



**THE SENATE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**Inquiry into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
Public Hearing –Friday, 2 November 2018
Questions Taken on Notice
Mr Justin Placek, Healthy Cities Illawarra**

1 HANSARD, p. 22

Senator MOORE: On notice, can you give us some indication of how you're funded? I'm sure this has taken a contribution from across the councils and the university to keep it going. Having this coordinated regional approach is really valuable. Would you be able to give us that on notice about your funding?

Mr Placek: Absolutely.

ANSWER

Healthy Cities Illawarra (HCI) works in partnership with Healthy People Illawarra (HPI) to deliver specific health-related programs for communities within the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. The funding for these activities is primarily sourced from the three levels of government, with a small amount coming from non-government and philanthropic organisations.

Historically, core funding to deliver broad 'healthy cities' initiatives throughout the Illawarra Shoalhaven was supported through NSW Health's 'NGO Grants Program'. HCI continues to receive funding through the NGO Grants Program (representing 40% of our total income) however the deliverables under the contract are now fully aligned to NSW Health's 'Healthy Eating, Active Living 2013-2018' strategy and there is no longer a direct linkage to the objectives of the healthy cities movement. A further 39% of our funding comes from federal government sources, and the deliverables under these contracts are also closely aligned to specific federal policy objectives.

To date, our intersectoral activities promoting the SDGs at a local level have not been supported by a funding arrangement, and instead have been resourced from our limited surplus. As a result of these actions, HCI & HPI recorded a combined (\$33k) loss in the 2017/18 financial year and this cannot be sustained by a community-based, not-for-profit organisation. Our un-resourced focus on the SDGs places at risk the delivery of our existing (funded) programs over the next three years and ultimately the viability of our organisation.

We congratulate the Australian Government on their commitment to the 2030 global agenda and the senate inquiry seeking to understand how best to achieve the ambitious outcomes. HCI's present situation reflects our unsustainable commitment to pursuing the SDGs locally and we are urgently seeking federal support to continue this valuable mission. We have been identified as a community leader with unique capabilities, and our demonstrated partnerships will allow us to work in the spirit of SDG17 to support the federal government to achieve its SDG objectives – "we're all in this together".