

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 21

Question reference number: SQ20-000446

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

In relation to the funding for the prevention of family violence announced as part of the coronavirus crisis response in March:

- a. What is the total value of the funding announced? How has it been provisioned across financial years?
- b. How much of this funding has already been received by organisations?
- c. Provide a list of funded organisations outlining the amount received and the purpose of the funding, by state/territory and CED?
- d. How much funding was provided to the states? What has this been used for in each state/territory?
- e. How many additional people will be assisted by this funding?
- f. What changes in demand for services have occurred since the start of the Coronavirus crisis?
- g. What stakeholders were consulted prior to the announcement of the additional funding – please provide a list?
- h. Please list all family violence prevention services that have contacted the department or Minister requesting additional support in the context of the Coronavirus crisis?

Answer:

A. The total value of the Australian Government's Domestic Violence Support Package is \$150 million. A National Partnership on Covid-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses will provide an estimated \$32.5 million in 2019-20 and \$97.5 million in 2020-21 directly to state and territory governments to support frontline services to meet demand during this time. \$20 million, of the \$150 million, will be provided to boost other Commonwealth-funded programs over six months across the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years.

B. Of the \$130 million being provided to states and territories, an immediate payment of \$27.8 million was made to jurisdictions on 7 May upon signing the agreement. A further \$4.7 million will be paid on 9 June. States and territories are required to report on funding allocations under a National Partnership Agreement. The final report is due in 2021.

C. Table 1: Domestic Violence Support Package \$20m funding allocation

The funding below will support key organisations to address increases in demand, complexity or the development and implementation of new service models due to the coronavirus pandemic or associated social and economic effects.

Program / Initiative	Grant recipient	Total funding over six months \$m	Purpose of funding	Delivery Boundary
1800RESPECT	Medibank Health Services	5.900	1800RESPECT is a national domestic family violence and sexual assault counselling, information and referral service.	National
Information campaign	N/A	5.355	The Help is Here campaign provides information on support services available to anyone affected by domestic and family violence, to help them access the support they need, when they need it.	National
Support for Trafficked People Program	Red Cross Australia	2.700	The Support for Trafficked People Program provides assistance to eligible victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, including forced marriage and forced labour.	National
Men's Referral Service	No to Violence	2.400	To expand the capacity of the No to Violence Men's Referral Service to provide telephone and online services nationwide over the Coronavirus period.	National
Specialised Family Violence Services	Multiple providers (23)	2.100	Funding for existing providers of Specialised Family Violence Services to support children, families and individuals who are experiencing family and domestic violence..	Up to 23 existing providers – complete details will be available once grant variations are executed
Mensline Australia	On the Line Australia	0.750	Mensline Australia deliver a national counselling service for men that provides support for emotional health and relationship concerns for men affected by, using or considering using violence	National
Complex Violence Interventions	Anti-Slavery Australia	0.400	To support young people at risk of experiencing complex forms of violence, including forced marriage, during the coronavirus pandemic.	National
Keeping Women Safe in their	The Salvation Army	0.320	KWSITH supports women and their children who have experienced violence to remain in their homes, or a home of their	National

Homes (KWSITH)	ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Centre	0.075	choice, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.	ACT
	Total	20.000		

D. A National Partnership on Covid-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/community_services.aspx) will provide an estimated \$32.5 million in 2019-20 and \$97.5 million in 2020-21 to states and territories to support frontline services. States and Territories will report on intended and actual outputs over the life of the National Partnership with a final report due on 31 March 2021.

E. States and Territories will report on intended and actual outputs over the life of the National Partnership with a final report due on 31 March 2021.

F. The sector is reporting an increase in the complexity of cases and service providers are needing to transition to new ways of delivering services, including through online and telephone channels.

G. The Department of Social Services (the department) has been regularly communicating with grant recipients throughout the pandemic. Information has been emailed directly to organisations and published on the DSS website available here: www.dss.gov.au/coronavirus. Funding Arrangement Managers have also been in contact with organisations regarding any specific assistance required and responding to questions. The department monitors the impact of the coronavirus pandemic nationally through the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Women's Safety Council and its senior officials groups. These fora have been meeting regularly during the coronavirus pandemic to discuss the impact on service providers due to the increase in service demand and complexity during this period.

H. The department is unaware of any family violence prevention service that have contacted it requesting additional support in the context of the Coronavirus crisis. Service providers seeking coronavirus funding should contact their relevant state or territory government or Minister.