



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Michael Lye
Secretary

REF: EC25-002860

Senator Penny Allman-Payne
Deputy Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
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Senator.
Dear Deputy Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2025 requesting information to be provided by the Department of Social Services (the Department) ahead of the upcoming Community Affairs Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing scheduled for Thursday 4 December 2025.

The Department recognises the importance of accountability to the Senate. We will ensure that relevant officials from across the portfolio are available to respond to your questions at the hearing.

Noting that the supplementary hearing is an extension of the previous session and the proximity of the two sessions, we consider it more effective to focus our efforts on preparing for a full discussion during the hearing on 4 December 2025. This is particularly the case given the time required to compile the information sought in your requested timeframe.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you require clarification or wish to discuss. The Department is committed to supporting the Estimates process and providing comprehensive and timely responses to the Committee.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Committee, Senator Dorinda Cox.

Yours sincerely

Michael Lye
Secretary
Department of Social Services

2 December 2025