Categories A & B when Victoria submits claims.
Grand total (including NDRRA balance)	\$466.470	

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 027

Topic: MP Contacts and Electorate Visits

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

For the joint media releases dated; 13/04/10, 14/04/10, two on 20/04/10, 3/05/10, 30/03/10, 31/03/10, 26/03/10 (2), 2/03/10, 3/03/10 (attached), can you please advise:

- a. When the local MP in each case was notified of the funding in their electorate?
- b. Who notified each MP of this funding? What was the nature of that notification?
- c. When was a decision taken by the Minister/Department to award this project funding?

Answer:

- a. There is no formal notification provided to the local Member of Parliament about funding under the Social Housing Initiative, Housing Affordability Fund or National Rental Affordability Scheme.

For projects funded under the Social Housing Initiative component of the Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Program, funding provided in each electorate is available through the Commonwealth’s Nation Building web site at www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/pages/default.aspx.

Information is updated every month to reflect changes in approved projects and funding amounts and has been available on the web site since 23 March 2010.

- b. Refer to a. above.
- c. Funding approval dates for the projects identified in the listed media releases are as follows:

Media release of 13/04/2010 (More affordable housing for seniors in Ryde)

Funding approval was granted to the Warren Street project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 26 March 2009.

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Media release of 14/04/2010 (Rudd Government delivers 83 new affordable homes in Fortitude Valley)

Funding approval was granted to the Church Street project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 8 October 2009.

Media release of 20/04/2010 (Rudd Government delivers 48 new affordable homes in Fitzgibbon)

Funding approval was granted to the Carselgrove Avenue project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 18 August 2009.

Media release of 20/04/10 (20 new affordable homes for families in Bellmere and Ningi)

A recommendation to offer incentives to the Horizon Housing Company (also known as the Gold Coast Housing Company) was signed by the Delegate on 18 August 2009.

Media release of 30/05/10 (New Affordable Homes in Morayfield)

A recommendation to offer funding to Moreton Bay Regional Council was approved by the Delegate on 19 April 2010.

Media release of 30/03/10 (Jobs Fund supports Lime Street Accommodation to go green)

Capital funding for this project was awarded through an Ecological Sustainable Design program managed through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The Department is unaware of the funding approval details for this component of the project.

Recurrent funding for this project is being funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Funding approval for this project was granted on 29 June 2009 when the Implementation Plan between the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments was agreed and signed by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP.

Media release of 31/03/10 (Stimulus plan delivers jobs and affordable homes for seniors in Gosnells)

Funding approval was granted to the Gosnells project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 25 August 2009.

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Media release of 26/03/2010 (New affordable housing for seniors with a disability in Lismore)

A recommendation to offer incentives to the Baptist Community Services was signed by the Delegate on 3 July 2009.

Media release of 26/03/10 (Stimulus plan delivers jobs and affordable homes in Ballina)

Funding approval was granted to the Capital Insight project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 30 November 2009.

Funding approval was granted to the North Coast Community Housing project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 26 March 2009.

Media release of 2/03/10 (Stimulus supports North West Tasmanian business with \$4.5 million housing contract)

Funding approval was granted by the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, the Minister for Housing, on 19 August 2009 for two projects in Newnham and on 15 September 2009 for the remaining seven projects (located at St. Leonards, Newnham, Ulverstone x 2, Romaine, Park Grove and Devonport).

Media release of 3/03/10 (Stimulus delivers local jobs and affordable homes in Ashwood)

Under a business rule agreed by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 15 September 2009, states and territories are (subject to certain conditions being met) able to substitute or vary Stage 2 Social Housing Initiative construction projects that have been previously approved for funding by the Minister for Housing. Approval for this project was authorised in November 2009.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 028

Topic: MP Contacts and Electorate Visits

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Also for media releases dated; 21/04/10, 31/03/10, 30/03/10, 30/03/10, 30/03/10 (attached) can you please advise:

- d. When the local MP in each case was notified of the funding in their electorate?
- e. Who notified each MP of this funding? What was the nature of that notification?
- f. When was a decision taken by the Minister/Department to award this project funding?

Answer:

- a. There is no formal notification provided to the local Member of Parliament about funding under the Social Housing Initiative or Housing Affordability Fund.

For projects funded under the Social Housing Initiative component of the Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Program, funding provided in each electorate is available through the Commonwealth’s Nation Building web site at www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/pages/default.aspx.

Information is updated every month to reflect changes in approved projects and funding amounts and has been available on the web site since 23 March 2010.

- b. Refer to a. above.
- c. Funding approval dates for the projects identified in the listed media releases are as follows:

Media release of 21/04/2010 (Stimulus delivers 16 new affordable homes in Victoria Point)

Under a business rule agreed by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 15 September 2009, states and territories are (subject to certain conditions being met) able to substitute or vary Stage 2 Social Housing Initiative construction projects that have been previously approved for funding by the Minister for Housing. Approval for this project was authorised in February 2010.

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Media release of 31/03/2010 (Stimulus plan delivers jobs and 56 new affordable homes in Kelmscott)

Approval for this project was authorised by the Western Australian Government on 31 January 2010 through application of the business rule.

Media release of 20/03/2010 (Stimulus plan delivers jobs and 11 new affordable homes in Queens Park)

Approval for this project was authorised by the Western Australian Government on 31 January 2010 through application of the business rule.

Media release of 30/03/10 (Stimulus plan delivers jobs and 13 affordable homes for seniors in Nollamara)

Funding approval was granted to the Nollamara project by the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 31 March 2009.

Media release of 30/03/10 (350 New Affordable Homes in Henley Brook)

A recommendation to offer funding to the Western Australian Housing Authority was approved by the Delegate on 29 March 2010.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 078

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the total travel bill for the National Housing Supply Council for Financial Years 2008/9 and 2009/10 (to date)?

Answer:

The total travel bill for the National Housing Supply Council for 2008-09 was \$85,072.
The total travel bill for the National Housing Supply Council for 2009-10, up to 31 May 2010, was \$99,300.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 080

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

I understand that the Council had some information about the percentage of income paid towards rent. Can you break that down into say brackets of 10% points please?

I understand that the Council had some information about the percentage of income paid towards mortgage. Can you break that down into say brackets of 10% points please?

Answer:

Figure 5.4 and Table 5.1, in the *State of Supply 2010 Report*, show housing affordability outcomes for lower income buyers for 2007-08 (see pages 98 and 99). Figure 5.5 and Table 5.2 (see page 101) shows the equivalent ABS data for private renter households in 2007-08.

The data used to produce these figures and tables has not been broken down into further percentile brackets.

Please refer to the Second State of Supply Report (2010) for further information on this issue, the report can be located on the National Housing Supply Council website (www.nhsc.org.au) and accessed through this link:

http://www.nhsc.org.au/state_of_supply/2009_ssr_rpt/default.htm

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 081

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What did the Council find to be the number 1 barrier to supply? How can that be overcome?

Answer:

A major barrier found by the NHSC was the significant time period required to convert raw land to new dwellings and land packages (see *State of Supply 2010 Report*, page 40).

Initiatives that focus on reducing this delay are outlined in the Council's report.

In addition, a number of reform agendas are being prosecuted through COAG to improve housing supply. These include the Housing Supply and Affordability Reform Agenda which is examining:

- land aggregation, zoning and planning processes and governance, including assessing and leveraging the work of Housing and Planning Ministers and the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group;
- nationally consistent principles for housing development infrastructure charges;
- the merits of measures to ensure greater consistency across jurisdictions, including local governments' planning approval processes, in the application of building regulations;
- the impacts of titling systems on the housing supply market;
- the efficiency and effectiveness of housing supply and land release targets;
- whether strategic planning requirements for cities should be extended to other high growth/large population regions across the country; and
- extending the land audit work to examine 'underutilised' land and to examine private holdings of large parcels of land.

The Agenda will also examine how government policies may act as barriers to supply or stimulate demand.

Other relevant COAG initiatives include:

- National Performance Indicators on proposals to expedite Development Assessment (DA) through the Local Government and Planning Ministers, including DA reform of code-based assessment and harmonising code-based assessment standards between jurisdictions;

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- agreement from all states and territories to put in place a National Criteria for Capital City Strategic Planning Systems by January 2012; and
- Housing Ministers are implementing a reform agenda under the National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreements. The first progress report on the implementing the housing reforms is available on the COAG website at www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-12-07/docs/implementing_national_housing_reforms.doc.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 082

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Are there any jurisdictions performing well in relation to housing supply?

Answer:

The NHSC's State of Supply 2010 Report provides an objective and comprehensive assessment of housing supply at the state level, disaggregated by capital city and balance of state.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 083

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

The report noted some considerable delay in getting land to the final stages of construction. Can you provide me with some examples of that, please? In these cases what has been the factors preventing work on the projects?

Answer:

In the *State of Supply 2010 Report*, the Council noted that the significant period required to convert raw land to new dwelling and land packages was a reflection of the pipeline stages and the economic and social environment associated with each individual land development project (refer page 40). The Council noted the gaps and inconsistencies in the land supply data and that this presented a challenge to understanding the supply pipeline. The Council's report does not provide specific examples of these delays.

The length of time taken in getting land to the final stages of construction is a product of the supply pipeline. The generic stages of the supply pipeline (for greenfield and brownfield developments) are outlined by the Council (refer pages 39 and 40). These are:

- Stage 1 - future urban designation and strategic planning;
- Stage 2 - specific use zoning;
- Stage 3 - structure planning;
- Stage 4 - development/subdivision approval;
- Stage 5 - civil works and issue of title; and
- Stage 6 - building approval and completion.

Further delays can be expected where there are additional statutory, environmental, financial or community issues.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 084

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

The report also noted that the gap between supply and demand will probably continue to grow; can you elaborate on that please? What factors contribute to this?

Answer:

The NHSC projects the gap to grow by an estimated 49,900 to 228,300 (178,400 + 49,900) dwellings, over the two years to 2011 (see *State of Supply 2010 Report*, page 73). This is the result of a projected 265,500 net new dwellings (adjusted for vacancies) over the period while projected underlying demand increases by 315,500 households.

These estimates are sensitive to the assumptions used.

Major contributors to any change in the gap are due to dwelling production increases and changes in household demand.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 091

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Why have you again gone for ‘soft’ KPIs without an actual target?

Answer:

The KPIs in the 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements provide a means of monitoring the number of Rent Assistance recipients, the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients who are in rental stress, the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients who pay enough rent to receive the maximum rate, the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and the administered outlays.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 095

Topic: Homelessness Prevention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the number of people who have been assisted through homelessness prevention services? How does this compare to, say, the last 4 years?

Answer:

Commonwealth delivered Homelessness Prevention services includes Reconnect and HOME Advice programs. The following table shows the number of people and families assisted through these programs. Full year 2009–10 combined data for the Homelessness Prevention programs is not available until mid August 2010.

It should be noted that Reconnect service providers have the flexibility to work with young people through individual case management, group work or a combination of both depending on the client's needs. This is why there is fluctuation between the number of individuals and families assisted.

Over the period 2004–05 to 2008–09 the number of people assisted through the Homelessness Prevention programs has increased.

Homelessness Prevention	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Number of young people assisted individually	4,696	5,040	5,165	5,684	6,344
Number of young people assisted in group work*	9,148	9,781	9,317	10,467	7,146
Number of families supported**	4,161	4,907	4,910	5,015	4,500

* HOME Advice program does not deliver group work

** Data for 2004–05 is not available for HOME Advice

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Question No: 096

Topic: Homelessness Prevention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What's the proportion of clients reporting an improved situation after assistance from homelessness prevention programs? How is this actually measured?

Answer:

The proportion of clients reporting an improved situation after assistance from Commonwealth Homelessness Prevention programs: Reconnect and HOME Advice, are reported in the tables below.

Full year 2009–10 combined data for Homelessness Prevention programs is not available until mid August 2010.

These assessments are made by the case worker working with the individual at risk or experiencing homelessness. The assessment is based on self-reporting of the client and the case workers' understanding of the client's goals and development over the time of the intervention.

Reconnect	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Percentage of clients with a positive change in their overall situation or individual goals were met	78.7%	78.6%	83.3%	82.0%	79.0%
Percentage of clients with an improved level of engagement with family, friends or peers/decreased social isolation	68.4%	69.3%	73.0%	71.0%	67.0%

HOME Advice*	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Percentage of client families whose situation improved somewhat or substantially after intervention	*	85.0%	84.1%	82.4%	79.1%

* Data for 2004–05 is not available for HOME Advice

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 097

Topic: Affect of Commonwealth Rent Assistance on Rental Stress

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients in rental stress before and after receiving Rent Assistance?

Answer:

As at March 2010, 71.4 per cent of all Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) recipients would be in rental stress without CRA. This percentage declines to 42.7 per cent after receiving CRA.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 098

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) recipients on Maximum Rate

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many CRA recipients are receiving the maximum rate of homelessness?

Answer:

As at 12 March 2010, 811,164 income units paid enough rent to receive the maximum rate of CRA. This constituted 74.7 per cent of all CRA income units.

Note: An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 099

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) by Maximum and Part Rate

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What's the total number of recipients? Can I have a breakdown of how many recipients are receiving each level of CRA?

Answer:

As at 12 March 2010, there were 1,086,342 income units receiving CRA.

The proportion of income units who paid enough rent to receive maximum CRA was 74.7 per cent (811,161), while 25.3 per cent of CRA income units (275,178) paid enough rent to receive part payment of CRA.

Note: An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 100

Topic: National Dialogue on Universal Housing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA12

Senator Fifield asked:

Did the Department prepare any proposals as a result of interest expressed by Ms Rein at those meetings?

Answer:

No. Ms Rein has not had an active role in developing the policy outcomes of the National Dialogue on Universal Housing.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 103

Topic: Average Rent and Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) for Age Pension Income Units

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA41

Senator Boyce asked:

I am referring to a media report suggesting that, in September last year when the second increase had come through, 185,000 age pensioners were paying around an average of \$150.50 a week in rent, yet they received \$43.50 a week for rental assistance. What is the level of rental assistance now?

Answer:

As at 12 March 2010, around 191,000 Age Pension income units who received CRA were paying an average of \$159 a week in rent. The average amount of CRA paid to these Age Pension income units was \$45 per week.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 104

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) for Age Pensioners

Hansard Page: 31/5//10 – CA41

Senator Boyce asked:

The suggestion is that in September last year at least 185,000 pensioners were in rental crisis, irrespective of increases and index changes. What is the Department's response to that and what, if anything, has changed since?

Answer:

As at March 2010, 12 per cent (191,000) of all Age Pension income units were renting privately and receiving CRA, with 63 per cent (121,000) of these paying enough rent to receive the maximum rate of CRA.

About 35 per cent (67,000) of age pensioners receiving CRA are in rental stress, compared to 43 per cent of the full CRA population.

CRA assists age pensioners with rental affordability by reducing those in rental stress from 71 per cent to 35 per cent.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 107

Topic: Palm Cove Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA79

Senator Cameron asked:

Do you have any idea how many jobs were created out of this project and what the stimulus is?

Answer:

The Queensland Government advised that the project is expected to support up to 34 full-time equivalent positions each day over the period of construction.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 110

Topic: Social Housing Initiative

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA82

Senator Boyce asked:

Do you look at the frequency of the transport during the day?

Answer:

When assessing proposals for funding from the State and Territory governments, the proximity of sites to public or community managed transport was taken into account as part of the Commonwealth's assessment process. Where concerns regarding the frequency of transport are raised these are examined with the relevant State and Territory Government.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 111

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA83

Senator Humphries asked:

Why have you provided for only 11 car-parking spaces when there are 19 units in the development?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that 19 car parks will be provided within the Trinity Park development.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 112

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA83

Senator Humphries asked:

Are you aware whether the workforce for this development will be drawn from the Cairns area or from Brisbane?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that they understand that the developer has engaged Hutchinsons, which have a local office in Smithfield, Cairns to construct the project. All Turnkey Development Agreements must apply the Queensland Government's Local Industry Policy. A copy of the policy is available on the Queensland Government web site at www.industry.qld.gov.au/dsdweb/v4/apps/web/content.cfm?id=7382.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 113

Topic: Trinity Park Project Developer

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA84

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you confirm whether the developer at Trinity Park has \$55 million worth of stimulus projects in Queensland?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that 10 projects put forward by the developer of the Trinity Park site were successful through the 'Request for Offer/Tender' process run by the Queensland Department of Public Works. The developer will be awarded funding totalling \$45,257,892 to undertake these projects.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 114

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA84

Senator Humphries asked:

If an application for a declaratory judgment is made, would it be customary to defer construction until those proceedings are resolved in the court?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that construction commenced on the Trinity Park project on 8 March 2010 and that the Planning and Environment Court application was only filed on 21 June 2010. As at 15 July 2010, the Queensland Department of Public Works is seeking legal advice in relation to this issue, however, construction is continuing on the site.

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Question No: 115

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA84

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you table the documents of the exchange between the Queensland Transport and Cairns City Council which identified where the road reserve was agreed to be located?

Answer:

The Queensland Government sought advice from Cairns City Council in relation to the need for a road link through the Trinity Park site (marked as lot 1801 on **Attachment B**). In response, the Council provided the Queensland Government with a copy of a letter (dated 21 September 2004) from Queensland Transport to a planner who was acting on behalf of an earlier owner of the site (see **Attachment A**). The letter provides advice in respect to a potential road link to be established through another site in the development to be located between lots 1805 and 180 as marked on **Attachment C**.

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Question No: 117

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA85

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide a detailed breakdown of the building costs for this project, including fees and project management costs that are payable to the developer?

Answer:

As at 9 August 2010, the Queensland Government has advised that the total construction costs payable to the developer for this project are as follows:

Construction Costs	\$4,185,517 (incl GST)
Design Costs	\$ 255,849 (incl GST)
Fees and Charges	\$ 78,650 (incl GST)
TOTAL	\$4,520,016 (incl GST)

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 118

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA87

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you confirm the number of car parks in the Trinity Park estate development?

Answer:

It is confirmed that 19 car parks will be provided.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 119

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA91

Senator Cameron asked:

Can you give us some details in relation to the proximity and the appropriateness of this project and the access to public amenities for the residents of the Bluewater project?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that the site is within approximately 650 metres of a bus stop and a convenience store, both located on Reed Road. Sunbus service 2a runs on an hourly basis to and from this bus stop. A library is located 2.5 kilometres away. Schools are located within 3 kilometres (including Trinity Beach Primary School, Yorkeys Knob Primary School and Smithfield State High School). Smithfield Shopping Centre is a major shopping centre located 3.6 kilometres away. This centre contains large scale retail stores, commercial services and community services including medical centres. This shopping centre is identified as a 'Major Regional Activity Centre' under the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 120

Topic: Boyd Street Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA92

Senator Humphries asked:

Does the State Government include purchasing criteria for Social Housing projects around water frontage and flood prone land?

Answer:

As at 15 July 2010, the State Government does not exclude the purchase of sites near water.

Land that is identified as possibly being flood prone is subject to flood related development controls.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 122

Topic: Gerringong Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA93

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you confirm the area of the 200 people waiting for public housing?

Answer:

The 200 person waiting list refers to those in the Kiama and Shellharbour Local Government Areas.

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Question No: 124

Topic: Social Housing Initiative

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA98

Senator Humphries asked:

How many projects did you bounce at the beginning?

Answer:

The Department did not approve 79 proposals (for more than 1,500 dwellings) submitted by states and territories during the assessment process undertaken between June and September 2009. These projects either failed to meet one or more of the Commonwealth's key selection criteria outlined in the Social Housing Initiative Guidelines or were not assessed as offering value for money.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 125

Topic: Public housing in boom towns

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA105

Senator Ludlam asked:

Do you have figures for either Port Hedland – Port and South (either together or disaggregated), and for Karratha and Dampier?

Answer:

The following table shows the number of income units (singles, couples and families entitled to income support payments and/or more than the base rate of FTB Part A) living in public housing in Port Hedland and Roebourne (includes both Karratha and Dampier), from 2008 to 2010.

Data providing broader information about public housing in these areas, including those dwellings occupied by people not entitled to income support payments and/or more than the base rate of FTB Part A, is not collected but may be accessed from the Western Australian Government.

Number of Income Units⁽¹⁾ in Public Housing by Port Hedland, Roebourne, and SLAs⁽²⁾ by quarter⁽³⁾ 2008 to 2010

<i>Statistical Local Area (SLA)</i>	<i>March 2008</i>	<i>June 2008</i>	<i>Sept 2008</i>	<i>Dec 2008</i>	<i>March 2009</i>	<i>June 2009</i>	<i>Sept 2009</i>	<i>Dec 2009</i>	<i>March 2010</i>
Port Hedland (Town)	675	700	680	678	672	662	645	660	735
Roebourne (Shire) (<i>Karratha and Dampier are in this SLA</i>)	542	538	542	560	554	548	551	563	577
Total	1,217	1,238	1,222	1,238	1,226	1,210	1,196	1,223	1,312

(1) An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units. Population are those where at least one member of an income unit is entitled to an income support payment or is paid at more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A.

(2) Australian Bureau of Statistics – Statistical Local Areas.

(3) Relates to an income unit's circumstances for one fortnight in a quarter.

Source: Commonwealth Housing Data Sets March 2008 to March 2010

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 128

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA118

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you provide the web address for the terms of reference for the council?

Answer:

The National Housing Supply Council's terms of reference are available on the Council's website on the 'Terms of Reference' tab at <http://www.nhsc.org.au/>. They were also published in the 2008 and 2010 State of Supply reports.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 077

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What was the total cost of preparing the 2010 State of Supply report?

Answer:

The costs for preparation of the 2010 State of Supply report are not identified separately in the reporting system.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 087

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

So, if the Government were to encourage more immigration and greater population growth to say 36 million, how would the market react to that? Would that result in more people without a roof over their heads?

Answer:

The NHSC has projected the gap in underlying demand and supply to 2029 - the estimates are highly sensitive to the assumptions used. The medium growth scenario projects 11.8 million households in 2029 up from 8.5 million households (see *State of Supply 2010 Report*, page 17) with approximately 2.55 persons per household in 2009 (see Table A10, page 213). These projections are similar to the Treasury's population projections in the Inter-Generational Report 3.

Estimates of the change in the gap between dwelling supply and underlying demand from 2009 to 2029 using different assumptions are available on page 76 of the *State of Supply 2010 Report*.

Long term projections suggest the emergence of a cumulative gap of 640,600 dwellings, based on medium demand and supply scenarios. However, in a well functioning market a large gap should trigger responses in price, production, underlying demand and effective demand that would fully or partially close this gap (see page 65). The Council identified a range of constraints that may limit the responsiveness of supply and these are covered throughout the report (see chapters 3, 6 and 7).

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 088

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

I note in Chapter 4 that you say there has been a ‘significant investment’ in housing but there is still a gap. Do you think that the investment has had the best impact on the housing market or could it have been structured better?

Answer:

Housing is a major priority for the Australian Government, which has committed almost \$20 billion towards new housing programs to assist first home buyers, build more affordable rental properties and improve the efficiency of the housing market.

It is too early to assess the real impact of these programs, as many are long term structural investments. However, the impact of the \$5.6 billion social housing component is already starting to be seen with construction having commenced on more than 16,000 dwellings by mid 2010, while there were 140,016 total private residential building starts over the year ending March 2010.

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Question No: 085

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

In the report there is a whole chapter on how the market could work better, what do you think the primary aim for Government should be? Elaborate on other areas?

Answer:

The NHSC does not comment on the direction of Government policy.

The *State of Supply 2010 Report* explored how to assess the effectiveness of the Australian housing market and its responsiveness to shifts between demand and supply.

The Council found an efficient market should have an even and sufficient supply to meet housing need in the right places and at the prices people can pay (see *State of Supply 2010 Report*, page 130). A key indicator of efficiency in the housing market is the time it takes for supply to respond to changes in demand.

In the report, the Council identified a range of options available to governments to stimulate greater efficiency in the housing market. These include:

- ensuring better information about demand and supply is available;
- facilitating and coordinating desired growth, including balancing the needs of existing residents with the need to accommodate growth in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner;
- identifying the most efficient and equitable distribution of the financial burden of the infrastructure needed to meet the needs of growing communities and cities;
- standardising building and planning regulations; and
- setting up land development agencies – such as VicUrban in Victoria and Landcom in New South Wales – to facilitate acquisition, aggregation, master planning and development of urban communities with the private sector and builders.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 086

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

The report also notes that Immigration has been higher than expected leading to a greater undersupply, is that right?

Answer:

The State of Supply 2010 Report notes immigration in 2008-09 has been higher than projections in the previous report (see page xvii). It also notes immigration is the most significant driver of underlying demand for additional housing stock.

The increase in the gap between estimated total underlying demand and estimated total supply is partly explained by an increase in underlying demand than estimated in the 2008 report. This is driven primarily by higher levels of net migration than the Housing Supply Councils projections.

More detail on the estimates of demand and how they are calculated is available on page 64 of the report.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 089

Topic: National Housing Supply Council (NHSC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Is the Council/Department aware of the Treasury's population projections of 43.9 million by 2050?

- a. Why hasn't the Council taken this into account at all?
- b. Has the Council done any research based on the projections completed by Treasury?
- c. What would the undersupply of housing be, based on the Treasury's projections?

Answer:

The Department has noted the 43.9 million population projection that was provided by the Treasury in response to a question at Senate Estimates in relation to a high immigration scenario. This projection is based on different assumptions to those used by the NHSC.

The Council's medium growth scenario projects 11.8 million households in 2029, up from 8.5 million households (see *State of Supply 2010 Report*, page 17) with approximately 2.55 persons per household in 2009 (see Table A10, page 213). These projections are similar to the Treasury's population projections in the 2010 Inter-Generational Report 3.

No.

This analysis has not been undertaken.

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Question No: 092

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

I understand the last NRAS year finished on April 30, is that right? For the last NRAS year, can you please advise:

- The cumulative number of planned NRAS Incentives that have been allocated?
- The number of NRAS dwellings available for rent at present?
- How many NRAS households have now been tenanted?
- How many of those have been by low or moderate income households?
- How many of those were in rental stress prior to moving into these households?
- How many NRAS dwellings are tenanted by indigenous households?

Answer:

A typical NRAS year is from 1 May to 30 April.

- As at 20 May 2010, a total of 12,800 allocations have been accepted or are under offer for new dwellings.
- As at 20 May 2010, there are a total of 1,727 dwellings available to be rented under the NRAS Scheme.
- As at 20 May 2010, there were 1,667 NRAS dwellings occupied.
- As at 20 May 2010, all occupied NRAS dwellings were tenanted by low or moderate income households. There are income thresholds that apply to tenant eligibility for dwellings under the Scheme and these vary depending on household composition.
- We do not collect information about whether the person renting the property was in rental stress prior to renting an NRAS property.
- 157 (residents have identified as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander.

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Question No: 093

Topic: Homelessness Prevention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the number of dwellings or lots that deliver purchase price reductions required under HAF?

Answer:

As at 24 August 2010, the total number of dwellings or lots that will receive a direct purchase price benefit from the Housing Affordability Fund is 14,057.

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Question No: 094

Topic: Homeless Prevention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Can I please have a breakdown of all HAF funding, nationwide?

Answer:

As at 24 August 2010, the Housing Affordability Fund has 38 funded projects nationwide.

ACT	\$4,000,000
NSW	\$32,575,165
NT	\$4,136,364
QLD	\$19,581,765
SA	\$27,640,011
TAS	\$6,620,000
VIC	\$190,640,000
WA	\$5,410,000

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 126

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA108

Senator Ludlam asked:

Rounds 1 and 2 – Have you been giving incentives out to places that already exist that are being refurbished and what fraction of those sorts of places would be made up, or is it all being built from scratch?

Answer:

In Round One, one application was received that included about 150 dwellings which were not new but required substantial refurbishment in order to become habitable. The application was approved for 120 dwellings.

As per the *National Rental Affordability Scheme Act 2008, Section 7.2*, allocations can be made on the condition that:

either:

the rental dwelling has not been lived in as a residence at any time before the first day of the incentive period; or

the rental dwelling was unfit for anyone to live in, and since the day on which it has been made fit for living in, it has not been lived in as a residence between that day and the first day of the incentive period.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 127

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA109

Senator Ludlam asked:

Can you provide a breakup of everything that you know of that you have approved, whether it has been built or not, everything that you have signed off that you are confident will be built, maybe just the postcodes? We are looking for a breakup of where they are going?

Answer:

Attachment A provides a table which shows NRAS dwellings by location, and postcode and whether they are active (available for rent) or proposed (allocation has been reserved).

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ATTACHMENT A

Dwellings by Location (Proposed and Active)

Notes:

- Data is current at 20 May 2010.
- Data is subject to daily variation because dwelling details will change as property developments progress.
- Active status means that the dwelling is available for rent.
- Proposed status means that the dwelling is not yet available for rent.
- Some dwelling locations may cross region boundaries.

STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
ACT	CRACE	2911	22	0	22
ACT	FORDE	2914	19	0	19
ACT	FRANKLIN	2913	67	0	67
ACT	GORDON	2906	12	0	12
ACT	HOLT	2615	0	32	32
ACT	KALEEN	2617	0	2	2
ACT	LATHAM	2615	0	1	1
ACT	LYONS	2606	0	1	1
ACT	PEARCE	2607	0	1	1
NSW	ARMIDALE	2350	0	10	10
NSW	ASHFIELD	2131	1	19	20
NSW	BANKSTOWN	2200	23	94	117
NSW	BEECROFT	2119	32	0	32
NSW	BEGA	2550	10	0	10
NSW	BLACKBUTT	2529	50	0	50
NSW	BLACKTOWN	2148	83	0	83
NSW	BULLI	2516	1	4	5
NSW	CAMPBELLTOWN	2560	11	14	25
NSW	CANLEY VALE	2166	26	0	26
NSW	CARDIFF	2285	45	0	45
NSW	CESSNOCK	2325	11	2	13
NSW	CHARMHAVEN	2263	12	0	12
NSW	COFFS HARBOUR	2450	0	6	6
NSW	DANDENONG	3175	1	0	1
NSW	DAPTO	2530	108	0	108
NSW	EDGEWORTH	2285	2	10	12
NSW	ELERMORE VALE	2287	0	10	10
NSW	FAIRFIELD	2165	50	8	58
NSW	FENNELL BAY	2283	0	13	13

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
NSW	GOONELLABAH	2480	6	0	6
NSW	GOSFORD	2250	4	32	36
NSW	GOULBURN	2580	33	0	33
NSW	GRAFTON	2460	8	0	8
NSW	GUILDFORD	2161	0	46	46
NSW	GYMEA	2227	0	8	8
NSW	HAMLYN TERRACE	2259	20	0	20
NSW	HARRIS PARK	2150	15	0	15
NSW	INGLEBURN	2565	1	0	1
NSW	JAMISONTOWN	2750	0	8	8
NSW	JESMOND	2299	0	4	4
NSW	JUNCTION HILL	2460	6	0	6
NSW	KALARU	2550	25	0	25
NSW	KENTHURST	2156	9	0	9
NSW	KINGSWOOD	2747	32	36	68
NSW	LAKE MACQUARIE	2281	39	0	39
NSW	LEUMEAH	2560	0	50	50
NSW	LISMORE	2480	26	0	26
NSW	LIVERPOOL	2170	0	17	17
NSW	MAROUBRA	2035	8	0	8
NSW	MORTLAKE	2137	1	0	1
NSW	MOUNT ANNAN	2567	0	4	4
NSW	MOUNT HUTTON	2290	0	7	7
NSW	NAMBUCCA HEADS	2448	0	5	5
NSW	NEWCASTLE	2300	18	0	18
NSW	NORTH GOSFORD	2250	0	8	8
NSW	NORTH PARRAMATTA	2151	9	0	9
NSW	NORTH STRATHFIELD	2137	16	104	120
NSW	NORTH TAMWORTH	2340	10	0	10
NSW	NORTHMEAD	2152	0	64	64
NSW	NOWRA	2541	15	0	15
NSW	OXLEY PARK	2760	11	9	20
NSW	PARRAMATTA	2150	20	0	20
NSW	PENRITH	2750	10	0	10
NSW	PICTON	2571	60	0	60
NSW	PORT MACQUARIE	2444	10	0	10
NSW	RAYMOND TERRACE	2324	23	0	23
NSW	ROPES CROSSING	2760	7	0	7
NSW	ROSEHILL	2142	112	0	112
NSW	RUTHERFORD	2320	64	0	64

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
NSW	SMITHFIELD	2164	56	0	56
NSW	SPRINGWOOD	2777	18	0	18
NSW	ST GEORGES BASIN	2540	40	0	40
NSW	ST MARYS	2760	15	14	29
NSW	STRATHFIELD	2135	7	0	7
NSW	TIGHES HILL	2297	0	8	8
NSW	PARRAMATTA AREA	2150	3	0	3
NSW	LIVERPOOL AREA	2170	3	0	3
NSW	GOSFORD AREA	2250	3	0	3
NSW	DOORALONG AREA	2259	3	0	3
NSW	PORT MACQUARIE AREA	2444	5	0	5
NSW	COFFS HARBOUR AREA	2450	5	0	5
NSW	EDGEWORTH	2285	14	0	14
NSW	WALLSEND	2287	7	4	11
NSW	WAUCHOPE	2446	0	2	2
NSW	WENTWORTH POINT	2127	350	0	350
NSW	WOLLI CREEK	2205	20	0	20
NSW	WOLLONGONG	2500	18	10	28
NSW	WOONONA	2517	3	0	3
NSW	WORRIGEE	2540	15	12	27
NSW	WYONG	2259	21	0	21
NSW	YAGOONA	2199	34	0	34
NSW	YAMBA	2464	10	0	10
NSW	ZETLAND	2017	19	0	19
QLD	ASHMORE	4214	8	0	8
QLD	BARDON	4065	20	0	20
QLD	BEAUDESERT	4285	20	0	20
QLD	BELLBIRD PARK	4300	40	0	40
QLD	BELLMERE	4510	3	7	10
QLD	BORONIA HEIGHTS	4124	24	0	24
QLD	BOWEN HILLS	4006	80	0	80
QLD	BURPENGARY	4505	48	0	48
QLD	CABOOLTURE	4510	103	0	103
QLD	CALAMVALE	4116	61	6	67
QLD	CALLIOPE	4680	15	0	15
QLD	CALOUNDRA WEST	4551	31	0	31
QLD	CARINA	4152	14	0	14
QLD	CHERMSIDE	4032	32	0	32
QLD	CHINCHILLA	4413	17	0	17
QLD	COALFALLS	4305	2	1	3

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
QLD	COOLOOLA	4580	12	0	12
QLD	COOMBABAH	4216	156	0	156
QLD	COOMERA	4209	3	7	10
QLD	COOPERS PLAINS	4108	14	0	14
QLD	DREWVALE	4116	13	0	13
QLD	EDMONTON	4869	100	0	100
QLD	EMERALD	4720	10	0	10
QLD	ENOGERA	4051	60	0	60
QLD	FITZGIBBON	4018	16	0	16
QLD	FORTITUDE VALLEY	4006	41	0	41
QLD	GLADSTONE-CITY	4680	21	0	21
QLD	GOODNA	4300	25	0	25
QLD	GYMPIE	4570	52	0	52
QLD	HARLAXTON	4350	20	0	20
QLD	HERVEY BAY	4655	53	0	53
QLD	HIGHGATE HILL	4101	30	0	30
QLD	HOLMVIEW	4207	35	5	40
QLD	KALLANGUR	4503	27	0	27
QLD	KARALEE	4306	30	0	30
QLD	KEARNEYS SPRING	4350	0	43	43
QLD	KELSO	4815	13	2	15
QLD	KIPPA-RING	4021	8	0	8
QLD	LABRADOR	4215	95	0	95
QLD	LAIDLEY	4341	5	0	5
QLD	LAWNTON	4501	41	0	41
QLD	LOGANHOLME	4129	81	0	81
QLD	MACKAY	4740	59	0	59
QLD	MARSDEN	4132	15	2	17
QLD	MARYBOROUGH	4650	49	0	49
QLD	MCDOWALL	4053	25	0	25
QLD	MERINGANDAN	4352	14	0	14
QLD	MIRANI	4754	2	0	2
QLD	MORAYFIELD	4506	70	0	70
QLD	NAMBOUR	4560	29	0	29
QLD	NEW AUCKLAND	4680	60	0	60
QLD	NEWSTEAD	4006	94	0	94
QLD	NINGI	4511	2	8	10
QLD	NORTH BOOVAL	4304	53	0	53
QLD	OXENFORD	4210	5	0	5
QLD	PACIFIC PINES	4211	1	0	1

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
QLD	PARK AVENUE	4701	3	0	3
QLD	PIMPAMA	4209	70	6	76
QLD	PROSERPINE	4800	20	0	20
QLD	RED HILL	4059	6	0	6
QLD	REDBANK	4301	2	15	17
QLD	REDBANK PLAINS	4301	47	3	50
QLD	SALISBURY	4107	20	0	20
QLD	SOUTH TOWNSVILLE	4810	30	0	30
QLD	SOUTHPORT	4215	5	95	100
QLD	SUNNYBANK HILLS	4109	28	0	28
QLD	UPPER COOMERA	4209	1	1	2
QLD	WATERFORD	4133	6	1	7
QLD	WHITE ROCK	4306	24	0	24
SA	ADELAIDE	5000	213	16	229
SA	ALBERTON	5014	0	1	1
SA	ALDINGA	5173	5	0	5
SA	ALDINGA BEACH	5173	13	1	14
SA	ANDREWS FARM	5114	208	21	229
SA	BALAKLAVA	5461	21	19	40
SA	BLACK FOREST	5035	0	3	3
SA	BLAIR ATHOL	5084	2	5	7
SA	BROMPTON	5007	0	4	4
SA	CAMPBELLTOWN	5074	40	0	40
SA	CHELTENHAM	5014	15	0	15
SA	CHRISTIE DOWNS	5164	23	0	23
SA	CLARENCE GARDENS	5039	0	1	1
SA	CLEARVIEW	5085	2	0	2
SA	CROYDON	5008	0	1	1
SA	DAW PARK	5041	5	1	6
SA	EDWARDSTOWN	5039	5	1	6
SA	ELIZABETH EAST	5112	10	0	10
SA	ELIZABETH GROVE	5112	4	0	4
SA	ELIZABETH NORTH	5113	32	0	32
SA	ELIZABETH SOUTH	5112	12	0	12
SA	ETHELTON	5015	12	0	12
SA	EVANDALE	5069	0	5	5
SA	EVANSTON GARDENS	5116	8	0	8
SA	FULLARTON	5063	2	4	6
SA	GLANDORE	5037	0	1	1
SA	GLENELG	5045	0	4	4

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
SA	GLENELG NORTH	5045	0	4	4
SA	GOOLWA	5214	6	0	6
SA	GREENACRES	5086	0	2	2
SA	GUMERACHA	5233	4	0	4
SA	HAMPSTEAD GARDENS	5086	10	12	22
SA	INGLE FARM	5098	20	0	20
SA	KENSINGTON GARDENS	5068	0	1	1
SA	KINGSTON SE	5275	0	2	2
SA	KURRALTA PARK	5037	0	1	1
SA	LARGS NORTH	5016	0	7	7
SA	LOCKLEYS	5032	2	4	6
SA	MANSFIELD PARK	5012	0	20	20
SA	MITCHELL PARK	5043	18	0	18
SA	MODBURY	5092	0	1	1
SA	MOUNT BARKER	5251	17	0	17
SA	MUNNO PARA	5115	60	1	61
SA	MUNNO PARA WEST	5115	0	5	5
SA	MURRAY BRIDGE	5253	4	0	4
SA	MYRTLE BANK	5064	0	5	5
SA	NAILSWORTH	5083	0	2	2
SA	NOARLUNGA DOWNS	5168	11	0	11
SA	NORTHFIELD	5085	24	4	28
SA	NORTHGATE	5085	3	0	3
SA	OLD REYNELLA	5161	14	0	14
SA	ONKAPARINGA HILLS	5163	12	0	12
SA	PARA VISTA	5093	10	0	10
SA	PARK HOLME	5043	4	0	4
SA	PAYNEHAM	5070	10	0	10
SA	PLYMPTON	5038	0	1	1
SA	PLYMPTON PARK	5038	2	0	2
SA	PORT LINCOLN	5606	4	0	4
SA	PORT PIRIE	5540	3	0	3
SA	RICHMOND	5033	8	62	70
SA	ROSE PARK	5067	0	12	12
SA	SEAFORD	5169	12	2	14
SA	SEAFORD MEADOWS	5169	26	0	26
SA	SEATON	5023	0	4	4
SA	SELICKS BEACH	5174	0	4	4
SA	SHEIDOW PARK	5158	7	0	7
SA	SMITHFIELD	5114	2	0	2

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
SA	SMITHFIELD PLAINS	5114	0	1	1
SA	SOMERTON PARK	5044	16	0	16
SA	TAPEROO	5017	4	0	4
SA	THEBARTON	5031	0	1	1
SA	TROTT PARK	5158	5	0	5
SA	ADELAIDE	5000	93	0	93
SA	VICTOR HARBOR	5211	1	6	7
SA	WALKERVILLE	5081	0	1	1
SA	WOODVILLE GARDENS	5012	0	1	1
SA	YANKALILLA	5203	6	0	6
TAS	BELLERIVE	7018	42	0	42
TAS	BICHENO	7215	3	0	3
TAS	BLACKMANS BAY	7052	2	1	3
TAS	BRIGHTON	7030	85	2	87
TAS	BURNIE	7320	79	5	84
TAS	CLAREMONT	7011	10	1	11
TAS	DEVONPORT	7310	24	0	24
TAS	EAST DEVONPORT	7310	0	2	2
TAS	GEILSTON BAY	7015	26	0	26
TAS	GEORGE TOWN	7253	0	2	2
TAS	GLENORCHY	7010	22	3	25
TAS	GRANTON	7030	28	0	28
TAS	HOBART	7000	20	0	20
TAS	HOWRAH	7018	4	4	8
TAS	HUONVILLE	7109	16	1	17
TAS	KINGSTON	7050	93	4	97
TAS	LATROBE	7307	15	5	20
TAS	LAUNCESTON	7250	58	0	58
TAS	LEGANA	7277	0	2	2
TAS	MARGATE	7054	9	4	13
TAS	MIANDETTA	7310	0	3	3
TAS	MIDWAY POINT	7171	15	0	15
TAS	MONTELLO	7320	0	1	1
TAS	NEW NORFOLK	7140	32	0	32
TAS	NEWNHAM	7248	1	1	2
TAS	NUBEENA	7184	2	0	2
TAS	OAKDOWNS	7019	0	1	1
TAS	OLD BEACH	7017	0	1	1
TAS	PORT SORELL	7307	23	12	35
TAS	RAVENSWOOD	7250	3	0	3

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
TAS	RISDON VALE	7016	3	0	3
TAS	ROCHERLEA	7248	8	0	8
TAS	ROKEBY	7019	40	2	42
TAS	SHOREWELL PARK	7320	0	22	22
TAS	SORELL	7172	21	2	23
TAS	SPRINGFIELD	7260	3	0	3
TAS	ST HELENS	7216	14	0	14
TAS	SULPHUR CREEK	7316	0	2	2
TAS	SWANSEA	7190	9	0	9
TAS	TOLMANS HILL	7007	20	0	20
TAS	TRIABUNNA	7190	38	0	38
TAS	ULVERSTONE	7315	0	7	7
TAS	GLENORCHY AREA	7010	2	0	2
TAS	CLAREMONT AREA	7011	10	0	10
TAS	RISDON VALE	7016	2	0	2
TAS	ARTHURS LAKE AREA	7030	16	0	16
TAS	INVERMAY AREA	7248	6	0	6
TAS	LAUNCESTON AREA	7250	14	0	14
TAS	WEST ULVERSTONE	7315	2	0	2
TAS	WYNYARD	7325	14	0	14
VIC	AVONDALE HEIGHTS	3034	100	0	100
VIC	BACCHUS MARSH	3340	78	4	82
VIC	BAIRNSDALE	3875	6	13	19
VIC	BAXTER	3911	1	0	1
VIC	BENDIGO	3550	10	0	10
VIC	BERWICK	3806	157	0	157
VIC	BLACKBURN	3130	1	0	1
VIC	BROWN HILL	3350	1	2	3
VIC	BUNDOORA	3083	1	0	1
VIC	CALIFORNIA GULLY	3556	0	9	9
VIC	CAMPBELLFIELD	3061	1	0	1
VIC	CAROLINE SPRINGS	3023	0	27	27
VIC	CARRUM DOWNS	3201	0	2	2
VIC	CHADSTONE	3148	100	0	100
VIC	CHELSEA	3196	1	0	1
VIC	CLAYTON	3168	601	0	601
VIC	COBURG	3058	255	0	255
VIC	CRAIGIEBURN	3064	0	27	27
VIC	CRANBOURNE	3977	0	3	3
VIC	CROYDON	3136	5	0	5

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
VIC	DANDENONG	3175	88	0	88
VIC	DAYLESFORD	3460	6	0	6
VIC	DEER PARK	3023	25	0	25
VIC	DELACOMBE	3356	0	7	7
VIC	DOCKLANDS	3008	0	57	57
VIC	DONCASTER EAST	3109	1	0	1
VIC	EAGLEHAWK	3556	0	6	6
VIC	EPPING	3076	4	0	4
VIC	EPSOM	3551	0	1	1
VIC	FOOTSCRAY	3011	22	0	22
VIC	FRANKSTON	3199	31	0	31
VIC	GOLDEN POINT	3350	0	1	1
VIC	HAWTHORN	3122	10	0	10
VIC	HEIDELBERG WEST	3081	1	0	1
VIC	HOPPERS CROSSING	3029	0	13	13
VIC	HORSHAM	3400	6	0	6
VIC	INVERLOCH	3996	0	18	18
VIC	KINGSVILLE	3012	7	0	7
VIC	KOO WEE RUP	3981	0	6	6
VIC	KURUNJANG	3337	0	2	2
VIC	MELTON	3337	9	13	22
VIC	MELTON WEST	3337	0	10	10
VIC	MERNDA	3754	7	0	7
VIC	MINERS REST	3352	1	0	1
VIC	MOE	3825	13	0	13
VIC	MOOROOLBARK	3138	18	0	18
VIC	MORWELL	3840	11	1	12
VIC	MOUNT MARTHA	3934	1	0	1
VIC	MOUNT PLEASANT	3350	0	1	1
VIC	MOUNT WAVERLEY	3149	1	0	1
VIC	NARRE WARREN	3805	285	0	285
VIC	NEWBOROUGH	3825	0	2	2
VIC	NORLANE	3214	0	2	2
VIC	NORTH MELBOURNE	3051	152	0	152
VIC	NUMURKAH	3636	0	6	6
VIC	OAK PARK	3046	2	0	2
VIC	PAKENHAM	3810	7	12	19
VIC	PASCOE VALE	3044	24	0	24
VIC	POINT COOK	3030	16	0	16
VIC	PRESTON	3072	7	0	7

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
VIC	RESERVOIR	3073	1	0	1
VIC	RINGWOOD	3134	4	0	4
VIC	ROXBURGH PARK	3064	0	1	1
VIC	SEBASTOPOL	3356	0	1	1
VIC	SEDDON	3011	1	65	66
VIC	SHEPPARTON	3630	10	41	51
VIC	SKYE	3977	25	0	25
VIC	SOLDIERS HILL	3350	0	1	1
VIC	SOUTH MELBOURNE	3205	90	0	90
VIC	SPRINGVALE	3171	30	0	30
VIC	ST KILDA	3182	113	0	113
VIC	STAWELL	3380	1	0	1
VIC	SUNBURY	3429	0	1	1
VIC	TARNEIT	3029	16	0	16
VIC	TRUGANINA	3029	7	14	21
VIC	WALLAN	3756	5	0	5
VIC	WENDOUREE	3355	0	1	1
VIC	WERRIBEE	3030	15	0	15
VIC	WESTMEADOWS	3049	0	2	2
VIC	WHITE HILLS	3550	0	2	2
VIC	WYNDHAM VALE	3024	33	10	43
VIC	YARRAWONGA	3730	4	0	4
WA	ARMADALE	6112	166	14	180
WA	BALDIVIS	6171	20	0	20
WA	BALLAJURA	6066	19	0	19
WA	BEECHBORO	6063	5	0	5
WA	BERTRAM	6167	7	0	7
WA	BROOKDALE	6112	27	0	27
WA	BROOME	6725	24	0	24
WA	CANNINGTON	6107	6	10	16
WA	COOLBELLUP	6163	0	22	22
WA	ELLENBROOK	6069	14	0	14
WA	FERNDALE	6148	2	0	2
WA	GOSNELLS	6110	10	0	10
WA	KELMSCOTT	6111	15	4	19
WA	LANGFORD	6147	29	0	29
WA	MIDLAND	6056	10	0	10
WA	MORLEY	6062	0	7	7
WA	NORTHBRIDGE	6003	0	39	39
WA	PERTH	6000	0	1	1

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STATE	LOCATION	PCODE	Proposed	Active	Total
WA	PINJARRA	6208	34	21	55
WA	SUCCESS	6164	40	0	40
WA	COOLBELLUP AREA	6163	40	0	40
WA	SOUTH LAKE AREA	6164	120	0	120
WA	WELLARD	6170	35	0	35
WA	WUNGONG	6112	4	0	4
Total			9041	1727	10768

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 101

Topic: National Dialogue on Universal Housing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA12

Senator Fifield asked:

Has there been any contact from the Prime Minister's office to the department indicating that Ms Rein would like to take more of an interest in the policy area and would like to have input into policy in this area?

Answer:

No. As at 15 October 2010, there has not been any contact from the Prime Minister's office in this regard.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 074

Topic: Progress on Reform Directions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Under the Department's responsibilities under Schedule C of the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan: Building Prosperity for the Future and Supporting Jobs Now, can the Department please provide an update on the progress of the following 'reform directions':

- a. integration of public and community housing waiting lists;
- b. better social and economic participation for social housing tenants by locating housing closer to transport, services and employment opportunities;
- c. implementation of support arrangements to assist social housing tenants to transition from social housing arrangements to affordable private rental and home ownership as their circumstances change;
- d. reducing concentrations of disadvantage through appropriate redevelopment to create mixed communities that improve social inclusion;
- e. introduction of a national regulatory and registration system for not-for-profit housing providers to enhance the sector's capacity to operate across jurisdictions;
- f. increased transparency through the establishment of consistent and comparable accounting and reporting standards across jurisdictions that allow clear and objective assessments of performance that meet public accountability requirements;
- g. social housing providers to be subject to independent prudential supervision to protect public investment in the sector;
- h. improved tenancy management and maintenance benchmarks for social housing;
- i. improved efficiency of social housing including through better matching of tenants with appropriate dwelling types and the introduction of rent-setting policies that reflect the type of dwellings occupied by tenants;
- j. Introducing contestability in the allocation of funds to encourage a range of new providers and create diversification in the not-for-profit sector to enhance the ability of providers to offer housing options to a broader range of client types;
- k. leveraging of government capital investment to enhance the provision of social housing;
- l. better use of government owned land to provide more affordable housing opportunities for low income earners; and
- m. improved procurement practices that promote competition between proponents and provide participation opportunities for small and medium enterprises.

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Answer:

The National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan required all jurisdictions to make a detailed progress report on implementation of the reforms to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) by December 2009.

A report entitled *Implementing the National Housing Reforms* was prepared on behalf of the Housing Ministers' Conference and considered by COAG at its meeting on 7 December 2009. The report details progress against the housing reforms that have been agreed by COAG including those listed in the question. The report can be accessed from the COAG web site at www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-12-07/index.cfm (under the 'Related Docs' tab).

COAG has requested the Housing Minister's Conference to provide an updated report on further progress. This report will be considered at the next COAG meeting, which has not been scheduled at this time.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 106

Topic: Hope Street Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA74

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you tell me why a project with a land valuation of \$7.650 million ends up having more paid for it? We are not talking here about the cost of the building. Obviously, you would not build a building for \$1.4 million. Why is there a difference between the land valuation and the final price paid?

Answer:

The purchase price paid for the Hope Street site was \$8.1 million (GST exclusive) which was just under 6 per cent above the property valuation of \$7.65 million (GST exclusive). This was within the allowable 10 per cent variation that is applied by the Queensland Department of Communities when purchasing such sites. The higher price paid for the site was accepted based on the following:

- the land comprises two separate parcels owned by two unrelated owners;
- neither parcel of land was on the open market and detailed and prolonged negotiations were required with the owners to bring the final proposal together;
- no other sites were available on the open market, within the high demand area, that were considered suitable for the project; and
- the parcels of land were ideally located close to public transport within walking distance to the CBD of South Brisbane and Brisbane.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 121

Topic: Lake Macquarie Council

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA92

Senator Humphries asked:

Has the council written to the Commonwealth Government about these sites?

Answer:

As at 15 October 2010, the Department is unaware of any correspondence from Lake Macquarie Council in relation to the sites that has been addressed to the Commonwealth.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 073

Topic: Progress Against Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Under the Department's responsibilities under Schedule C of the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan: Building Prosperity for the Future and Supporting Jobs Now, can the Department please provide an update on the progress of the following 'outcomes':

- g. within three years around 20,000 new social housing dwellings will be built primarily for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- h. dwellings built will meet the needs of people on public housing waiting lists, including age and disability pensioners, Indigenous people and women with children escaping domestic violence;
- i. new dwellings will provide around a 50 per cent reduction in the waiting time for people with high housing needs on public housing lists and a reduction in the number of low income households paying more than half their income in rent;
- j. 75 per cent of the new dwellings constructed through this initiative will be completed by December 2010;
- k. around 2,500 existing public housing stock will become available that would otherwise become unfit for occupation;
- l. this initiative will provide an immediate stimulus to the building and construction industry.

Answer:

- a. Following the \$750 million reduction in funding for new construction under the Social Housing Initiative announced in August 2009, the new construction target was revised to 17,460 dwellings based on a \$300,000 average cost per dwelling. As at 31 August 2010, more than 19,300 new social housing dwellings have been approved for construction under the Social Housing Initiative. Construction is to be completed by 30 June 2012. The higher than expected number of dwellings reflects the value for money achieved under the program, generous land contributions by state and territory governments and leveraging by community housing providers.

States and territories have advised that approximately half of the dwellings to be constructed will be targeted at persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As at 30 September 2010, construction had commenced on over 17,500 dwellings with over 4,000 of these dwellings completed across Australia. Of the 2,242 dwellings that had been completed to 31 August and where tenanted data has been provided, 1,153 dwellings (51.4 per cent) had been allocated to persons identified as being homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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- b. States and territories have advised that all of the new social housing dwellings being constructed under the Social Housing Initiative are located in areas where the demand for social housing is high. The majority of dwellings offer good access to both essential services and public or community organisation provided transport. A number of housing developments will also provide on site support services for high needs tenants.

More than 16,500 of the dwellings to be constructed will incorporate universal design elements that will provide improved access for persons on the waiting list who have limited mobility. In addition, around 6,000 dwellings will comply with the Australian Standard for Adaptable Housing Class C meaning that these dwellings can be easily adapted to support persons on the waiting list with special accommodation needs.

As at 31 August 2010 tenant data has been supplied for 2,242 dwellings. Of those tenancies 15% identified as indigenous, 43% older people, 40% people with a disability, and 8% people escaping domestic violence.

- c. It is too early to provide information on this outcome.
- d. As at 30 September 2010, construction had commenced on over 17,500 dwellings with over 4,000 of these dwellings completed across Australia. Current advice from jurisdictions is that the target of 13,100 dwellings nationally will be achieved by the end of the calendar year.
- e. Under the Repairs and Maintenance element of the Social Housing Initiative around 80,000 existing social housing dwellings have benefitted from repairs and maintenance work. This includes work on approximately 12,000 dwellings that were either already uninhabitable or would have become unsuitable for occupancy within a two year period. These dwellings have been either returned or retained as social housing stock as a direct result of this work.
- f. Since the signing of the National Partnership Agreement on 5 February 2009 the building and construction industry has been engaged to undertake a range of projects funded under the Social Housing Initiative. The Commonwealth Treasury has estimated that the Social Housing Initiative will create 15,000 jobs over a two year period.

Around 80,000 existing social housing dwellings have benefited from repairs and maintenance work. In addition, construction has now been completed on more than 480 residential housing projects with around a further 1,350 projects having been commenced.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 076

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Is the Department aware of any jurisdiction that has failed to meet any of the deadlines or are expected not to meet a deadline in relation to outcomes or reform directions?

- a. If so, which states?
- b. If so, which outcomes or reform directions have failed to be implemented by deadline and why?

Answer:

- a. Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 073 which discusses progress against the outcomes and reform directions outlined in the National Partnership Agreement.

All outcomes that were agreed under the National Partnership Agreement were set at a national level and do not specifically apply to individual states and territories. All of the targets that are detailed within those outcomes have either been achieved or are on track to be achieved within the specified time frame.

In respect of Element 1 (New Construction), the Department is monitoring the contribution of each state and territory towards the national targets by measuring progress against indicative targets that have been set for each jurisdiction based on their share of the funding allocation.

The next national targets are 13,100 new social housing dwelling completions (75 per cent of the revised total new dwelling target of 17,460) by 31 December 2010 and all new social housing dwellings being completed by 30 June 2012.

For Element 2 (Repairs and Maintenance) of the Social Housing Initiative, no indicative targets were set for jurisdictions in regard to the national target of upgrading 2,500 existing social housing dwellings, that would otherwise be unfit for occupation, by 30 June 2010. Based on data provided by states and territories, the national target was achieved in November 2009 and approximately 12,000 dwellings have been returned to or retained as social housing stock as a result of repairs and maintenance work.

- b. refer to a. above and the answer to Question on Notice 073.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 105

Topic: Social Housing Initiative Projects

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA73

Senator Humphries asked:

Have you visited any sites as a result of that? In how many states? Can you please provide a listing for me those places where you have actually had Commonwealth officers visit and the other places you have had audits done in the sense that the Prime Minister used in that interview on radio in Queensland?

Answer:

Since the announcement of the Social Housing Initiative in February 2009 up until 6 June 2010, Commonwealth officers have visited 117 sites that will benefit from funding allocated under the Initiative. These visits have occurred in each state and territory as follows:

State/Territory	Number of sites visited
New South Wales	35
Victoria	31
Queensland	22
South Australia	11
Western Australia	9
Tasmania	4
ACT	4
NT	1
Total	117

In respect of audits undertaken by the Department, all of the original proposals for new construction submitted by states and territories between May and September 2009 (approximately 3,700 proposals to build over 40,000 dwellings) were audited in respect of value for money and the guidelines for the Social Housing Initiative.

Audits are also ongoing in terms of projects where issues of concern have been raised.

In addition, the Department will be undertaking building audits of a number of completed projects over 2010-11. These audits will assess dwellings for build quality and will ensure

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that the specifications that states and territories committed to incorporate in the dwellings have been met.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 108

Topic: Palm Cove Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA81

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you confirm whether the developer here paid a non-refundable five per cent deposit on this block of land before the final approval of this project was announced? Is it possible to table the valuation that you referred to that had been done by the state government?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that the payment of deposits for the purchase of land is the commercial business of the proponent and is not a factor of the Development Agreement that is signed with the Queensland Government.

The valuation obtained by the Queensland Government for the Palm Cove project is provided as an attachment to this document. The land valuation of \$1,350,000 is specified on page 13 of the valuation report.

For a copy of the report, please contact the Committee secretariat on

Phone: (02) 6277 3516

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 116

Topic: Trinity Park Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA85

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you table the valuation for the other site as well?

Answer:

The valuation obtained by the Queensland Government for the Trinity Park project is provided as an attachment to this document. The land valuation of \$1,250,000 is specified on page 4 of the valuation report.

For a copy of the report, please contact the Committee secretariat on

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 123

Topic: Ulladulla Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA93

Senator Humphries asked:

How many parking spaces are provided on this development?

Answer:

There are 13 car parking spaces provided within the Ulladulla development which comprises 18 dwellings.

The NSW Government has assessed the number of parking spaces to be provided to be adequate given the low level of car ownership among public housing tenants.

Car ownership among social housing tenants is lower than for the population as a whole. Surveys in metropolitan areas show that approximately one in eight social housing tenants use a car parking space. NSW Planning regulations set the minimum amount of car parking to be provided within a development at one space for every five units. Housing NSW complies with the planning regulations.

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 138

Topic: Victorian Bushfires 2009

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a list of who attends the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) meetings?

Answer:

As described on the Victoria We Will Rebuild website, VBRRA's operating framework included an Inter-agency Taskforce that transitioned in September 2009 to the Statewide Plan

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Implementation Group. This Group is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the longer term bushfire reconstruction and recovery activities and is represented by the following agencies:

1. Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (Chair)
2. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
3. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Commonwealth)
4. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Commonwealth)
5. Department of Human Services
6. Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
7. Department of Planning and Community Development and the Building Commission
8. Department of Premier and Cabinet and Arts Victoria
9. Department of Primary Industries
10. Department of Sustainability and Environment
11. Department of Transport and VicRoads
12. Department of Treasury and Finance
13. Municipal Association of Victoria
14. Victoria Police

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 079

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What are the dates and locations of each meeting of the National Housing Supply Council?

- a. Was there public knowledge of these meetings?
- b. Have there been any public meetings of the National Housing Supply Council?
- c. In relation to media enquiries about the work of the National Housing Supply Council, who deals with these inquiries?

Answer:

As far as is practically possible, the National Housing Supply Council (NHSC) meets in a variety of locations to facilitate the development of strong relations with and the engagement of key interested parties as per the Council's Terms of Reference. The NHSC meeting dates and locations for 2009–10 are listed below:

18 August 2009	Melbourne
28 October 2009	Hobart
15 December 2009	Brisbane
29–30 March 2010	Sydney
9–10 June 2010	Darwin

a) Relevant stakeholders were invited to these meetings.

b) The NHSC does not hold open forum public meetings. They aim to develop and maintain strong relationships with representatives of the building and development industries, planning and development control agencies, key policy agencies and other interested parties. Anyone from the public can contact the NHSC through their website: www.nhsc.org.au.

To facilitate open discussions any interested party or individual with an interest, expertise and/or knowledge in the housing sector can contact the NHSC secretariat to organise a consultation with the Council, who encourage open discussion with industry and government representatives.

Council reports are published on the internet and the subject of the National Housing Conference or an industry conference with open attendance.

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The Council also regularly meets with industry stakeholders. Stakeholder consultations during 2009–10 were conducted as follows:

8 July 2009	Perth
11 August 2009	Brisbane
22 Sept 2009	Darwin
27 October 2009	Hobart
12 November 2009	Canberra
19 November 2009	Adelaide

c) The Chair responds to media enquiries with support from FaHCSIA as Secretariat to the NHSC.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 109

Topic: Palm Cove Project

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA82

Senator Humphries asked:

Apart from the bus stop, what other services are there within 10 kilometres of this site?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has advised that the site is located within approximately 300 metres of a bus stop, which is serviced by Sunbus routes 1X & 2A which run on an hourly basis, seven days a week. The site is located approximately 3.2 kilometres from the Clifton Village shopping centre, which contains a super market, bank and medical centre. A corner store is also located within approximately 200 metres and a post office within 500 metres. Both Trinity Beach Primary School and Smithfield High School are located within 10 kilometres of the site. James Cook University is located approximately 11 kilometres from the site.

It is noted that there are two employment service providers nearby - Purzpektiv in Clifton Village and [Neato Employment Services](#) in Smithfield. In addition Palm Cove is a well-reputed tourist destination and there are a number of large resort operators which may employ a number of local residents when demand requires.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 139

Topic: Victorian Bushfires 2009

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

Is there any formal or informal ongoing liaison or briefing with federal members of Parliament in the bushfire affected areas in relation to Commonwealth involvement?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, Federal Members of Parliament in bushfire affected areas are informed or briefed in the following ways:

- The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, which has responsibility for implementing the jointly funded Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery, has regular contact with Federal and State Members of Parliament and can provide detailed briefings on request.
- The Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction (appointed in this role on 25 February 2009) frequently has discussions with Federal Members in the bushfire affected electorates.
- A Fact Sheet outlining the measures delivered by the Commonwealth Government in response to the Victorian bushfires has been sent to Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) of bushfire affected electorates. This Fact Sheet was tabled with the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 1 June 2010.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 102

Topic: National Dialogue on Universal Housing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA12

Senator Fifield asked:

What is the interface between a prime ministerial spouse and a department such as FaHCSIA for the convening of the function at the Lodge?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) did not have direct contact with Ms Rein.

The National Dialogue on Universal Housing has convened three times at Kirribilli House. The first was held on 27 October 2009, the second on 2 March 2010 and the third on 8 June 2010. These meetings were convened by the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, the Hon Bill Shorten MP. FaHCSIA and the Parliamentary Secretary's Office, when required, liaised with a department official in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet with regards to logistical issues such as providing the list of names for security purposes at Kirribilli House.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 075

Topic: National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Were all of the 'reform directions' under the National Partnership met by every jurisdiction by December 2009?

- a. If not, why not?
- b. Have they been met since?
- c. Will there be any penalty on states who have failed to deliver in these areas?

Answer:

All jurisdictions are actively progressing the agreed reform directions as detailed in the report entitled *Implementing the National Housing Reforms* that was considered by the Council of Australian Governments at its meeting on 7 December 2009.

The report details progress against the housings reforms that have been agreed by COAG. The report can be accessed from the COAG web site at www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-12-07/index.cfm (under the 'Related Docs' tab).

COAG has requested the Housing Minister's Conference to provide an updated report on further progress. This report will be considered at the next COAG meeting, which has not been scheduled at this time.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 090

Topic: National Affordable Housing Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

The agreement sets a number of outputs, can you please give me an update on:

- a. number of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are assisted to secure and sustain their tenancies;
- b. number of people who are assisted to move from crisis accommodation or primary homelessness to sustainable accommodation;
- c. number of households assisted in social housing;
- d. number of households in private rental receiving subsidies;
- e. number of people receiving home purchase assistance;
- f. number of zoned lots available for residential construction; and
- g. number of Indigenous households provided with safe and appropriate housing.

Answer:

As at 9 August 2010, the following available data:

Output	Measure	Data available
c	The number of households assisted in social housing	378,151 households in public housing, community housing and state owned and managed Indigenous housing at 30 June 2009
d	The number of households in private rental receiving subsidies	1,105,541 income units receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance on 4 June 2010
e	The number of people receiving home purchase assistance	32,292 households received home purchase assistance from jurisdictions in 2007-08.
g	The number of Indigenous households provided with safe and appropriate housing	160,981 Indigenous households in houses of an adequate standard in 2007-08.

Sources:

Output c – Public rental housing 2008-09, Community housing 2008-09, State owned and managed Indigenous housing 2008-09, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2009.

Output d – Housing Data Set, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, unpublished.

Output e – Home Purchase Assistance 2007-08, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2009.

Output g – National Affordable Housing Agreement: Baseline performance report for 2008-09, COAG Reform Council, 2010.

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The final specifications for the outputs are being considered by the Housing Ministers Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. This will result in some improvements and clarifications for the way outputs are measured.

Primary responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NAHA rests with the COAG Reform Council (CRC).

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is working closely with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to develop a new data collection in order to provide a more comprehensive data set against which the performance of the NAHA can be better measured. This will include the NAHA performance of the number of people who are assisted to secure and sustain their tenancies; and the number of people who are assisted to move from crisis accommodation or primary homelessness to sustainable accommodation. The new data collection will start from 1 July 2011.

Currently there are no nationally comparable data to report specifically on the number of zoned lots available for residential construction. The COAG Reform Council report on the performance of the NAHA has noted that a priority for the National Housing Supply Council is the improvement of national information on the land and dwelling supply pipeline.

The CRC is aware of, and supports, the longer-term work currently underway to develop a set of data in Australia that better identifies people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and outcomes for such people in terms of sustainable housing and social inclusion. The CRC considers that this work is the appropriate path to developing data that supports the measurement of progress towards the high-level outcomes in the NAHA.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 140

Topic: BasicsCard

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA95

Senator Scullion asked:

Of those 529, how many are merchants that would have been certified since the announcement that they would be expanding the trial out of the intervention area?

Answer:

There has been a steady increase in the number of merchants approved for BasicsCard.

Upon introduction of the BasicsCard on 17 October 2008, 221 merchants in the Northern Territory were approved for BasicsCard. By May 2009 there were 453, and by 20 November 2009, five days before the new scheme of income management was announced, there were 500. As at 7 May 2010, a further 29 had been approved, taking the number of approved BasicsCard merchants in the Northern Territory to 529.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 141

Topic: BasicsCard

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA95

Senator Scullion asked:

How many did we have then? How many extra people have taken this up?

Answer:

See answer to Question on Notice 140.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 142

Topic: BasicsCard

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA95

Senator Scullion asked:

What sort of work have you done to ensure that there is access across Darwin? Have you done some mapping or modelling to show that people will have access to somewhere with a BasicsCard?

Answer:

As at 28 May 2010, there were 3,022 merchants approved for the new BasicsCard nationally, 162 of these were in the Greater Darwin area.

FaHCSIA and Centrelink conducted joint information seminars, for existing and new merchants to provide information and promote the BasicsCard and income management, across the Northern Territory and the Kimberley region of Western Australia in February and March 2010.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 143

Topic: BasicsCard

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA98

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you provide information about whether the Palmerston area is the first area being started in?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, Palmerston is part of Zone 4 – the fourth region to be rolled out, commencing in early October 2010.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 146

Topic: Exit Interviews

Hansard Page: 1/6 – CA107

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you provide an update on how many are eligible to come off?

Answer:

As at 2 July 2010, the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) model of income management applies to:

- 4196 people in receipt of Disability Support Pension
- 1046 people in receipt of the Age Pension
- 359 people in receipt of Carer Payment

Under the new model, the 5,601 people in receipt of those payments will not be subject to income management unless they are referred by a Child Protection Officer under the Child Protection Measure, or referred by a Centrelink Social Worker under the Vulnerable Welfare Payment Recipient Measure. People receiving those payments will also be able to volunteer for income management.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 147

Topic: Exit interviews

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA108

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you check whether anybody comes off before they have had an exit interview?

Answer:

Wherever possible Centrelink will hold an exit interview when a customer ceases to be income managed. During the interview customers will be asked questions including:

- whether they want their expenses to be transferred to Centrepay,
- how they prefer any remaining funds in their income management account to be paid to them, and
- whether they want to participate in Voluntary Income Management.

In a small number of instances, it is possible for a customer to cease income management without Centrelink having an exit interview with the customer. Where a customer cannot be contacted prior to 30 June 2011, income management will cease as at that date without an exit interview. Also, customers who cease to receive welfare payments may not receive an exit interview.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 148

Topic: Evaluation Process

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA111

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you tell me how you formulated the budget for the evaluation process of \$2.15 million over the four years? How was that arrived at? What did you use to calculate whether that was an adequate amount for the level of evaluation that is needed?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, a breakdown of the evaluation activities to be completed at each stage is included below:

Pre-implementation

- Development of a **strategic longitudinal evaluation plan for 4 years:** for implementation, early progress and outcome evaluation reports)
 - **Consult with key stakeholders** (ie NT Government, Centrelink, GBMs etc)
 - **Development of methodology:**
 - develop program logic
 - develop methodology and key questions
 - develop ethic guidelines relevant to the project
 - develop communication and engagement strategies
 - development of evaluation plan
 - submit evaluation plan to FaHCSIA's Research and Evaluation Committee for departmental clearance
 - submit proposal to an appropriate Ethics Committee for approval
- **Consultants:**
 - Extended consultations with relevant stakeholders will be required. Employment of a consultant to develop the methodology and to ensure impartiality
- **Proposed Costs:**
 - \$200,000

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Implementation

July 2010 - June 2011

- **Conduct a baseline study**
 - Face-to-face client interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Collect and analyse administrative data
 - Prepare Baseline report
- **Conduct Phase 1 of longitudinal case studies of clients**
 - Undertake client interviews, many of which will need to be done face to face
- **Proposed Costs:**
 - \$550,000
- **Reporting**
 - Baseline Study Report
 - Phase I: Case studies Report

July 2011 - June 2012

- **Implementation study**
 - Face-to-face client interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Collect and analyse administrative data
 - Prepare Implementation Review report
- **Conduct Phase 2 of longitudinal case studies of clients**
- **Proposed Costs:**
 - \$700,000
- **Reporting**
 - Implementation/Progress Review Report
 - Phase 2: Case studies

This report will be substantial covering progress of implementation issues and early progress in achieving outcomes. The report will review results achieved since the implementation of the reforms, allowing time for implementation issues to be resolved and early results to stabilise.

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July 2012 - June 2013

- **Conduct a Monitoring Study/Report**
 - Face-to-face client interviews
 - Focus groups
 - collect and analyse administrative data
- **Conduct Phase 3 of longitudinal case studies of clients**
- **Reporting**
 - A Substantial Progress Report Covering Implementation Issues and Early Progress in Achieving Outcomes
 - Phase 3: Case studies
- **Proposed Costs:**
 - \$200,000

July 2013 - June 2014

- **Conduct an Outcome Evaluation**
 - Face-to-face client interviews
 - Focus groups
 - collect and analyse administrative data
- **Conduct Phase 4 of longitudinal case studies of clients**
- **Reporting**
 - An Outcome Evaluation Report
 - Phase 4: Case studies
- **Proposed Costs:**
\$500,000

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 149

Topic: Evaluation process

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA111

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you please provide an estimate of where you got the figures? The \$2.1 million.

Answer:

See answer to Question on Notice 148.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 150

Topic: Evaluation process in WA

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA112

Senator Siewert asked:

Is there anybody from the Pilbara on that? If people from the Pilbara wanted to go on voluntarily, are they able to, and have they?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, there are no customers on income management in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia.

Voluntary Income Management and the Child Protection income managed measures apply in metropolitan Perth and the Kimberley.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 151

Topic: Evaluation process in WA

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA113

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you break that 452 down into metro versus Kimberley?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the number of customers that have exited Voluntary Income Management by location:

Location	Perth Metro	Kimberley	Out of Area**	Total
Number of customer exits	85	330	37	452

** Note: Out of Area Customers no longer reside in the Kimberley or metropolitan Perth Areas.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 134

Topic: Adventure Playgrounds

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA87

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide the street addresses of the five Adventure Playgrounds receiving funding in and around Melbourne. What are the names of the organisations who are funded? Could you provide staffing arrangements for each playground and advise how much funding, if any, goes towards maintenance?

Answer:

As at 6 July 2010:

Organisation: Fitzroy Adventure Playground Association Inc
Project: Fitzroy Adventure Playground (Cubbies)
Address: Corner Young and Condell Street, Fitzroy Victoria 3065
Staffing: 1 full time co-ordinator; 4 part time and 4 casual staff
FaHCSIA Funding for maintenance: Nil

Organisation: Kensington Adventure Playground Co-operative Ltd
Project: Kensington Adventure Playground (The Venny)
Address: 85 Kensington Road, Kensington Victoria 3031
Staffing: 1 full time co-ordinator; 1 part time and 6 casual staff
FaHCSIA Funding for maintenance: Nil

Organisation: The City of Stonnington
Project: Prahran Adventure Playground
Address: Horace Petty Housing Estate, Simmons Street, Prahran Victoria 3181
Staffing: 1 full time co-ordinator and 1 full time, 3 part time and 4 casual staff
FaHCSIA Funding for maintenance: Nil

Organisation: City of Port Phillip
Project: South Melbourne Adventure Playground (known as Skinners)
Address: 211A Dorcas Street. South Melbourne Victoria 3205
Staffing: 1 full time co-ordinator; 3 part time and 6 casual staff
FaHCSIA Funding for maintenance: Nil

Organisation: City of Port Phillip
Project: St Kilda Adventure Playground
Address: Cnr Neptune Street and Eildon Road St Kilda Victoria 3182
Staffing: 1 full time co-ordinator; 1 part time and 12 casual staff

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FaHCSIA Funding for maintenance: Nil

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 144

Topic: Money Management Support/Services

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA101

Senator Scullion asked:

Have you done an assessment to ensure that people will be able to get access right across the Territory?

Answer:

Yes. An environmental scanning and gap identification process was conducted by the Department, which identified 182 locations requiring money management services. As at 13 July 2010, 90 of the identified locations have access to money management services.

Forty new money management locations are contracted to start from July 2010 and a selection process is underway to cover additional identified locations with unmet need.

Full coverage of the Northern Territory, especially to remote areas with very small client numbers, is not achievable or cost effective. Clients in these remote areas will be able to access services in the same place they currently access existing government services.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 153

Topic: Financial Counselling Services in Western Australia

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA115

Senator Siewert asked:

Have you got the time sequence of how people have been accessing those services and where the greatest call on services has been?

Answer:

FaHCSIA requires organisations to provide aggregated client data each six months. As a result, the time sequence of when people have accessed Commonwealth Financial Counselling (CFC) services is not available.

In the six months from 1 July to 31 December 2009, a total of 618 clients have accessed CFC services in the Perth metropolitan area, with a further 899 clients being assisted by the state-wide telephone counselling service. In addition, 180 clients in the Kimberley have accessed a CFC service.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 154

Topic: MoneyBusiness project in Geraldton

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA116

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you tell me how the decision on where the funding went was made?
Is there a big waiting list for those services?

Answer:

The MoneyBusiness program was established under a partnership agreement between the Australian Government and the ANZ bank. The previous Government committed \$4.4 million over four years in the 2004-05 Budget to fund MoneyBusiness pilot projects in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Extensive community and government consultation was undertaken before the final six sites were selected. Geraldton was selected as a major regional centre in Western Australia with a significant aboriginal population with identified financial literacy needs. Geraldton Resource Centre was established to meet the needs of disadvantaged members of the Geraldton, Greenough and Mid-West communities through a hub and outreach model.

There are no waiting lists for MoneyBusiness matters. The service is a walk-in system and in the vast majority of cases clients are seen immediately. There is, however, a waiting period of up to three weeks for clients accessing the legal advice service.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 135

Topic: National Compact's Launch

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA89

Senator Fifield asked:

What has happened to the big board that was signed by participants at the National Compact launch?

Answer:

Since July 2010, the framed boards have been on continuous display in Senator Stephens' Parliament House office (now SG-32).

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 136

Topic: National Compact's Launch

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA91

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you please provide the media release from Senator Stephens in relation to red tape?

Answer:

Please refer to: <http://ursulastephens.com/2010/05/not-for-profits-to-benefit-from-red-tape-cut/>

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 137

Topic: Volunteering Strategy

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA92

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you please table the series of media releases starting on 23 October 2009 put out by Senator Stephens outlining the purpose of the Strategy.

Answer:

Please refer to:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Stephens/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091026_124726.aspx

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Stephens/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091026_122100.aspx

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/volunteer_week_10may2010.aspx

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 152

Topic: Evaluation Process in WA

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA114

Senator Siewert asked:

Has the evaluation process looked at the level of case management that individuals have received?

Answer:

The evaluation of the Child Protection Scheme of Income Management (CPSIM) and the Voluntary Income Management (VIM) trials operating in Western Australia was conducted by ORIMA Pty Ltd. While no specific questions were included on the level of case management that individuals have received, Centrelink and the Western Australian Department of Child Protection staff who provided input to the evaluation had the opportunity to comment on case management if they chose to.

The report was publicly released on 8 October 2010, and can be found at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/cpsim_vim_wa/Pages/default.aspx

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T3 TABLED BY SENATOR HUMPHRIES
31.05.10

ATTACHMENT – THE AGE, 11 MARCH 2010


MEDIA MONITORS



Age
Thursday 11/3/2010
Page: 5
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Region: Melbourne Circulation: 202,100
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Brief: DPLAUTO

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Push for more consultation on housing

By ROYCE MILLAR

PUTTING the blame by says he wants his government to consult more closely with residents despite tight deadlines imposed by the state government for the rollout of its massive housing social housing program.

Responding to controversy over the state's rollout of housing projects without notice to residents, Mr Brumby said the federal government made consultation difficult.

"We're endeavouring to keep with the federal government priorities," he said. "But at the end of the day Victorian want more housing, we want more social housing and they want more jobs."

Yesterday *The Age* reported on calls by Labor figures, including federal MP Kevin Thomson, for greater community involvement in the planning for new jobs under the \$5.6 billion Social Housing Initiative.

Communities across Melbourne, including in Coburg, Ringwood, St Albans and Geelong, have been frustrated by the state's heavy-handed approach as it seeks to meet a deadline of completing 2000 social housing dwellings by mid-2012.

Charged with delivering the program, the Victorian government last year set up planning and consultation sub-committees and suspended new development for consultation purposes.

With the economic recovery and the us politicians and residents are calling for less haste and more consultation.

MP's fear backlash on housing

Labour minister says housing program...

on the ground

the last, last night federal housing Minister Tony Abbott said she believed the states had had adequate time to carry out such consultation and ruled out greater flexibility in the building deadlines.

Citing ABS figures pointing to a slowing of construction activity, Ms Philpotts said a speedy rollout of the social housing was crucial to support jobs in the housing industry. "We are not out of the woods yet," she said.

Last week Council residents d started Charles Moore's to the owner of Nicholson and Moore streets were preparing the way for residential and commercial development up to the next 20 years, including 200 public housing apartments.

The project had been signed off by the state government and a local council, but then a local council member, John Hume, had been involved.

asked how she would feel if she discovered bulldozers were on their way starting work on such a development without consultation or notice. Ms Philpotts said: "We're having anything substantial at all in the next 10 years should have been done about it."

Ref: 06037111

(4 Pages – double click to open)

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T12

Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

What do refugees get when they arrive in Australia?

The Australian Government provides settlement support to about 13 750 refugees and others in humanitarian need who arrive under the Humanitarian Program each year. This support could include meeting them when they arrive, help finding suitable accommodation, initial orientation and a package of basic household goods such as simple furnishings, linen, some white goods and kitchen equipment.

Refugees are helped to gain access to Centrelink, Medicare and banking, helped to understand Australian laws and culture, and to gain employment. They are provided with English language classes through the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and may be referred, if required, to torture and trauma counselling services

Many of these services are delivered under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS), for about six months, but can be extended for up to 12 months for particularly vulnerable people. This program is funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

After IHSS, refugees can be referred to migrant resource centres and other organisations funded under the Settlement Grants Program (SGP), also funded by DIAC. These programs help newly arrived refugees become self-reliant and participate in the Australian community as soon as possible.

The government allocated \$316 million in 2009-10 towards these direct settlement programs.

What do they NOT get?

There have been a number of concerns raised within parts of the Australian community that more assistance is provided to refugee entrants than to other Australians, such as pensioners. There is *no* truth to these claims.

Refugees do not receive higher benefits than other social security recipients. They have the same entitlements as all other Australian permanent residents. Refugees do not have their rental bonds automatically paid for by the government, nor do they receive a lump sum payment from the government upon arrival.

What income support do they receive?

When they arrive in Australia through the Humanitarian Program, refugees can immediately gain access to income support payments under the same eligibility criteria as any other Australian.

At present, the maximum fortnightly rate for Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment is \$644.20 for a single person. The maximum fortnightly rate for Newstart Allowance and Special Benefit is \$462.80 for a single person with no children.*

Where do they settle?

Refugees are often located close to family members or their proposers living in Australia. If they do not have links in Australia they are settled where possible in regional locations that often provide the best access to reasonable housing and work prospects.

Locations are carefully chosen to take into account employment opportunities and affordable housing that is reasonably close to key facilities such as retail shops, medical facilities, schools, public transport and community services.

* As at March 2010, excluding Rent Assistance. For further information go to www.centrelink.gov.au.

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Do they get priority for public housing?

Humanitarian entrants must also meet the same requirements as other Australians to be eligible for public housing. They are not given preferential treatment and must remain on waiting lists, as do other Australians in need of public housing.

Are they taught English?

Adult migrants and refugees are entitled to up to 510 hours of tuition under the AMEP. This helps them settle more effectively in Australia by giving them skills to engage with the community at large, and to find work.

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) provides free interpreting services to non-English speaking Australian citizens and permanent residents communicating with approved groups and individuals including doctors in private practice and pharmacies.

Why do we bring them here?

Many refugees arriving in Australia have been traumatised by the experiences that have caused them to leave their home countries. As a member of the international community, we share responsibility for protecting such vulnerable people.

Our help does not end at providing them with a new life in Australia. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people settling here have the help they need to rebuild their lives and become fully functioning members of the community.

What about refugees who arrive by boat?

Some people confuse asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat, currently mainly at Christmas Island, with those refugees who are resettled in Australia under the Humanitarian Program. There is a difference.

Australia accepts about 13 750 refugees and others in humanitarian need each year under the Humanitarian Program. The majority are selected for resettlement from tens of thousands of overseas applicants, who have fled persecution from their country of origin and waited years in refugee camps for a solution to their plight.

Boat arrivals who are found to be owed protection are also accepted under the Humanitarian Program and are provided with the same entitlements as any other newly arrived refugee.

It is important to note the number of refugees arriving in Australia to seek asylum remains low by world standards. Our share has averaged about 1.5 per cent over the past two decades. The overwhelming majority of asylum seekers still head towards Europe.

What do asylum seekers get?

Asylum seekers who have not yet had their protection claims decided have no access to Centrelink benefits. The Australian Government established the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme, administered by the Australian Red Cross. This provides financial help to those unable to meet their most basic needs for food, accommodation and health care, as well as meeting torture and trauma counselling costs.

Are they given health checks?

All refugees resettled in Australia are subject to strict health, character and national security requirements, which all Australian permanent visa applicants must meet.

What do refugees contribute?

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Refugees arriving in Australia face challenges in adjusting to the Australian way of life. Despite these challenges, most refugees and their families settle successfully and make a positive contribution to the Australian community.

Some of Australia's more prominent former refugees include research biologist Sir Gustav Nossal, stand-up comedian Anh Do and his filmmaker brother Khoa Do, artist Judy Cassab and 2009 Victoria Australian of the Year African-Australian community leader, Dr Berhan Ahmed.

For more information visit: www.immi.gov.au

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 155

Topic: Labour force v Age Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What calculations have been conducted that concern a lift in the labour force participation rate and a decrease in older Australians who claim some sort of Age Pension? Can the department provide this figure? If not, why not?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the Department has not done any modelling on the impact of changes in labour force participation rates on take-up of the Age Pension.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 157

Topic: Seniors

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA38

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

It is clear that seniors are now having to pay more for loans, insurance etc while this is declining for employees. Why is that the case? Are you aware of, or have you done any work in relation to why that is the case?

Answer:

As at 20 July 2010, FaHCSIA has not done work on whether financial services costs incurred by pensioners are increasing in price more rapidly than the average. FaHCSIA cannot therefore confirm the veracity or otherwise of the statement made in the first part of the question. FaHCSIA considers the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) used to index pension payments adequately captures the weightings of services and products that pensioners buy.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has stated:

The PBLCI is designed to assess the impact of changes in prices on the disposable incomes of the reference population in the capital cities. The reference population consists of households whose principal source of income is from government pensions and benefits – the main types being Age, Veterans Affairs, Sole Parents, Unemployment, Sickness, and Family payments.

As with the CPI, the PBLCI is based on a fixed basket of goods and services.....the weights reflect the relative expenditures of the PBLCI reference population as a whole.....¹

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009, **Introduction of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index**, Cat. no. 6466.0, viewed 29 June 2010,
<http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/D7DD74A5BEA12F4ACA2575E40018D697?OpenDocument> pages 2,4.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 158

Topic: Seniors

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA39

Senator Carol Brown asked:

Single pensioners on the maximum rate are \$100 per fortnight better off at the moment. If we had the old system, they would be receiving \$100 less per fortnight?

Answer:

Yes. Single pensioners on the maximum pension rate received as at 13 July 2010 (\$701.10 per fortnight – total of base pension rate and Pension Supplement).

On 19 Sep 2009, single pensioners on the maximum rate were receiving, the day before the pension reforms took effect (\$601.08 per fortnight – the total of the base pension rate and the value of the four supplements and allowances that were incorporated in the Pension Supplement from 20 September 2009). This represents a difference of \$100.02.

On 20 September 2010, pensions were increased again (by virtue of the Government's Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index). Accordingly, the Government's pension reforms have now delivered fortnightly increases of around \$115 for singles and around \$97 for couples combined (for maximum rate pensioners).

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 159

Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA46

Senator Boyce asked:

Would you know how many former members of the scheme who were not working but were relying on their partner's employment to remain in the scheme are no longer eligible?

Answer:

It is not possible to ascertain if someone is eligible or ineligible for a pension bonus unless they make an application and Centrelink is able to conduct an assessment. For example, people can remain registered in the scheme even if they may not be eligible for a bonus. Some people who were relying on their partner's employment may claim a bonus and be ineligible.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 160

Topic: Age Pension and solar energy rebates and credits

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA54

Senator Xenophon asked:

The department is writing to Retailers Association to inform them of the change, of the adjustment in policy. Can you please provide the response?

Answer:

A copy of the Department's advice to the Energy Retailers' Association of Australia (ERAA) is attached. The ERAA subsequently advised the Department via email that this information would be distributed to ERAA members.

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Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Mr Cameron O'Reilly
Executive Director
Energy Retailers Association of Australia Limited
Suite 2, Level 4
189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr O'Reilly

SOCIAL SECURITY TREATMENT OF SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFFS

I am writing to you about the social security income support income test treatment of solar panel feed-in tariffs.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, announced changes to the income test treatment of the tariffs on 14 May 2010. The media release is attached.

I understand that, after discussion with Mr Ian Joyce and Mr Eric Rojahn of this office on 25 May 2010, you have offered to forward information on this matter to members of the Energy Retailers Association of Australia Limited. An information sheet is attached, which I would appreciate if you could send on to your members. The attached information may also assist your members deal with enquiries from their customers.

If you would like to discuss this matter, Ian Joyce on 02 6244 8593 and Eric Rojahn on 02 6244 7372 are the Departmental contacts in regard to details.

I appreciate your offer of assistance in distributing the information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alanna Foster'.

Alanna Foster
Branch Manager
Seniors and Means Test Branch

31 May 2010

Telephone: 02 6244 6068

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Information - Social Security income test treatment of feed-in tariffs for electricity generated by solar panels

- Until 14 May 2010 all household solar feed-in tariffs paid to pensioners were assessed as income for Social Security pension purposes, whether paid through a cash payment or as an electricity account credit. This policy reflects the broad objective of the income test to take into account all forms of income, in order to target income support to those most in need.
- The Government reviewed this policy in the light of community concerns and after consultation with relevant government agencies and community groups.
- The Government recognised the complexity involved in requiring pensioners to identify and advise of feed-in tariffs paid through credits on electricity accounts. Feed-in tariffs are paid under State and Territory legislation, and arrangements differ between jurisdictions and electricity companies, as does the calculation and presentation of credit amounts.
- **On 14 May 2010 the Government announced that household feed-in tariffs paid as an electricity account credit will not be assessed as income for pension purposes.**
- **Feed-in tariffs paid as cash to pensioners (for example by cheque or by direct deposit) will continue to be counted as income for pension purposes.**
- This approach is also adopted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- The adjusted policy applies from 14 May 2010 and applies to all Social Security income support payments (pensions such as Age Pension and allowances such as Newstart).
- Each feed-in tariff paid as cash will be included under the income test for 12 months. For example if a pensioner received a cheque from their electricity company for \$260 it would be counted as \$10 income per fortnight for 26 fortnights.
- Pensioners only need to report cash feed-in tariff payments when they are received.

Detail

- Most feed-in tariff amounts paid to households are below the income test free areas that apply under the Social Security income tests.
- Single pensioners are able to earn up to \$142 a fortnight without affecting the amount of pension they receive, and can still receive a part-pension when they earn up to \$1,544 a fortnight.

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- Couples combined can earn up to \$248 a fortnight without affecting the amount of pension they receive, and can still receive a part-pension when they earn up to \$2,362 a fortnight combined.
- Income above the income test free areas reduces pension by 50 cents per dollar.
- Maximum rate pensioners will generally not have their pension reduced because of feed-in tariff amounts paid as cash, although this can depend on their other income and assets.
- People receiving a part rate pension may have their pension reduced by a small amount but this can depend on their other income and assets.
- People should contact Centrelink if they would like to discuss their individual circumstances in relation to the assessment of feed-in credits.
- The assessment of feed-in tariffs paid in cash is no different to the rules for a pensioner who is paid income through rent on an investment property.

Social Security treatment of Commonwealth financial support for the initial capital installation costs of solar panels

- Commonwealth Government financial support for the household installation of solar panels is **not** counted as income for pension purposes. This is because this support in effect provides a discount off the solar panel purchase price. This support can pay for a substantial part of solar panel installation costs.

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Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Clearer pension rules for household solar energy panels

The Australian Government has taken steps to make feeding power into the grid simpler and fairer for pensioners.

The Government has clarified the way feed-in tariffs from household solar panels are assessed for the purposes of the pension income test.

Feed-in tariffs that are paid to pensioners as a credit on an electricity bill will not be assessed as income under the pension income test.

The use of credits to reduce the total of a pensioner's electricity bill is the way most state and territory feed-in tariff schemes work.

Power sold back to the grid in return for cash, cheque or a direct deposit is counted as income for social security purposes.

This is consistent with the long standing pension rules where private income needs to be reported, whether income is derived from rent, superannuation or other sources.

A social security system without declaring private income would not be sustainable, responsible or fair.

The Government has taken this step to make the system clearer and fairer in response to pensioners' concerns about the way the pre-existing income test rules apply to feed-in tariffs on solar energy.

Single pensioners are able to earn up to \$142 a fortnight without affecting the amount of pension they receive and couples combined can earn up to \$248 a fortnight without affecting the amount of pension they receive.

When cash payments from feed-in tariffs are reported to Centrelink they will be assessed as income over a 12 month period.

For example, if a pensioner receives a cheque from their electricity company for \$260 it would be counted as \$10 of income per fortnight over 26 fortnights.

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments already offer assistance with the installation costs of solar panels and that assistance is not assessed for the income test.

Simplifying the assessment arrangements under the pension income test, is another way the Australian Government is supporting and encouraging pensioners to be green.

In the last year, the Government has delivered an increase to the pension of over \$100 a fortnight for singles and \$74 for couples.

Pensioners should contact Centrelink to discuss their particular circumstances.

Date: 14 May 2010
Media contact: Jessica Walker 0430166633

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 161

Topic: Age Pension and solar energy rebates and credits

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA56

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Have pensioners who have been affected by the rebate or solar credits approached you? On the figures that are available to you, are you aware of pensioners who have been affected and have had their pensions varied as a consequence of this?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, there have been approximately 80 representations in total made or referred to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs about the income test assessment of solar energy rebates and credits and related pension eligibility issues.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs does not have information that separately identifies the pension variations as a consequence of policy regarding solar energy rebates and credits.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 162

Topic: Taper Rates

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA59

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

As a result of the changes in the taper rates, how much money was saved? How much money did the Government save as a consequence of that measure?

Answer:

The total savings for the budget measure, ‘Secure and sustainable pensions – tighten the income test taper’ are set out at page 31 of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio Budget Statements 2009-10.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 163

Topic: Pensioners

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA66

Senator Boyce asked:

In the Portfolio Budget Statement the department estimates a figure for the number of people receiving the Age Pension each year and in the Annual Report the department reports on how many actually receive the Age Pension, can you please provide those figures for the past three years?

Answer:

Financial year	Portfolio Budget Statement	Annual Report
2006-07	1,915,647	1,952,686
2007-08	2,045,478	2,039,305
2008-09	2.10 million	2.12 million

The Portfolio Budget Statement for 2009-10 does not contain estimates of customer numbers. The Annual Report for 2009-10 is not yet available.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 156

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA32

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the comparison with the last 2 years for the staffing in outcome 4?

Answer:

Budgeted average staffing levels (ASL) for Outcome 4 for 2010-11 and the previous two years are:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
ASL for Outcome 4	136	152	152

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 238

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people are currently receiving Carer Payment who are

- a) 0 to 17 years
- b) 18 to 21 years
- c) 22 – 25 years
- d) 26 – 30 years
- e) 31 – 40 years
- f) 41 – 50 years
- g) 51 – 60 years
- h) 61 + years

Answer:

The following table provides the Carer Payment customer population by age group as at 4 June 2010:

Age range (years)	Customer count
0-17	419
18-21	3,299
22-25	3,861
26-30	6,090
31-40	23,721
41-50	40,468
51-60	51,439
61+	39,616
Total	168,913

Source: Centrelink administrative data – Carer Payment SuperCross cube

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 239

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have received (granted) Carer Payment each month since February 2010?
How many people have applied (claimed) for Carer Payment each month since February 2010?
How many people were suspended from Carer Payment since February 2010?

Answer:

The following table provides the number of grants for Carer Payment since February 2010:

Period	Grants
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	3,982
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	3,750
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	3,902
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	4,295

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

The following table provides the number of claims registered for Carer Payment since February 2010:

Period	Claims
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	8,888
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	8,375
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	8,585
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	9,015

Source: Centrelink administrative data –COGNOS

The following table provides the number of suspensions for Carer Payment since February 2010:

Period	Suspended
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	923
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	857
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	967
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	888

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

Note: This data represents a count of events, not customers i.e. a customer may have more than one event in a reporting period.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 240

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have transferred to Carer Payment from another payment month by month since February 2010 and from which payment?

How many people have transferred from Carer Payment to another payment month by month for the 09/10 financial year to date and to which payment?

Answer:

The following table provides transfers to Carer Payment from another payment month by month since February 2010 and from which payment they transferred from:

Transfers to Carer Payment	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010	May 2010
Newstart Allowance	1,104	1,158	1,177	1,208
Parenting Payment	571	571	653	590
Age Pension	242	293	309	284
Other	246	273	346	316
TOTAL	2,163	2,295	2,485	2,398

As at 8 July 2010, the following table provides numbers of transfers from Carer Payment to another payment month by month for 2009-10 to date and to which payment they transferred to:

Transfers from Carer Payment	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
Newstart Allowance	504	431	440	538	434	459	548
Age Pension	238	207	213	250	178	185	303
Disability Support Pension	102	83	86	128	89	104	111
Other	201	172	186	194	161	173	192
TOTAL	1,045	893	925	1,110	862	921	1,154

Transfers from Carer Payment (continued)	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
Newstart Allowance	481	433	559	482
Age Pension	249	286	322	272
Disability Support Pension	118	104	109	109
Other	182	171	226	156
TOTAL	1,030	994	1,216	1,019

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Note: Month to month transfers should not be added together to provide a year to date figure.
Source: Centrelink administrative data

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 241

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have received (granted) Carer Payment (Child) each month since February 2010?

How many people have applied (claimed) for Carer Payment (Child) each month since February 2010?

How many people were suspended from Carer Payment (Child) each month since February 2010?

Answer:

As at 4 June 2010, the following table provides the number of grants for Carer Payment (Child) since February 2010:

Period	Grants
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	540
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	509
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	499
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	544

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

The number of claims registered is not available for Carer Payment (Child). The number of claims registered is only available for all Carer Payment (see response to QoN 239).

However, the following table provides the number of claims finalised (granted and rejected) for Carer Payment (Child) since February 2010:

Period	Claims
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	932
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	896
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	971
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	1009

Source: Centrelink administrative data –COGNOS

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The following table provides the number of suspensions for Carer Payment (Child) since February 2010:

Period	Suspended
13/02/2010 – 12/03/2010	52
13/03/2010 – 09/04/2010	56
10/04/2010 – 07/05/2010	49
08/05/2010 – 04/06/2010	51

Source: Centrelink administrative data – SuperCross Common events cube

Note: This data represents a count of events, not customers i.e. a customer may have more than one event in a reporting period.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 242

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people currently receive Carer Allowance?

How many people currently receive Carer Allowance (Child)?

Answer:

As at 4 June 2010, there were 495,733 people in receipt of Carer Allowance.

As at 4 June 2010, there were 126,315 people in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child).

There were an additional 7,233 people who were in receipt of both Carer Allowance (Child) and Carer Allowance (Adult).

Note: The above figures are customers who are in receipt of Carer Allowance payment and do not include Health Care Card only customers.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 243

Topic: Income Support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people are receiving Carer Allowance (Child) by eligibility category on the Lists of Recognised Disabilities or the Child Disability Assessment Tool?

Answer:

This information is not available for care providers who receive Carer Allowance (Child).

However, it is available in respect of child care receivers who have qualified their carer for Carer Allowance.

As at 4 June 2010, there were 152,365 children who had qualified their carer for Carer Allowance. Of these, 85,626 had been assessed through the Lists of Recognised Disabilities and 66,739 had been assessed through the Child Disability Assessment Tool.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 040

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA28

Senator Fifield asked:

Would you provide a copy of the letter that you sent to your colleagues regarding the change in the rules governing procurement in relation to Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) and urging them to take advantage of the flexibility that is now available to them to contract ADEs?

Answer:

The Secretary, Dr Jeff Harmer, wrote to the heads of Australian Government Departments and Agencies on 18 May 2010 about procurement opportunities in relation to Australian Disability Enterprises. A copy of this letter is attached. The letter accompanied the distribution of the Australian Government Buyer's Kit and information about the 'Purchasing with Purpose Expo' held on 1 June 2010.

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<Agency Head>
<Department/Agency>
<Address Line 1>
<Address Line 2>

Dear

Australian Disability Enterprises are commercial businesses that provide real work for more than 20,000 people with disability in a supported environment. There are over 600 Australian Disability Enterprises across the country providing a wide range of products and services, such as printing, cleaning and recycling, catering, garden and lawn maintenance, laundry and manufacturing.

The Australian Government is a large potential purchaser of the products and services provided by Australian Disability Enterprises. Purchasing from Australian Disability Enterprises will not only support the sustainable employment of people with disability, but will also increase the social performance of the Australian Government.

Changes to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs), which took effect on 1 December 2008, mean it is now easier for Australian Government departments and agencies to purchase from Australian Disability Enterprises. The revised CPGs provide that Australian Disability Enterprises are exempt from the mandatory procurement provisions.

Since 1 December 2008, a significant amount of work has been done to make purchasing from Australian Disability Enterprises even easier. This work includes the development of a new website www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au - listing all Australian Disability Enterprises, along with their products and services. Soon this website will include a page with advice and information specifically for Australian Government purchasers.

The most recent addition to the suite of initiatives aimed at connecting Australian Government buyers with Australian Disability Enterprises is the enclosed Government Buyer's Kit. Please distribute the Government Buyer's Kit to your staff and encourage them to use it and consider purchasing from an Australian Disability Enterprise when they are next procuring a product or service. This is a great opportunity for your area to be part of creating more sustainable jobs for people with disability.

If your staff have any enquiries about purchasing from Australian Disability Enterprises, or would like more copies of the Government Buyer's Kit, please contact Fran Cole on (02) 8255 7749 or at fran.cole@fahcsia.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeff Harmer

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 042

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA29

Senator Fifield asked:

The Department of Finance now provides for this exemption, is FaHCSIA going to raise with Finance whether they should keep a central record across government of how many departments avail themselves of this exemption so we know whether the exemption is proving to be of use and whether people are taking up the services of ADEs as a result of it?

Answer:

As at 9 July 2010, AusTender, the Australian Government procurement information system, records all contracts awarded at or above \$10,000, but contracts awarded for the services of people with a disability are not reported separately, nor is the use of exemption 16 to the mandatory procurement procedures in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. There would be significant costs associated with changes to every agency input system to enable reporting on AusTender of procurements undertaken utilising exemption 16.

FaHCSIA and the Department of Finance and Deregulation continue to work with National Disability Services to better educate Commonwealth Departments on exemption 16 and the capabilities provided by Australian Disability Enterprises.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 165

Topic: Disability Support Pension (DSP) Tables

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the department please explain how the DSP tables are being recreated? What affect will the change to the DSP tables have on people with disabilities currently on the disability pension?

Answer:

The Impairment Tables are to be reviewed as part of the 2009-10 Budget Measure – DSP Better and Fairer Assessments. The review will take into account contemporary medical and rehabilitation advice and practice to better reflect the impact of a person's impairment on their ability to work.

The review will be undertaken in consultation with medical and allied health professionals, disability stakeholders and review and complaints bodies.

An Advisory Committee has been established to provide expert advice to the Government. Committee members will assist in the analysis of the expert opinion provided through the consultation process. The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee are as follows.

The review will:

1. update the DSP Impairment Tables to make sure they are consistent with contemporary medical and rehabilitation practice;
2. introduce consistent consideration of the use of aids and equipment in the measurement of impairment in the DSP Impairment Tables;
3. reassess the appropriateness of definitions contained in the Introduction to the DSP Impairment Tables, with particular regard to the assessment of people with intermittent psychiatric conditions;
4. re-examine the descriptors in the DSP Impairment Tables to ensure that a score of 20 points aligns with an inability to work 15 or more hours per week in the open-labour market at or above award wages without the need for on-going support;
5. redesign the DSP Impairment Tables to focus more on ability; and
6. ensure that the DSP Impairment Tables can be used by both Allied Health Professionals and Medical Officers.

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The revised Impairment Tables are expected to be implemented from 1 January 2012. From that date, existing DSP recipients will be assessed against the revised Impairment Tables only if their eligibility is reviewed.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 166

Topic: Disability Support Pension (DSP) Assessment Process

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What steps are the department taking to ensure that people who are eligible for the DSP are not wrongfully disadvantaged by the overhaul of the assessment process?

Answer:

Changes to the DSP assessment process will only affect claimants with moderate to mild disability who do not have evidence to demonstrate they cannot be assisted back to work. Under these changes, their DSP claims will be rejected and they will instead be referred to an employment service to build their capacity. People who are not eligible for DSP may be able to make a claim for another income support payment.

DSP claimants with evidence of their work capacity will not be affected by these changes. This evidence will be considered by the Job Capacity Assessor in determining the person's work capacity and could include information from the person's last employer, assessments undertaken as part of a compensation case, or evidence from their employment service provider.

There are a number of safeguards which will ensure that people who are eligible for the DSP are not wrongfully disadvantaged by the changes to the DSP assessment process.

Claimants with manifest or severe disabilities who are clearly unable to work, or who can only undertake supported employment, will not be affected by these changes and will proceed directly onto DSP.

Also, unsuccessful applicants can retest their eligibility for DSP at any time. For example, in instances when it becomes clear to an employment service early in a program that a person who was previously rejected for DSP has a reduced work capacity, for instance due to an undiagnosed or undisclosed medical condition, then that person can retest their eligibility for DSP.

These changes build on improvements to the DSP assessment process introduced under the DSP – better and fairer 2009-10 Budget measure. From 1 July 2010, claimants will have their eligibility for DSP assessed by Senior Job Capacity Assessors. This will make sure claimants are seen by an experienced and suitably qualified assessor. Also, DSP Job Capacity Assessors will be supported by the Centrelink Health Professional Advice Unit, which will be available to provide independent medical opinion.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 167

Topic: Disability Support Pension (DSP) Advisory Board

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How has the establishment of the advisory board for the DSP changes progressed? When will the advisory board hand down their recommendations?

Answer:

As at 26 July 2010, the Advisory Committee includes representatives from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the National People with Disabilities and Carers Council, the Mental Health Council of Australia, Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Association of Occupational Therapy Australia, National Disability Services, the Australian Psychological Society Australian, the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, and CRS Australia.

The Advisory Committee held its first meeting on 16 June 2010 and is due to provide its recommendation to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in late 2010.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 168

Topic: Disability Care Beds

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

I refer to the \$100 million grant announced by the Prime Minister in May 2008 that was given to the States to fund urgently needed disability care beds. How much of this funding was given to Queensland? Can the Department provide a breakdown state by state. If not, why not?

Answer:

As at 9 July 2010, the breakdown of Australian Government funding to States and Territories for the provision of supported accommodation places under the \$100 million Capital Works initiative is tabled below:

Jurisdiction	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
Funding (\$m)	33.68	24.58	18.31	8.09	9.81	2.63	1.69	1.21	100

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 173

Topic: Printing of Parking Permits

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA60

Senator Fifield asked:

Was the option to have these produced by an Australian Disability Enterprise examined?
Do you know if the states are looking at it or if it is part of their agreement that the states look at the possibility of having ADEs print?

Answer:

Yes, FaHCSIA sought quotes from three Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs). Two declined to quote and the third could not deliver the permit within the required timeframe and sought to outsource the entire job to an outside organisation that was not an ADE.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 174

Topic: Parking Permits

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA60

Senator Fifield asked:

Which ADE designed the parking permit?

Answer:

The design of the new permit was developed by an Australian Disability Enterprise, Inprint Design.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 175

Topic: Parking Permits

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA60

Senator Fifield asked:

Were there any other aspects of the program which an ADE looked after?

Answer:

Intandem (permit manufacturer) have identified that they will outsource to Australian Disability Enterprises where possible and this has been included in contract negotiations.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 178

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises Expo

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA63

Senator Fifield asked:

Did FaHCSIA provide funding to support the expo that NDS are running?

Answer:

Yes. The Department provided \$9,000 (GST exclusive) to National Disability Services (NDS) to assist with the *Purchasing with Purpose Expo for Australian Government Buyers*.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 179

Topic: Disability Action Plan

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA73

Senator Fifield asked:

Are you able to provide the summary that you (Ms Serena Wilson) went through of actions taken by the department internally?

Answer:

Please see attached.

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DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

The Disability Action Plan was established under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS).

The CDS is currently under review. The Government is in the process of developing the National Disability Strategy (NDS) which is expected to be released in 2010.

Since the mid-term evaluation of the CDS in 1999, agencies are no longer required to implement Disability Action Plans and lodge them with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). Agencies now use existing planning processes to effectively plan and account for how they will address the needs of people with disabilities.

New reporting requirements have not been established for Commonwealth agencies:

- but from 1 July 2007 reporting requirements relating to our role as an employer were transferred to the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)
 - we provide this input through the State of the Service Report.

Employer Role

In our recruitment advertisements, FaHCSIA explicitly invites people with disabilities to apply for jobs.

In addition, as an employer, FaHCSIA has many relevant initiatives in place, including under our People Strategy. Many of these are listed

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on our intranet, and others, like information sessions, are announced internally at the appropriate times.

These initiatives include:

- The provision of a **Disability Access Coordinator** which is a designated position that provides an advocacy role for staff with disability in the Department.
- The use of **centralised funds** to cover reasonable adjustment costs (e.g. cost of purchasing equipment).
- **Disability Awareness Training** to assist staff and managers working with people who have a form of disability.
- Access to an on-line Disability Awareness training program.
- The provision of a **Mentoring Program** that provides additional support structures within the work environment for staff with disability.
- The establishment of a **Senior Disability Champion** role. This is filled by a Deputy Secretary, Serena Wilson, and promotes disability awareness throughout the organisation.
- The establishment of **FaHCSIA Leadership disAbility Group** (FLAG) in late 2008.
- An ongoing **review of FaHCSIA recruitment processes**. This review involved the Australian Employers Network on Disability who provided advice and guidance on improving FaHCSIA's recruitment processes.
- Engaging in the 'Stepping Into' internship program which provides **work experience placements** in the Department for university

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students with disability that are in their final year of an undergraduate degree. The program is run by the Australian Employers Network on Disability and has resulted in two candidates undertaking a placement in National Office on a six week contract.

- Engaging *Beyond Blue* to provide awareness training and **information sessions on depression** to FaHCSIA staff and graduates.
- The installation of additional **Hearing Loops** in FaHCSIA National Office meeting rooms.
- Participating in the Paralympic Diversity Workplace Program following on from the work Parliamentary Secretary Shorten was undertaking with his Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Forum. FaHCSIA's inclusion will see the creation of a twelve month **employment opportunity for a Paralympian**.

FaHCSIA remains an active member of the **APSC Disability Steering Group**. This group is attended by Human Resource staff from across multiple agencies that identify and progress APS-wide initiatives on disability.

Purchaser

As previously advised, FaHCSIA encourages **purchasing from an Australian Disability Enterprise** when acquiring specialised services or products.

Property

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We manage our property portfolio in compliance with relevant Building Codes; Australian Standards and the provisions under the **Disability Discrimination Act (1992) *as varied from time to time.***

All facilities management employees have an understanding of the Standards for Access to Premises launched in March 2010 (which will come into force in May 2011).

Communications

FaHCSIA has internal guidelines, Accessibility Standards for Mass Communication and Public Consultation, to ensure it meets, and where possible, exceeds its obligations as a Commonwealth Government Agency under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).

Internet

FaHCSIA follows the mandatory requirements of the Australian Government's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The FaHCSIA website is generally rated at double A (highest possible level of accessibility is triple A). All content is provided in a HTML format for the greatest level of accessibility.

Information Materials

FaHCSIA public information and communication materials reflect the needs of the intended audiences and the provision of accessible formats, as applicable. Accessible formats include:

- Large print
- Easy English

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- Audio recordings
- Captioning
- Audio description
- Radio
- Braille

Events

The Department provides the following accessibility requirements at all FaHCSIA events, including community meetings and consultations (particularly those that are open to the public), conferences, forums, etc:

- a hearing loop
- a venue that is wheelchair accessible, both inside and out and guide dog friendly
- a venue that includes accessible toilets and parking spaces
- all material produced for events (including PowerPoint and audiovisual presentations) must meet accessibility guidelines.

Policy

The former Prime Minister announced on 23 November 2009 that the National Disability Strategy will be developed under the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in recognition that support for people with disability is a shared responsibility across

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the Commonwealth, States and Territories. The Strategy will provide a national framework to drive future reforms in the disability service system and, importantly, mainstream systems for people with disability, their families and carers.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 180

Topic: Special Disability Trusts

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA75

Senator Boyce asked:

Of those 40 [who tested eligibility of a family member and did not meet the requirements] who were ineligible, would you have any idea of how many of them might now be eligible?

Answer:

As at 8 July 2010, the available data does not enable the identification of individuals who may now be eligible as a result of the changes announced in the 2010-11 Budget.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 181

Topic: Special Medical Procedure

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA77-8

Senator Boyce asked:

Regarding Angela (Special Medical Procedure) in the Family Court of Australia which allowed the sterilisation of a 10 year old girl. It has been argued by Women with Disabilities Australia and myself that this contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Are you aware of the case?

(a) Have you contributed information in any way towards it?

(b) Have you been asked for advice?

Answer:

Yes, we are aware of the case. However, this is a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 182

Topic: Print Disability Funding Program

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA84

Senator Fifield asked:

What funding do they (Association for the Blind of Western Australia) receive from FaHCSIA?

Is the print disability funding still available?

Answer:

In 2009-10 the Association of the Blind of Western Australia received \$66,828 (GST excl) under the Print Disability Services Program.

In 2010-11 Association for the Blind of Western Australia will receive funding of \$172,007 (GST excl).

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 231

Topic: Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA54

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you clarify: in Australia is FASD now a registered disability in terms of getting access to particular services?

Answer:

Whether or not Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) is a registered disability in terms of getting access to services under State or Territory legislation is a matter for jurisdictions.

FASD is not on the List of Recognised Disabilities that are constantly severe enough to qualify a parent or carer for Carer Allowance.

However a parent of a child with FASD may still qualify for Carer Allowance under the Disability Care Load Assessment.

This assessment considers the level of care required by the child or children with disability or medical condition, and the level of care provided by their carer.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 244

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

A report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that in 2008-09, a total of 817 people received services funded by the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program. Can you tell me what the cost per person was?

Answer:

State and Territory Governments are not required to provide information on the cost per person, of services delivered to achieve the objectives of the previous YPIRAC program.

The five year program began in July 2006, with funding of up to \$122 million from the Commonwealth and up to \$122 million from states and territories.

From 1 January 2009, the Commonwealth's funding was rolled into the base of the new Specific Purpose Payments as part of National Disability Agreement that replaced the Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement.

In 2007-08 the total expenditure by the Commonwealth and States and Territories was almost \$29.6 million with a total of 580 clients receiving services. However, this expenditure includes capital investment and does not provide a reliable cost per person. In addition, there are significant variations in the provision of services between jurisdictions and to individuals which cannot be converted to a reliable average unit cost per person.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 245

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Over the three years of the program, over 90 people moved out of residential aged care to more appropriate supported disability accommodation. Can you tell me if this is meeting performance standards you had in place?

Answer:

The National Disability Agreement (NDA), which replaced the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) came into effect from 1 January 2009. The NDA supercedes all previous Bilateral Agreements under the previous CSTDA, but maintains the targets set for the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) program.

Jurisdictions are committed to delivering the following national level targets by June 2011:

- net reduction in the number of younger people with disability under the age of 50 in residential aged care of between 425 and 689 (i.e. priority target group);
- between 402 and 446 people under the age of 65 to be provided with services to assist them in moving out of residential aged care to more age-appropriate supported disability accommodation;
- between 213 and 256 people under the age of 65 at risk of admission to residential aged care to be provided with services to divert them from inappropriate admission to residential aged care; and
- between 245 and 282 people under the age of 65 to be provided with enhanced services within a residential aged care setting, where residential aged care is the only available, suitable supported accommodation option.

A mid term evaluation of services directed to assist young people with disability living in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care was published on the FaHCSIA website in March 2010 and showed that as at 26 July 2010, jurisdictions are on track to achieve their targets by June 2011.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 246

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In the same period, more than 300 people were provided with enhanced services within a residential aged care setting – were these people all on the YPIRAC program?

Answer:

Yes. All these people were part of the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care program.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 247

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Almost 150 people were diverted from inappropriate admission to residential aged care. How many are still receiving inappropriate admission?

Answer:

While the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Program National Minimum Data Set 2008-09 reports on the number of people diverted from inappropriate admission to residential aged care, as at 26 July 2010, there is no data available about how many young people with disability are being inappropriately admitted to residential aged care.

We are aware that for some people, residential aged care may be their preferred accommodation option, and is therefore appropriate.

Access to services which are directed to young people with disability living in, or at risk of entering residential aged care is voluntary.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 249

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

About one-third of service users are to remain in residential aged care, but with additional support services. Has the Department done a cost-benefit analysis to see if this is the most efficient way to provide care compared to providing appropriate alternative accommodation?

Answer:

No. While the National Disability Agreement (NDA) sets objectives, outcomes and roles and responsibilities for the Commonwealth, States and Territories, it is the responsibility of individual jurisdictions to determine the cost-benefit of specific services for people with disability.

Under the NDA, States and Territories are responsible for the provision of disability services except for disability employment services. This includes the provision of services for people under 65 years who are at risk of entering, or reside in, residential aged care.

Access to services which are directed to young people with disability living in, or at risk of entering residential aged care is voluntary.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 169

Topic: Disability Care Beds

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many beds are operational? Can the Department provide a list of operational beds through a State by State breakdown? If not, why not?

Answer:

A breakdown of supported accommodation places to be made available under the \$100 Million Capital Works Memorandum of Understanding and the number of those already available is provided in the table below:

Jurisdictions	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total Places
No of Places (by June 2012)	100	70	36	55	30	12	6	4	313
No of places available (as of 31 March 2010)	35	Nil	19	Nil	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	75

Source: Information provided by jurisdictions

Jurisdictions have until 30 June 2012 to complete this capital works project.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 169

(amended)

Topic: Disability Care Beds

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many beds are operational? Can the Department provide a list of operational beds through a State by State breakdown? If not, why not?

Answer:

A breakdown of supported accommodation places available under the \$100 Million Capital Works Memorandum of Understanding is provided below:

Total no of places available (as of 18 October 2010)*:

NSW: 54

VIC: 6

QLD: 31

SA: 0

WA: 46

TAS: 0

ACT: 4

NT: 1

Jurisdictions have until 30 June 2012 to complete this capital works project.

*Source: Information provided by jurisdictions

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 170

Topic: National Disability Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Carers Alliance (Australia) has stated that the government's contribution to disability services \$1.15 billion a year, which means under the distribution formula that NSW gets 30 per cent which means \$320 million to service the needs of 235,000 people in that State who are eligible for funding under the Disability Service Agreement and, further, that this is \$1,361 per head annually, \$26.18 per week or \$3.74 per each eligible person per day. Are these figures correct and, if not, why not?

Answer:

The Commonwealth provides funding to the State and Territory Governments under the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment (SPP), per the *National Disability Agreement*.

Under this Agreement the Commonwealth provides a funding contribution, to the States and Territories, for increased and improved specialist disability services. The Commonwealth is also responsible for income support for people with disability, their families and carers; and employment services for people with disability, which are not reflected in the Specific Purpose Payment (SPP).

The states and territories determine how funds are distributed and who is eligible.

The National Disability SPP, National Disability Agreement and related documents are available from the following link: www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au. The amount of funding in the SPP, broken down by state, is in Budget Paper 3.

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Outcome Numbers: 5

Question No: 171

Topic: Missing Out report

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA23

Senator Siewert asked:

For each of the areas that are listed in your report, will you be able to, under those various outcomes, tell us what the percentage of uptake is?

Answer:

The report being referred to was prepared by The Australia Institute, and is entitled ‘Missing out – Unclaimed government assistance and concession benefits’.

The Department has not attempted to verify or replicate the Australia Institute’s estimates of the take-up of Disability Support Pension, Carer Allowance, Bereavement Allowance, Parenting Payment or concession cards.

A precise estimate of the take-up of Disability Support Pension, Carer Allowance, Bereavement Allowance, Parenting Payment and concession cards would need to consider elements of eligibility that are not included in the survey data used by the Australia Institute.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs’ (FaHCSIA) 2009-10 Portfolio Budget Statements included new Key Performance Indicators of coverage as detailed below. These measures will allow the Department to monitor the coverage of Disability Support Pension and Carer Allowance. The data is not yet available, but will be reported against in the FaHCSIA 2009-10 Annual Report.

Disability Support Pension Key Performance Indicators:

- Percentage and number of estimated population of people with disability who receive payment
- Percentage and number of Disability Support Pension population as a proportion of the total Australian working age population.

Carer Allowance Key Performance Indicator:

- Proportion of primary carers who are receiving Carer Allowance. (This indicator relies on the definition of primary carer used by the Survey of Disability and Carers).

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 176

Topic: Postal Concessions for the Blind

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA61-62

Senator Fifield asked:

What was the spend in 2008-09 and 2007-08?

Answer:

In 2008-09 the expenditure was \$6,036,329.

In 2007-08 the expenditure was \$7,014,389.

The above decline in expenditure on the Postal Concessions for the Blind Program between 2007-08 and 2008-09 occurred because eligible items posted under the Program (e.g. audio material and braille) are reducing in size due to digitalisation of formats, i.e. digital technology has begun to replace analogue services and the use of the internet to deliver material to people with print disability has increased.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 248

Topic: Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Almost two thirds of YPIRAC services users in 2008-09 lived in residential aged care and of these, nearly 2 in 5 reported that their main reason for living there was because appropriate alternative accommodation was not available. What is being done to rectify this situation?

Answer:

Under the National Disability Agreement, State and Territory Governments have committed to a specific performance benchmark for younger people with disability, to achieve an increase in the proportion of younger people in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care who are assisted with more appropriate forms of accommodation, diversionary strategies and/or enhanced services.

Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to the importance of finding appropriate accommodation options for younger people with disability, at the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference on 4 June 2010.

The Commonwealth is providing more than \$6.2 billion between 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2014 to the states and territories for specialist disability services, including supported accommodation.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 183

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Remote Sites

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA85-86

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you tell me whether there has been a program that has been funded in the APY Lands and, if there was, when it was? When it was and who has been funded to provide it? Is that ongoing funding?

Were there three remote sites in APY Lands and are they all the same providers? Where are they actually providing those services on the sites in the APY lands? Are they providing them to particular communities on the APY Lands?

Answer:

Under the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program, the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) initiative currently funds Centacare NT in the APY Lands. Funding for the PHaMs program is ongoing.

The current funding agreement for Centacare NT is for \$3,010,000 from May 2009 to June 2013. There is only one site in the APY Lands. Centacare NT is providing services to the Amata community, and is based in Alice Springs.

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T10

Budget Estimates 2010 – 1 June – Outcome 6

Question from Senator Boyce about the Respectful Relationships Program.

Respectful Relationship projects funded under Round 2.

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/funding/Pages/respectful_relationships.aspx

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Respectful Relationships (Completed)

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Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

[FaHCSIA Internet](#) > [Subject Areas](#) > [Women](#) > Grants & Funding

Women

Respectful Relationships (Completed)

- **How much?**

Up to \$400,000 for projects to be implemented from January 2010

- **Apply when?**

from 11/09/2009 to 15/10/2009

- **Who to contact?**

Ph: 1300 653 227 between 9:00am and 5.00pm AEST Monday to Friday Email rr@fahcsia.gov.au

Short Description: Respectful Relationships Funding Round 2

Selected applicants

On 3 March 2010 the Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Status of Women, announced the ten community projects which will share in \$2.3 million funding to encourage young people to engage in respectful relationships.

The funding is part of round two of the Government's \$9.1 million Respectful Relationships Program, which aims to prevent violence against women.

The projects, which will operate in schools, sporting clubs, and community halls across the country, will teach young people about ethical behaviours and equip them with the skills.

Projects funded in Round 2 of Respectful Relationships Program:

Organisation	Project	Funding
Australian Football League (national)	Respect and Responsibility education programs will be delivered within community sport settings across the nation to 16-21 year old participants involved in national, state and community football competitions	\$400,000
Baptist Community Services (NSW)	Project to teach Year Nine students in inner western Sydney, western Sydney, Penrith, Wollongong, and Wyong, about the importance of respectful relationships	\$384,155
Relationships Australia Canberra and regional NSW	LOVE BITES program which teaches Year 10 students about domestic and family violence, sexual assault prevention, and maintaining respectful relationships	\$205,500
Swinburne University of Technology (VIC)	Program for Indigenous men who are at risk or involved in the juvenile justice system to change their beliefs about violent behaviour towards women	\$245,000
Kurbingui Youth Development Association (QLD)	Indigenous program in northern Brisbane to reduce family violence	\$25,250
Youth and Family Services Logan City	Multi-faceted program targeting youth already involved in violent	\$140,000

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Respectful Relationships (Completed)

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(QLD)	behaviour	
UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide (SA)	Relationship education programs for at-risk students in the metropolitan and northern suburbs of Adelaide	\$200,000
Sexual Assault Resource Centre (WA)	Education and training project to teach both high school students and educators about respectful relationships	\$400,000
Australian Red Cross Society (WA)	Indigenous specific program for at-risk youth to build self-esteem	\$48,210
Youth and Family Focus Inc (TAS)	Project to educate and empower young people in Davenport and central Tasmania to make healthy relationship choices	\$327,274
	Total	\$2,375,389

Dates of project implementation will be negotiated with the successful applicants.

Please note as per the Terms and Conditions of Application, "The Department will not accept or respond to any applicant's requests for information or correspondence about the status or progress of their application during the assessment phase."

- [Respectful Relationships \(Round 1\) Projects](#)
- [Respectful Relationships Funding Round 2: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Round 2 Application for Funding](#)

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T11

Budget Estimates 2010 – 1 June – Outcome 6

Question from Senator Adams about the National Community Attitudes Survey – could you provide a summary, what were the results, and was it successful?

National Community Attitudes Survey

- Factsheet
- Technical Report
- Summary of Findings

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/en/Resource-Centre/Publications-and-Resources/Freedom-from-violence/National-Community-Attitudes-towards-Violence-Against-Women-Survey-2009.aspx>

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National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey 2009

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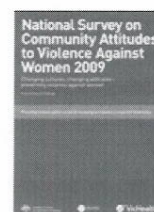


National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey 2009

Date: 07.04.10

Category: Publications: Freedom from violence


VicHealth was commissioned by the Commonwealth Government in February 2009 to undertake a National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women. The Australian Institute of Criminology and The Social Research Centre were key research partners.




The survey involved approximately 13,000 men and women from across Australia. It included Indigenous Australians, people from culturally diverse communities and a sample of 16- and 17-year old respondents. The design of these components was supported by an Advisory Group to ensure the research approach was methodologically, ethically and culturally sound.

The survey establishes a contemporary baseline upon which to improve our understanding of factors leading to the formation of community attitudes on violence against women, and will help to inform the design and implementation of future prevention interventions that will address violence against women across our communities.

Download

 [National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women: Changing cultures, changing attitudes: Summary of findings](#)

 [National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women: Project Technical Report](#)

 [National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women: Fact sheet](#)

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 184

Topic: Women in the sex industry

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How many women in the sex industry have been removed and repatriated since 1 July 2009?

Answer:

The Office for Women does not have this information. The Australian Federal Police has responsibility for this type of information.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 185

Topic: Trafficking - women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How many women in the sex industry have been identified as possible victims of trafficking since 1 July 2009? How many women have agreed to being identified as victims of trafficking since 1 July 2009?

Answer:

The Office for Women does not have this information. However, since 1 July 2009, 16 women on the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program were located in the sex industry.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 186

Topic: Victims of People Trafficking Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How many victims of trafficking have been referred to the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, a total of 155 clients have been referred to the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program since it commenced in 2003-04.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 188

Topic: Women's labour market participation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What has the department done to address Australia's poor representation in female labour market participation? How much funding has been provided to address this issue?

Answer:

Women's labour market participation is a complex area of policy and requires a multi faceted approach from a number of portfolios, in particular the: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the Office for Women and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency within the Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio; and the Office of Work and Family in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Office for Women is in ongoing discussions with DEEWR on gender issues in the context of labour market programs, Government payments, education and training and workplace relations policy.

Women's economic security, including labour market participation is a key focus of the agenda of the Women's Interdepartmental Committee and the core focus of a subgroup of the committee, the Economic Security Working Group.

Workforce participation is central to women's economic security. Recognising women's unequal caring responsibilities and providing access to flexible working arrangements for all employees is an important component of increasing women's participation.

The *Fair Work Act 2009* (FW Act) is a cornerstone in the Government's approach to providing women with fairer and more flexible working arrangements, and in encouraging women into the workforce.

The FW Act is complemented by a range of other measures including the new paid parental leave scheme, the Government's commitment of \$12.8 billion over the next four years to help families with child care costs and the Fresh Ideas for Work and Family Grants Program to help small businesses implement flexible working conditions.

It is not possible to determine a precise dollar figure for spending within this portfolio, or across the Government more broadly, that specifically addresses women's labour market participation as it is embedded in many activities and programs across Government.

Women's economic security is a priority policy issue for the Office for Women.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 193

Topic: Social Marketing Campaign

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA35

Senator Boyce asked:

How much is to be spent next year [on the respectful relationships campaign advertising]?

Answer:

\$4 million is budgeted for media placements in 2010-11.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 194

Topic: Victims of people trafficking

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA37

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of their countries of origin?

Answer:

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of number of clients on the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program by the country of origin or citizenship as at 1 July 2010.

Country of Origin/Citizenship of Clients

Country of Origin/Citizenship	Current	Total
Brazil / Portugal	0	1
China	0	4
Czech Republic	0	1
Fiji	1	1
Hong Kong SRA / China	0	2
India	3	5
Indonesia	0	5
Macedonia	0	1
Malaysia	10	25
Malaysia / China	0	1
Philippines	2	3
Singapore	0	1
South Korea	6	29
Thailand	29	74
Uzbekistan	0	1
Vietnam	1	1
Grand Total	52	155

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 195

Topic: Victims of people trafficking

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA37

Senator Boyce asked:

Are there people who have come in on 457 visas?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship have advised that three clients on the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program arrived in Australia on UC-457 Business (Long Stay) visas since the commencement of the Program in 2003-04.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 196

Topic: Interdepartmental Committee on Women

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA44

Senator Boyce asked:

Which two departments are not involved?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the membership of the Women's Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) includes 14 departments and three portfolio agencies. Departments that are currently not members of the Women's IDC include:

- Department for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts;
- Department for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency;
- Department for Resources, Energy, and Tourism; and
- Department for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy.

Although the Department for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy is not a formal member of the Women's IDC, it is a member of the Women's IDC Violence against Women Working Group.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 197

Topic: Economic Security for Women Alliance

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA47

Senator Boyce asked:

How many member organisations are in the Economic Security for Women Alliance? If you could provide a list of the member organisations and then a number of individuals.

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the Economic Security for Women Alliance (ES4W) has 31 members drawn from 18 member organisations. The 18 member organisations are:

- APESMA – Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia
- AWE – Association of Women Educators
- AFUW – Australian Federation of University Women
- BPW – Business and Professional Women Australia
- COSBOA – The Council of Small Business Organisation of Australia
- IWFCI – International Women’s Federation of Commerce and Industry
- NAWIC – National Association of Women in Construction
- NFAW – National Foundation of Australian Women
- NTWWC – Northern Territory Working Women’s Centre
- QVWC – The Queen Victoria Women’s Centre
- QWWS – Queensland Working Women’s Service
- VIEW Clubs of Australia (Voice, Interests and Education of Women)
- WALTJA – Aboriginal Community Association
- WAVE – Women in Adult and Vocational Education
- WIMBN – Women in Mortgage Broking Network
- WIRE – Women’s information
- WWCSA – Working Women’s Centre SA Inc
- WWDA – Women with Disabilities Australia

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 198

Topic: Economic Security for Women Alliance

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA47

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the existing governance structure for the Economic Security for Women Alliance?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, Economic Security for Women (ES4W) has a six member Management Group that is elected from the ES4W Council which consists of all ES4W members. Election and voting rules are governed by the Rules of the Association. The Management Group is tasked with managing the administrative and financial arrangements of ES4W, and the Council makes decisions regarding policy and projects by majority vote.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 199

Topic: Equality Rights Alliance

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA47-48

Senator Boyce asked:

When are you expecting the Equality Rights Alliance to be established? Could you provide the member organisations and their governance structure?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is an established Alliance with 49 member organisations. ERA has evolved from the WomenSpeak Alliance which operated between 2002 and 2010.

ERA has a dual governance framework consisting of:

- Governance provided by the members
- Contract management and oversight provided by YWCA

Members of the Alliance sign up to a democratically agreed set of Guiding Principles which provide the substantive and procedural framework for the Alliance and the basis of the authority for the elected Executive to make decisions. The Executive consists of five and seven members who are elected annually.

The member organisations of ERA are as follows:

- 2020Women
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement of South Australia
- Amnesty International Australia (National Women's Rights Team)
- Australasian Council of Women and Policing
- Australian Baha'i Community Office for Equality
- Australian Council for International Development Gender Equity Working Group
- Australian Federation of Medical Women
- Australian Federation of Graduate Women
- Australian Reproductive Health Alliance
- Australian Womensport and Recreation Association
- Australian Women's Health Network
- Body Image and Disordered Eating Network of South Australia
- Catholic Women's League of Australia
- Centre for Leadership for Women
- Children by Choice
- FECCA Women's Committee
- Fitted for Work

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- Guides Australia
- Homebirth Australia
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- International Women's Development Agency
- JERA International
- Jessie Street National Women's Library
- Migrant Women's Lobby Group of SA
- Multicultural Women's Advocacy ACT
- National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence
- National Council of Churches of Australia Gender Commission
- National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children
- National Foundation of Australian Women
- National Liaison Committee for International Students in Australia (Women's Department)
- National Union of Students (Women's Department)
- Project Respect
- Public Health Association of Australia (Women's Health Special Interest Group)
- Public Interest Law Clearinghouse (VIC) Inc
- Soroptimist International Australia
- UNIFEM Australia
- Union of Australian Women
- United Nations Association of Australia Status of Women Network
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition
- Women in Engineering Australia
- Women on Boards
- Women With Disabilities Australia
- Women's Economic Think Tank
- Women's Electoral Lobby Australia
- Women's Legal Services Australia
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Women's Information Referral Exchange
- Working Against Sexual Harassment
- YWCA Australia

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 200

Topic: Member organisations and governance structures

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA47-48

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide the member organisations and governance structure for WEAVE and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2010, the WEAVE Alliance (Women Everywhere Advocating Violence Elimination) is a brand new Alliance and is governed by a Steering Committee responsible for developing a constitution and seeking incorporation. In the interim, WEAVE is auspiced by WESNET, the national peak body for women's domestic and violence services, under a memorandum of understanding. A Management Committee is responsible for administrative and reporting processes. Overall decision making about activities and policies will involve and engage the wider membership base.

WEAVE has 16 member organisations:

- National Abuse Free Contact Campaign
- Women's Services Network (WESNET)
- National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
- Solomums Australia for Family Equity (SAFE)
- Coalition Against Trafficking of Women Australia (CATWA)
- Association of Women Educators
- Australasian Council of Women and Policing Inc
- Queensland Women's Health Network
- NSW Domestic Violence Committee Coalition
- Domestic Violence Victoria
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre (VIC)
- No to Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association (NTV) Inc
- Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services SA
- Hobart Women's Health Centre
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
- Dawn House NT

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The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) is governed by an executive council made up of nine representatives – one from each state and territory, and one from the Torres Strait.

Recruitment of members and establishing the operating and membership principles for the Alliance will be the priority for NATSIWA during the first 12 months.

A number of Indigenous organisations from around the country have expressed interest and support for NATSIWA including:

- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement of SA
- Koot Marr Kaart (WA)
- Nunga Mi: Minar Incorporated SA
- The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council
- Women's Legal Centre (ACT Region)
- Aboriginal Art, Arts Tasmania , Dept DEDTA
- Indigenous Law Centre, University of NSW
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Victoria (FVPLS Victoria)

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 201

Topic: Member organisations and governance structures

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA48

Senator Boyce asked:

How would you go about becoming a member?

Answer:

Each Alliance is responsible for developing their own membership base and membership policies. Alliances can be approached directly for membership information. Alliance contact details can be found on the Office for Women's website:

fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/progserv/equal/Pages/engaging_womens_org.aspx

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 202

Topic: Member organisations and governance structures

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA48

Senator Boyce asked:

Are the National Council of Women, YWCA and the National Rural Women's Coalition and Network members of these alliances?

Answer:

The National Council of Women is not a member of any of the six National Women's Alliances.

YWCA is a member organisation of the Equality Rights Alliance.

The National Rural Women's Coalition and Network is one of the six National Women's Alliances.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 203

Topic: UN Commission on the Status of Women

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 – CA51

Senator Carol Brown asked:

Can you provide a copy of those seven resolutions?

Answer:

Please find attached the following seven resolutions from the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which took place in New York from 1-12 March 2010:

Attachment A: Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity

Attachment B: Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

Attachment C: Women's economic empowerment

Attachment D: Ending female genital mutilation

Attachment E: Situation and assistance of Palestinian women

Attachment F: Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

Attachment G: Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

(Attachments available from the Community Affairs Committee Secretariat by request, email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 204

Topic: Gender Wage Gap

Hansard Page: 1/6/10 - CA55

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide the public sector and private sector gaps for the last five years and comment on them?

Answer:

Table 1 below provides the gender wage gap figures for the past five years and Chart 1 plots the gender wage gap by sector from August 1994 to the most recent data, February 2010.

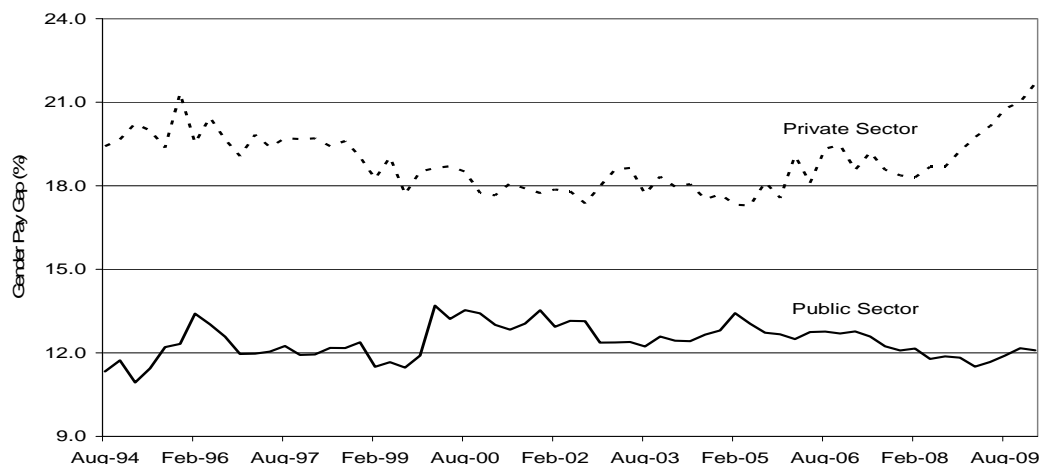
Table 1: Gender pay gap, private and public sector, Feb 2006 – Feb 2010, Full-time Adult employees

	Private sector %	Public sector %
Feb 2006	19.1	12.5
Feb 2007	18.6	12.8
Feb 2008	18.3	12.2
Feb 2009	19.7	11.5
Feb 2010	21.7	12.1

Source: ABS Average Weekly Earnings Survey, Australia (Cat No 6302.0) Feb 2010, seasonally adjusted data

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Chart 1: Gender pay gap, private and public sector, Aug 1994 – Feb 2010



Source: ABS Average Weekly Earnings Survey,
Australia (Cat No 6302.0) Feb 2010, seasonally adjusted data

From the most recent data, February 2010, the private sector gender pay gap was 21.7 per cent compared with 12.1 per cent in the public sector. It is evident the gap has widened in the private sector over the last two years.

Fluctuations in the gender wage gap are larger in the private sector than in the public sector. From Chart one it is evident that the private sector gender wage gap trended downward from 1994 to late 2005 and has increased since then.

Over the five year period (Table 1) the public sector gap has remained relatively constant while the private sector gap has increased.

The *Fair Work Act 2009* (FW Act) came into full effect on 1 January 2010, at which time the provisions of the Act dealing with wages and conditions came into force. As such, any impact on the gender wage gap as a result of the FW Act is likely to take some time to be reflected in the data.

Particular measures in the FW Act to address the gender wage gap include the new National Employment Standards, a fairer safety net, a new right to request flexible working arrangements, improved equal remuneration provisions, and facilitated bargaining in low-paid industries.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 187

Topic: Labour Market Participation and the Gender Gap Index

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the Australian standing in the Global Gender Index increased or decreased in terms of labour market participation over this year? Are there statistics available?

Answer:

In 2010, Australia was ranked 23 (out of 134 countries) in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. This ranking was compared with 20 in 2009.

This yearly publication ranks countries on the gender differences within four subindexes: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival; and political environment. Australia was ranked 24 in 2010 on the economic participation and opportunity subindex compared with a ranking of 19 in 2009.

	Action Officer:		Cleared by:	
Name:	Linda White		Cate McKenzie	
Position:	Assistant section manager		Group Manager	
Branch/Group:	Office for Women		Women and Children Policy	
Work phone number:	02 6244 8451		02 6244 1604	
Mobile phone number:	0438 472 496		0402 944 449	
Cleared by Group Manager	Yes	Date: 19/10/10	GM Initial	CM

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 206

Topic: Indigenous Clearinghouse National Partnership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What is your Agency's budget allocation for the four-year agreement?

Answer:

The Indigenous Clearinghouse National Partnership is a five year Partnership Agreement. The Commonwealth allocated two years' funding in the 2008-09 Budget, and a further three years' funding in the 2009-10 Budget for a total of \$2.5 million from 2008-09 to 2013-14. Contributions from states and territories match the Commonwealth's contribution.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 207

Topic: Indigenous Clearinghouse National Partnership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

How is the budget allocated on an annual basis for the NPA given that in the first year there would be delays in the roll out of the programs – realising underspend in the first year allocation?

Answer:

The Clearinghouse has been established according to agreed timeframes. The Commonwealth allocated two years' funding in the 2008-09 Budget, and a further three years' funding in the 2009-10 Budget for a total of \$2.5 million from 2008-09 to 2013-14. Contributions from states and territories match the Commonwealth's contribution. The Clearinghouse focuses on specific topics - it does not focus on the rollout of particular programs and it is therefore unaffected by the pace at which particular programs are implemented.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 208

Topic: Indigenous Clearinghouse National Partnership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Of the first year allocation, how much has been expended and how is the under expenditure being managed?

Answer:

The amount of \$0.5 million was allocated to the Commonwealth in each financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10 and this has been spent.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 209

Topic: National Partnership Agreements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Can you give me a breakdown of the expenditure by:

- program and initiative within each National Partnership Agreement you manage
- State and Territory
- Government Agency
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation
- Administrative costs absorbed by your agency to administer the NPA?

Answer:

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

- The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery provides total funding of \$291.2 million over six years to improve the delivery of services across 29 remote locations.
- The Commonwealth provides \$187.7 million and the States & Territories provide \$103.5 million. Provision is also made under the NPA for both the Commonwealth and States & Territories to provide “in-kind” support as identified within their respective implementation plans.
- The Commonwealth funding is Departmental only. Program funding was made available through existing resources.
- The Commonwealth budget allocation by State is as follows:

**Remote Service Delivery
Commonwealth Funding by State**

State	Budget \$'m
NSW	16.0
QLD	33.0
WA	38.6
SA	18.2
NT	81.9
TOTAL	187.7

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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
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- The total Commonwealth expenditure by State for the period 01 July 2008 to 31 May 2010 is as follows:

Remote Service Delivery
Commonwealth Expenditure by State

State	Total Exp as at 31 May 2010 \$'m (Note 1 & 2)
NSW	2.2
QLD	4.5
WA	6.0
SA	3.2
NT	13.6
TOTAL	29.6

(1) Includes 2008/09 expenditure of \$3.5m

(2) Includes 2009/10 Capital expenditure of \$5.0m

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National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory

2009-10 Closing the Gap - Northern Territory

Cross Agency Expenditure Report

as at 31 March 2010

BY AGENCY/THEME/MEASURE

Agency	Theme	Measure	Administered (Note 2)			Departmental (Note 1)	Total		
			Budget \$m	YTD Exp \$m	%		Budget \$m	YTD Exp \$m	%
AGD	Law and Order	Aboriginal Interpreter service	0.6	0.4	73%		0.6	0.4	73%
		Indigenous Legal Aid	2.5	2.0	80%		2.5	2.0	80%
		Law & Order	21.7	11.0	51%	0.8	22.5	11.0	49%
		Welfare Rights Outreach Project	1.0	0.8	76%		1.0	0.8	76%
	AGD Total		25.8	14.2	55%	0.8	26.5	14.2	53%
DEEWR	Enhancing Education	Accelerating Literacy & Quality Teaching				0.5	0.5	-	0%
		School nutrition	11.0	2.7	24%	1.3	12.3	2.7	22%
		Teacher Housing				0.2	0.2	-	0%
		Subtotal	11.0	2.7	24%	2.0	13.0	2.7	21%
	Welfare Reform and Employment	Language Literacy & Numeracy	0.8	0.9	105%	0.2	1.0	0.9	89%
		Subtotal	0.8	0.9	105%	0.2	1.0	0.9	89%
	Supporting Families	Creches	4.3	1.2	28%	0.2	4.4	1.2	27%
		Subtotal	4.3	1.2	28%	0.2	4.4	1.2	27%
DEEWR Total		16.1	4.7	30%	2.4	18.4	4.7	26%	
DHS	Enhancing Education	School Nutrition (Centrelink)				1.4	1.4	-	0%
		Subtotal				1.4	1.4	-	0%
	Welfare Reform and Employment	Basics Card - Income Management Card replacement Project (DHS)				4.3	4.3	-	0%
		Income Management (DHS)	3.2	2.4	75%	1.2	4.4	2.4	55%
		Income Management (Centrelink)				82.3	82.3	-	0%
		Income Management Card Replacement Project (Centrelink)				5.9	5.9	-	0%
		Subtotal	3.2	2.4	75%	93.8	97.0	2.4	2%
		DHS Total	3.2	2.4	75%	95.2	98.4	2.4	2%
DoHA		Indigenous Health and Related Services	4.4	2.2	50%	1.2	5.6	2.2	39%
		DoHA Total	4.4	2.2	50%	1.2	5.6	2.2	39%
FaHCSIA	Coordination on the Ground	Coordination and Policy Advice				3.9	3.9	-	0%
		Field Operations - GBM's				25.1	25.1	-	0%
		Local Priorities Fund	11.3	5.5	48%		11.3	5.5	48%
		Resetting the Relationship - Indigenous Leadership	2.1	0.1	3%	5.0	7.1	0.1	1%
		Resetting the Relationship - Communications & Media	1.2	0.1	9%		1.2	0.1	9%
		Subtotal	14.6	5.7	39%	34.0	48.6	5.7	12%
	Welfare Reform and Employment	Community Stores	3.4	0.5	15%	4.5	7.9	0.5	6%
		Financial Management	4.3	3.8	90%	0.6	4.9	3.8	79%
		Income Management - FaHCSIA				2.8	2.8	-	0%
		Subtotal	7.7	4.3	57%	8.0	15.6	4.3	28%
	Law and Order	Alcohol Management Plans, Signage & PC Audits	7.0	2.5	35%	0.9	7.9	2.5	31%
		Subtotal	7.0	2.5	35%	0.9	7.9	2.5	31%
	Supporting Families	Early Childhood	0.4	0.4	100%	0.1	0.5	0.4	79%
		Playgroups	0.1	-	0%	0.2	0.3	-	0%
		Supporting Families	5.1	-	0%	0.4	5.5	-	0%
Youth in Communities		8.8	2.6	29%	0.5	9.3	2.6	28%	
Subtotal		14.4	3.0	21%	1.2	15.6	3.0	19%	
FaHCSIA Total		43.7	15.4	35%	44.060	87.7	15.4	18%	
PM&C (Ombudsman)	Coordination on the Ground	Commonwealth Ombudsman Support				0.8	0.8	-	0%
	PM&C (Ombudsman) Total					0.8	0.8	-	0%
Treasury (DEEWR)	Enhancing Education	Accelerating Literacy & Quality Teaching	15.7	7.9	50%		15.7	7.9	50%
	DEEWR Subtotal	Teacher Housing	11.0	5.1	46%		11.0	5.1	46%
Treasury (DoHA)	Improving Health	Indigenous Health and Related Services	8.9	6.7	75%		8.9	6.7	75%
	DoHA Subtotal		8.9	6.7	75%		8.9	6.7	75%
Treasury (FaHCSIA)	Coordination on the Ground	Interpreters	0.9	0.7	75%		0.9	0.7	75%
	Welfare Reform and Employment	Community Stores	0.3	0.3	100%		0.3	0.3	100%
	Law and Order	Remote Policing & Substance Abuse	31.4	23.2	74%		31.4	23.2	74%
	Supporting Families	Supporting Families	5.1	-	0%		5.1	-	0%
	FaHCSIA Subtotal		37.7	24.2	64%		37.7	24.2	64%
Treasury Total			73.3	43.9	60%		73.3	43.9	60%
Total Funding			166.5	82.9	50%	144.4	310.9	82.9	27%

NOTES:

(1) Departmental costs for Closing the Gap - Northern Territory have been absorbed into agencies departmental allocations and are not tracked separately from other departmental funding.

(2) Most of the program funds appropriated directly to the Commonwealth will go to service providers both indigenous and non-indigenous. Some of the program funds appropriated to the NT Government through the Treasury will go to service providers both indigenous and non-indigenous.

(3) Other administrative costs would have been incurred by the Departments in delivery the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory NPA but which can not be quantified.

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National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) provides total funding of \$5.5 billion over 10 years to establish a strategy across remote Indigenous communities to reduce severe overcrowding, increase the supply of new houses and improve the condition of existing houses, and ensure rental housing is well managed and maintained.
- The total Commonwealth funding released to the States and Northern Territory Governments under the NPARIH to 30 June 2010 is as follows:

Funding Released to 30 June 2010		
<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>NPARIH Element</u>	<u>Released to Jurisdictions</u>
New South Wales	Make Good Reform	\$122.207 m
	Capital Works	\$ 29.327 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 4.201 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$ 6.749 m
	Total	\$162.493 m
Victoria	Make Good Reform	\$ 6.514 m
	Capital Works	
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 3.140 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	
	Total	\$ 9.654 m
Tasmania	Make Good Reform	\$ 2.686 m
	Capital Works	\$ 3.590 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$.322 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	
	Total	\$ 6.598 m
Queensland	Make Good Reform	\$ 28.500 m
	Capital Works	\$ 57.144 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 17.479 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$.200 m
	Total	\$103.323 m
South Australia	Make Good Reform	\$ 67.410 m

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	Capital Works	\$ 31.759 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 3.650 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$ 4.336 m
	Total	\$107.155 m
Western Australia	Make Good Reform	\$ 92.884 m
	Capital Works	\$ 74.242 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 13.685 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$ 6.749 m
	Total	\$187.560 m
Northern Territory	Make Good Reform	\$ 24.441 m
	Capital Works	\$128.027 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 28.421 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$ 1.690 m
	Total	\$182.579 m
National Total	Make Good Reform	\$344.642 m
	Capital Works	\$324.089 m
	Property and Tenancy Management	\$ 70.907 m
	Employment Related Accommodation	\$ 19.724 m
	Total	\$759.362 m

- The Commonwealth Treasury releases NPARIH funds to State and Northern Territory Treasuries who transfer the funding to the relevant jurisdiction housing agency. Housing agencies then deliver the services which, depending on the type of service, may involve direct contracting with private companies or funding agreements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations such as Indigenous Community Housing Organisations.
- The administration of the NPARIH involves officers and resources from across FaHCSIA's national and state offices. This includes staff working who dedicate varying levels of their work hours to the NPARIH depending on operational requirements as well as the corporate staff that support them. For this reason, the administrative cost incurred by FaHCSIA to administer the NPARIH cannot be separately quantified.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 210

Topic: Service Delivery Principles

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Has your agency incorporated the Service Delivery Principles for Services for Indigenous Australians in the development and roll out of your programs?

Answer:

FaHCSIA actively seeks to give effect to the Service Delivery Principles in the development of its programs. FaHCSIA is committed to improving accessibility for Indigenous people through its 'Framework to improve FaHCSIA's Mainstream programs and payments' which is one of the strategies being pursued to address Closing the Gap targets.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 211

Topic: Indigenous Women's Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In regard to the Indigenous Women's Program, what funding has been provided under this program? To what organisations and in what areas?

Answer:

For 2009-10 financial year, \$5,027,310 has been allocated to fund the Indigenous Women's Program. 130 activities have been funded through 109 organisations. These activities are run throughout remote, regional and urban communities across the country. The list of organisations is below:

Financial Year	Office State	Service Provider	Activity Location	First FY Appr Operational and Capital Amt
2009/10	NSW	Byron Region Community College	ALSTONVILLE	\$16,700
2009/10	NSW	Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service	SOUTH WEST ROCKS	\$32,000
2009/10	NSW	Ganggalah Training Centre Inc	NORTH CASINO	\$27,000
2009/10	NSW	Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation	TAREE SOUTH	\$20,000
2009/10	NSW	Miimi Mothers Aboriginal Corporation	Arnerre	\$30,000
2009/10	NSW	Aboriginal Women's Healing House	RAZORBACK	\$5,400
2009/10	NSW	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited	Barrel Well	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited	DUBBO	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited	GOODDOGA	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited	WILCANNIA	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Brewarrina Business Cooperative Ltd	WILCANNIA	\$77,124
2009/10	NSW	Dharriwaa Elders Group Incorporated	WALGETT	\$10,000
2009/10	NSW	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service	LAVINGTON	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service	Albury	\$15,000
2009/10	NSW	Mingaletta Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Corporation	WICKHAM	\$5,300
2009/10	NSW	Campbelltown Family Support Service Inc	CAMPBELLTOWN	\$25,000
2009/10	NSW	NSW Police Force - Albury LAC	WEST ALBURY	\$9,000
2009/10	NSW	Wellington High School	Elitja	\$2,000
2009/10	NSW	Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation	Frog Hollow	\$30,000
2009/10	NSW	Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation	Iteypintye	\$10,900
2009/10	NSW	Walgett Community Centre	WALGETT	\$4,400

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2009/10	NSW	Communities NSW - NSW Sport and Recreation	Riverina	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation	MOUNT DRUITT VILLAGE	\$15,000
2009/10	NSW	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	NARRABRI	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council	TAMWORTH	\$4,000
2009/10	NSW	Inverell Shire Council	TINGHA	\$3,000
2009/10	NSW	Pius X Aboriginal Corporation	MUNGINDI	\$2,000
2009/10	NSW	Inverell Shire Council	INVERELL	\$3,000
2009/10	NSW	Pius X Aboriginal Corporation	MUNGINDI	\$9,050
2009/10	NSW	Quirindi High School	QUIRINDI	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Narrabri & District Community Aid Service Inc	WEE WAA	\$5,000
2009/10	NSW	Buninyong Public School	Buninyong	\$1,500
2009/10	NSW	Police Community Youth Club - Wellington	Wellington	\$2,200
2009/10	NSW	Walgett Community Centre	WALGETT	\$24,000
2009/10	NSW	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited	Cobar	\$11,600
2009/10	NSW	NSW Police Force (Wagga Wagga)	TOLLAND	\$31,500
2009/10	NSW	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC)	MARRICKVILLE	\$15,000
2009/10	NSW	Police Community Youth Club - Wellington	Wellington	\$4,400
2009/10	NSW	Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation	South Coast	\$47,000
2009/10	NSW	ALICE - Assisting Lovely Indigenous Chicks Excel	ARMIDALE	\$6,000
2009/10	NSW	Armajun Aboriginal Health Service Inc.	INVERELL	\$1,500
2009/10	NSW	Binni Aboriginal Corporation	ARMIDALE	\$4,450
2009/10	NT	Central Land Council	ALICE SPRINGS	\$55,000
2009/10	NT	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	WINNELLIE	\$88,000
2009/10	NT	East Arnhem Shire Council	NHULUNBUY	\$101,325
2009/10	NT	Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation	ALICE SPRINGS	\$40,000
2009/10	NT	Tiwi Islands Shire Council	NGUIU	\$20,285
2009/10	NT	Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation	DARWIN	\$50,000
2009/10	NT	Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra Youth Development Unit Incorporated	ALYANGULA	\$18,960
2009/10	NT	Central Desert Shire Council	YUENDUMU	\$40,000
2009/10	NT	Belyuen Community Government Council	BELYUEN	\$45,000
2009/10	NT	WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA	YUENDUMU	\$25,000
2009/10	NT	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	ALICE SPRINGS	\$10,000
2009/10	NT	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	ALICE SPRINGS	\$100,000
2009/10	NT	University of NSW - Australian Graduate School of Management	Sydney	\$25,000
2009/10	NT	Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation	YARRALIN	\$100,307
2009/10	NT	Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter Inc	Minjilang	\$17,000
2009/10	NT	Victoria Daly Shire Council	YARRALIN	\$69,978
2009/10	NT	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	ALICE SPRINGS	\$30,000
2009/10	NT	Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation	ELLIOTT	\$170,285
2009/10	Qld	Nungeena Aboriginal Corporation for Women's Business	Nungeena	\$150,000
2009/10	Qld	Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Corporation	PORMPURA AW	\$34,600

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2009/10	Qld	Bundaberg Aboriginal Corporation for Women	SEVENTEEN SEVENTY	\$3,000
2009/10	Qld	Bundaberg Aboriginal Corporation for Women	SEVENTEEN SEVENTY	\$13,650
2009/10	Qld	Kgari Educational & Culture Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Kgari	\$20,367
2009/10	Qld	Saima Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Torres Strait	\$13,080
2009/10	Qld	Nai-Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corporation	QLD	\$67,922
2009/10	Qld	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	CHERBOURG	\$9,900
2009/10	Qld	St George Aboriginal Housing Co Ltd	ST GEORGE	\$53,000
2009/10	Qld	Surat Aboriginal Corporation	SURAT	\$53,361
2009/10	Qld	Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Centre Incorporated	MOOROOBOOL	\$42,575
2009/10	Qld	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation For Welfare, Resource and Housing - KRURUNGAL	Torres Strait	\$130,238
2009/10	Qld	Cape York Remote Area Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Childcare Advisory Association Inc	WUJAL WUJAL	\$40,000
2009/10	Qld	Yabu Mija Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	TUMOULIN	\$27,980
2009/10	Qld	Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc.	Lockyer	\$15,000
2009/10	Qld	Bindal Sharks United Training, Employment, Sports and Recreation Aboriginal Corporation	TOWNSVILLE	\$73,596
2009/10	Qld	K'Gari Educational and Culture Centre Inc	MARYBOROUGH WEST	\$61,103
2009/10	Qld	Department of Education and Training - Townsville Region	TOWNSVILLE	\$65,000
2009/10	Qld	Hopevale Aboriginal Corporation for Arts and Culture	HOPE VALE	\$40,000
2009/10	Qld	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	LOCKHART RIVER	\$14,623
2009/10	Qld	Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association - Townsville	DOOMADGEE	\$150,000
2009/10	Qld	Townsville Intercultural Centre Ltd.	Townsville	\$9,625
2009/10	Qld	Hockey Queensland Inc	MORNINGSIDE	\$20,000
2009/10	Qld	Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation	COOKTOWN	\$25,000
2009/10	Qld	Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Media Association Limited	YULARA	\$14,734
2009/10	Qld	Girudala Community Co-operative Society Limited	SARINA	\$50,000
2009/10	Qld	Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association - Mornington Island Branch	MORNINGTON ISLAND	\$40,000
2009/10	Qld	Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association - Mornington Island Branch	MORNINGTON ISLAND	\$46,700
2009/10	SA	Aroona Aboriginal Community Council Inc	COPLEY	\$20,000
2009/10	SA	Nipapanha Community Inc	NEPABUNNA	\$16,000
2009/10	SA	OUTBACK AREAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST	Yarrewyty-Artere	\$24,000
2009/10	SA	Weena Mooga Gu Gudba Corp	CEDUNA	\$50,000
2009/10	SA	Koonibba Aboriginal Community Council	CEDUNA	\$35,000
2009/10	SA	Yalata Community Incorporated	CEDUNA	\$35,000
2009/10	SA	Scotdesco Aboriginal Corporation.	CEDUNA	\$25,000
2009/10	SA	Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	APY	\$37,000
2009/10	SA	Nunyara Wellbeing Centre Inc	SA	\$30,000
2009/10	SA	Aboriginal Family Support Services	SA	\$23,500
2009/10	SA	Uniting Care Wesley Port Pirie Inc	SA	\$10,000
2009/10	SA	Tjutjunaku Worka Tjuta Inc.	CEDUNA	\$16,000

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2009/10	SA	Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide	Port Augusta	\$185,450
2009/10	Tas	Women's Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	HOBART	\$106,429
2009/10	Tas	Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation	TAS	\$98,570
2009/10	Vic	Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd.	VIC	\$10,000
2009/10	Vic	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (Victoria)	VIC	\$210,429
2009/10	Vic	Mildura Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	Mildura	\$25,000
2009/10	Vic	Mildura Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	MILDURA	\$17,000
2009/10	Vic	Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place Association	Melbourne	\$30,000
2009/10	Vic	Gippsland Lakes Community Health	Gippsland Lakes	\$35,000
2009/10	Vic	Kirrae Health Service	Kirrae	\$15,000
2009/10	Vic	Inner South Community Health Service		\$10,000
2009/10	WA	Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre (Aboriginal Corporation)	FITZROY CROSSING	\$110,430
2009/10	WA	Dumbartung Aboriginal Corporation	WATERFORD	\$33,450
2009/10	WA	Mungart Boodja Incorporated		\$37,200
2009/10	WA	Joorook Ngarni Aboriginal Corporation	WYNDHAM	\$70,000
2009/10	WA	Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre	FITZROY CROSSING	\$54,604
2009/10	WA	Langford Aboriginal Association Inc (LAA)	WILLETTON	\$24,544
2009/10	WA	Langford Aboriginal Association Inc (LAA)	WILLETTON	\$26,394
2009/10	WA	Langford Aboriginal Association Inc (LAA)	LEEMING	\$32,748
2009/10	WA	Langford Aboriginal Association Inc (LAA)	LEEMING	\$30,444
2009/10	WA	Kapululangu Aboriginal Women's Association (Aboriginal Corporation)	HALLS CREEK	\$85,100
2009/10	WA	Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation		\$83,964
2009/10	WA	Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation	ROEBOURNE	\$112,101
2009/10	WA	Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation	GERALDTON	\$90,000
2009/10	WA	Midwest Employment & Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation	MULLEWA	\$55,000
2009/10	WA	Yawuru Jarndu Aboriginal Corporation	BROOME	\$138,250
2009/10	WA	Burringurrah Community Aboriginal Corporation	MEEKATHARRA	\$50,000
2009/10	WA	Shire of Moora	MOORA	\$33,000
2009/10	WA	Shire of Moora	MOORA	\$4,485
2009/10	WA	Kiwirrkurra Council Aboriginal Corporation	ALICE SPRINGS	\$50,000
109				\$5,027,310

Total INWO Funding-
\$5,027,310.00

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 212

Topic: Indigenous Women's Program Priorities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What specific issues and priorities are being addressed to each of these funded programs?

Answer:

The Program addresses locally identified needs to enhance Indigenous women's leadership, representation, safety, wellbeing and their economic status in supporting the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 214

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP)

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 - CA99

Senator Scullion asked:

How many FaHCSIA personnel are dedicated to Indigenous housing in a general sense? Would it be reasonable to say that they would be spread evenly or would Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP), because of its development, having run more intensively, have more personnel?

Answer:

In November 2009, the Office of Remote Indigenous Housing (ORIH) was established with FaHCSIA to give greater focus to remote Indigenous housing. Senior staff were also recruited into the WA, NSW, QLD and SA FaHCSIA State offices to work closely with State agencies helping to deliver housing and related services in the relevant jurisdictions, as well as working closely with ORIH.

As at 9 August 2010, ORIH has 87 staff in a central office, plus 15 officers located in Remote Housing Northern Territory. Staff members in the Remote Housing Northern Territory work alongside Northern Territory Government colleagues in a joint program management structure that was auspiced by the August 2009 Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program – Review of Program Performance.

In addition to the four Senior Remote Indigenous Housing Managers, (QLD, WA, NSW, SA), there are approximately 35 FaHCSIA State office staff involved in the delivery of Indigenous housing policy and remote housing delivery across all jurisdictions.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 215

Topic: National Partnership Program

Hansard Page: 31/5/10 – CA103

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you provide details in terms of the financial arrangements under the national partnership program. For 2008-09 we have \$333.807 million and for 2009-10, \$432.733 million. How much has been expended in 2008-09 and so far in 2009-10?

Answer:

Funding provided to State Governments and the Northern Territory Government under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing was \$148.772 million in 2008-09 and \$610.590 million in 2009-10.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 216

Topic: Indigenous Community Volunteers

Hansard Page: 1/6/10–CA92

Senator Fifield asked:

Who does it receive those funds from? Is that from the FaHCSIA portfolio?

Answer:

In 2004, the then Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) provided Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) with \$20 million for a capital base.

In June 2006, ICV was provided with an additional \$6.5 million for 4 years ending 30 June 2010 by DEWR. The additional \$300,000 made available for 2010-11 has been provided from the FaHCSIA portfolio.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 217

Topic: Outback Stores

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA8

Senator Siewert asked:

How soon will the Outback Stores research project on the effectiveness of marketing strategies to increase the sales of fruit and vegetables begin?

Answer:

As at 24 August 2010, the Menzies School of Health Research, the University of South Australia and Outback Stores (OBS) have entered into a partnership to evaluate the impact of store based interventions - aimed at increasing the sales of healthy food and drinks - on purchasing patterns in remote community stores.

This one year project comprises two phases: phase 1 will define and measure the impact that pricing interventions implemented by Outback Stores have had on purchasing patterns; and phase 2 will result in the design of a randomised control trial to measure the impact of a price intervention on the sale of healthy foods and beverages. A literature review and the evidence from phase 1 will be used to inform the design of the randomised control trial in phase 2.

Key areas for investigation:

- The effect on purchasing patterns of fruit and vegetables by sourcing bulk produce for each OBS store rather than purchasing pre-packed product. This change in OBS ordering processes has reduced selling prices by 30-40 per cent;
- The effect on purchasing patterns of the purchase of healthy food after a reduction in store margins;
- The effect on purchasing patterns of cigarettes due to the 20 per cent increase in prices from the Federal Government tobacco excise tax; and
- The effect on purchasing patterns of full sugar drinks due to a strategy of preferential prices whereby full sugar drinks will be more expensive than diet and healthy drinks.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 218

Topic: Outback Stores

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA9

Senator Scullion asked:

Do any members on the board actually supply any Outback Store?

Answer:

No Outback Stores Director supplies the company with any goods or services.

The Outback Stores constitution requires Directors to declare any conflict of interest and this includes any interest in the provision of goods or services. Directors' declarations are documented and held by the company secretary.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 219

Topic: Outback Stores

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA13

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you set out the rationale of how a 10 per cent rebate to the suppliers actually lowers the cost of groceries in the communities?

Answer:

In the context of Outback Stores (OBS), rebates are payments made by high volume wholesale suppliers to OBS and not by OBS to these suppliers. The rebates relate to the volume of goods purchased by OBS from the wholesaler over the term of the supply contract.

Rebates paid to OBS help to keep their management fees down. By lowering costs, these supplier arrangements help to keep prices lower for the consumer.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 220

Topic: National Partnership Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA14

Senator Adams asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the budget allocation for the four year agreement and the expenditure (by program) with how much from each state and territory for the NPA on Remote Indigenous Housing?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing program the four year funding allocations (2008-09 to 2011-12) by jurisdiction are:

Jurisdiction	Total Notional Funding 2008-09 to 2011-12 (\$m)
NSW	211.526
QLD	269.983
SA	149.793
WA	371.922
TAS	11.877
VIC	15.330
NT	612.834
Total	1643.265

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 221

Topic: National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Service Delivery

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA14

Senator Adams asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the budget allocation for the four year agreement and the expenditure (by program) with how much from each state and territory for the NPA on Remote Service Delivery?

Answer:

- The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery provides total funding of \$291.2 million to improve the delivery of services across 29 remote locations.
- The Commonwealth provide \$187.7 million and the States & Territories provide \$103.5 million.
- The Commonwealth funding is Departmental only. Program funding was made available through existing resources.
- The Commonwealth budget allocation by State is as follows:

**Remote Service Delivery
Commonwealth Funding by State**

State	Budget \$'m
NSW	16.0
QLD	33.0
WA	38.6
SA	18.2
NT	81.9
TOTAL	187.7

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- The total Commonwealth expenditure by State for the period 01 July 2008 to 31 May 2010 is as follows:

Remote Service Delivery
Commonwealth Expenditure by State

State	Total Exp as at 31 May 2010 \$'m (Note 1 & 2)
NSW	2.2
QLD	4.5
WA	6.0
SA	3.2
NT	13.6
TOTAL	29.6

(1) Includes 2008/09 expenditure of \$3.5m

(2) Includes 2009/10 Capital expenditure of \$5.0m

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 222

Topic: Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) Funding

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA20

Senator Siewert asked:

What was the decision-making process around not funding ICV beyond the initial grant?
Was it purely because it was a one-off grant?

Answer:

The decision-making process about a further grant to ICV was the subject of advice from the Department to Minister Macklin.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 223

Topic: National Partnership Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA25

Senator Scullion asked:

Please provide the span (highest lowest) cost of SIHIP houses across each jurisdiction?

Answer:

As at 24 August 2010, under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing the average unit cost of housing varies from \$265,000 (purchased houses) to \$475,000 (factory built or constructed on-site). The average unit cost of housing by jurisdictions is:

Jurisdiction	New Houses
New South Wales	\$265,000
Northern Territory	\$450,000
Queensland	\$416,583
South Australia	\$396,000
Tasmania	\$450,000
Western Australia	\$475,000

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 224

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA26

Senator Scullion asked:

Do you know where the 39 houses are being purchased in New South Wales?

Answer:

As at 9 July 2010, New South Wales had completed the purchase of 58 houses funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) comprising:

- 41 houses purchased for Indigenous rental housing in Cobar, Narrabri, Coonamble, Lake Cargelligo, Nyngan, Lightning Ridge, Brewarrina, Moree, Bourke; and
- 17 houses purchased under the employment related housing provisions of the NPARIH in Armidale, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Tamworth to support people moving from remote Indigenous communities to undertake employment or training leading to employment.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 225

Topic: SIHIP – Tiwi Islands

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA32

Senator Scullion asked:

Do you know anything about an arrangement with other parties for a payment of \$7,500 per house to ensure that those works are done outside of the alliance?

Answer:

As at 16 July 2010, the Northern Territory Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS) allocates a notional annual repairs and maintenance budget equivalent to an average of \$7,500 for each public house it manages under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. Depending on need, more may be spent on some houses and less on others. DHLGRS has agreements in place with the Shires and a small number of community housing providers to deliver these repairs and maintenance services.

The repairs and maintenance allocation provides for responsive and programmed maintenance activities.

The repairs and maintenance works undertaken by the Shires complement the functional refurbishments carried out under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). The SIHIP refurbishments target elements that will have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of tenants, making houses safe and secure, and ensuring that bathrooms kitchens and laundries function properly.

Funding for both SIHIP capital works and the repairs and maintenance program is sourced from the \$1.7 billion allocated to the Northern Territory Government under the 10 year National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 226

Topic: NT House Refurbishments

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA33

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide a figure on how many houses have been refurbished (a breakdown of completed refurbishments) and are not to be refurbished again? Could we have another category, that the refurbishment has been completed rather than an interim completion?

Answer:

As at 9 July 2010, the Alliance Partners had completed 252 house refurbishments and 95 house rebuilds. These houses have subsequently been handed over to the Northern Territory Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS). Following hand over, the Northern Territory Government's property and tenancy management program is commenced for each house by DHLGRS and responsive and programmed maintenance works are scheduled and undertaken as required.

All of the houses handed over to the DHLGRS by the Alliance Partners, accepted by DHLGRS and subsequently tenanted, are completed functional rebuilds or refurbishments.

DHLGRS continues to monitor the condition of public houses on an ongoing basis through planned half yearly condition assessments undertaken by Regional Office Asset Management Officers. Responsive and programmed maintenance is assessed at each condition inspection and work orders raised for priority works which may progressively build on the functionality of the house or maintain or extend the asset lifecycle.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 229

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA43

Senator Scullion asked:

Will the Commonwealth be moving to ensure that Northern Territory is in possession of this new set of rentals and they know which houses are in fact not making public occupancy standards and they can adjust those rents accordingly.

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, the Northern Territory Government has responsibility for securing land tenure and ensuring proper tenancy management, including collecting rent, for all public houses in the seventy three prescribed communities and community living areas (town camps).

On 2 June 2010, the NT Government released the Remote Public Housing Rent Framework (RPHRF) to standardise public housing rental arrangements across the 73 prescribed remote communities. The new rent arrangements took effect on 1 July 2010. The RPHRF broadly aligns with the NT urban public housing rent policy, taking into account property condition. Rent is calculated as a percentage of assessable household income, with a maximum dwelling rent for houses based on the number of bedrooms and whether the house has been built, re-built or refurbished under the Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program or if it is an existing dwelling that has not yet been upgraded.

Under the NT Government's remote property and tenancy management arrangements, the Northern Territory Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services undertakes condition assessments of community housing to determine the correct rental levels to be set under the RPHRF. Tenancy agreements are put in place for houses which meet the requirements of the *NT Residential Tenancies Act 1999*.

All rent proceeds from the remote public houses are reinvested by the NT Government into repairs and maintenance and tenancy management and support services.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 230

Topic: Child Health Checks Initiative

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA49

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you please update the Committee on progress that has been made between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory on how dental follow-up services will be delivered?

Answer:

As at 24 August 2010, the Department of Health and Ageing has advised that the First Assistant Secretary of the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) has written to Ms Stephanie Bell, Chairperson of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum, seeking advice from the Forum on strategies to ensure as many children as possible with outstanding dental referrals from a child health check are seen within the timeframe of the *Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement* (2009-10 to 2011-12).

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 236

Topic: Wallaga Lake Asbestos

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In reference to Answers to Estimates Questions on Notice - Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio, Question No: 287 (October 23, 2009), I ask the following:

Can the Department advise as to any approaches made to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council representative appointed to manage reports of asbestos at Wallaga Lake and any action undertaken following such approaches?

Can FAHCSIA also provide any information relating to the activities of the 'local resident' engaged to manage collection of any reported asbestos at Wallaga Lake and whether the equipment purchased for this purpose has been used?

Further, can the Department advise as to the status and results of any of the free health checks offered to present and former Wallaga Lake residents referred to in correspondence from the Minister on August 20 2009 (Ref: MC09-016604)?

Answer:

As at 15 July 2010, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council was involved in the development of the Wallaga Lake Asbestos Management Plan.

A local community member and member of Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council Board was appointed to manage asbestos reports and arrange for action to be undertaken. A total of 20 local residents were also trained in the safe handling and removal of bonded asbestos. In accordance with the Asbestos Management Plan, a new secure building has been constructed in the community where any bonded asbestos and handling equipment is stored.

The Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council Board distributed flyers to all residents requesting they make contact if they think they may have found asbestos. Five people have contacted the Board with their concerns, although only one of those instances was confirmed to involve asbestos.

In relation to concerns that asbestos containing material in the community could present a health risk, one of the sites deemed likely to contain such material was the local dump site. Subsequent to the original cleanup, there have been three further occasions when material has been detected and removed. Appropriate asbestos handling and management equipment was used on each of these occasions. The total asbestos collected from these three occurrences amounted to just under one kilogram.

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The Department is aware of claims to the local media that there continues to be large deposits of asbestos containing material in this community. The Department is not aware that these claims have been substantiated but it is continuing to monitor the situation.

The NSW Government did not proceed with its planned offer of free health checks to all residents. Instead, it was suggested that community members should contact their local GP if they were concerned about asbestos exposure. The Department understands that this revised approach was in response to advice that the risk of testing is higher than the risk of exposure. The Senator will need to contact the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet for further information on this matter.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 205

Topic: Indigenous National Partnerships

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Which specific Indigenous National Partnership is your Agency responsible for as lead Agency?

Answer:

As at 19 July 2010, FaHCSIA is the lead agency for the following Indigenous specific National Partnerships:

- Remote Indigenous Housing NP
- Remote Service Delivery NP
- Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory NP
- Closing the Gap Clearinghouse NP

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 237

Topic: Eurobodalla Shire Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In 2008, \$235,000 in Commonwealth funding was provided to Eurobodalla Shire Council for the construction of an Outreach Centre at Wallaga Lake (Answers to Estimates Questions on Notice – Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio Question No: 247 October 23 2009).

Can the Department advise as to whether the Outreach Centre has been completed and what actual works were undertaken with these federal monies and provide details of the additional FAHCSIA grant provided to remove asbestos from the Outreach Centre

Answer:

The refurbishment of the Outreach Centre has been completed and the building was handed back to the community by the builder on 8 July 2010. The Outreach Centre became operational from the end of July.

The original refurbishment involved a complete strip down of the building, security, new kitchen and bathroom facilities, internal painting, flooring, renovation of the septic system, render and anti-graffiti painting of the building's exterior, fencing and landscaping.

FaHCSIA provided an additional grant of \$21,347 which was used for the assessment and removal from the Outreach Centre of material containing asbestos.

Programs currently being delivered from the Outreach Centre include two "Healthy for Life" programs - a diabetes clinic and a fortnightly health clinic; a Job Network and Community Support Service delivered by AusWide, and a Wesley Job Network. Service Agreements have also been developed with the Shoalhaven Legal Service and a local psychologist.

The Outreach Centre will be officially opened on the 22 October 2010.

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Question No: 213

Topic: National Partnership Agreement Queensland Projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In regard to the National Partnership Agreement; can the department provide a list of Queensland projects currently in progress under this agreement?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (as at 30 September 2010), Queensland has completed 59 new houses and 163 refurbishments. A further 34 new houses and 76 refurbishments are underway.

The following communities* will benefit from investment under the National Partnership in the next two years: Aurukun, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mornington Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal, Horn Island and Camooweal

* Communities listed may receive either new or refurbished houses or a combination of both.

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Question No: 227

Topic: Houses in Napranum, Cape York

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 – CA39

Senator Adams asked:

I would like to know the progress of the houses that were being built at Napranum in Cape York?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing, 13 new houses had been completed and a further 3 new houses were underway as at 30 September 2010.

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Question No: 228

Topic: Indigenous Employment

Hansard Page: 4/6/10 - CA40

Senator Crossin asked:

Do we have any training outcomes yet?

Do we have a figure on how many reached a certificate level?

Answer:

The provision of pre-employment training and accredited vocational training for Indigenous employees is a key output under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH).

Consequently, Indigenous employment and workforce development are key focus areas of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) which is part of the NPARIH. Across the program, as at 16 July 2010, 37 per cent of the onsite workforce is Indigenous, nearly double the minimum target of 20 per cent.

In line with the National Code of Practice for Induction for Construction Work it is a requirement to obtain a Construction Induction card, or White Card, before commencing onsite employment. In addition, the majority of Indigenous employees participate in pre-employment training to introduce them to the workplace and develop pre-requisite work skills.

Over 150 Indigenous employees have participated in and completed modules towards Certificate I, II or III in either general or civil construction. To date, 37 employees have completed Certificate I, and ten have completed Certificate II training.