

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-352

Subject: Security at Places Community Grants

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

As result of the COVID-19 pandemic, could the department provide an update and any change to the Security at places community grants to improve security at religious schools and places of worship. Please provide the following:

- a. When did the grants commence?
- b. When will the grants conclude?
- c. What amount has been expended to date, by year?
- d. Please provide a breakdown of the grants recipients, by postcode and by electorate?
- e. What future expenditure is projected, by year?

Answer:

As the description of the program refers to religious schools and places of worship, the Department has provided information on its most relevant program, the Safer Communities Fund. Rounds three, four and five of the Safer Communities Fund provided funding to religious schools and places of worship.

Details of all Safer Communities Fund grants including to schools and places of worship are available on the GrantConnect website (<https://www.grants.gov.au/>). This includes grant amounts, project dates and address including postcode. These details are made available within 21 days of grant agreements taking effect. Approved grant details are also tabled consistent with Senate Standing Order 16.

A total of 44 projects were granted additional time to complete their projects due to delays resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. These extensions have not resulted in any changes to grant amounts awarded under the Safer Communities Fund, and all round five projects remain scheduled to be complete by 30 June 2023, all round four projects remain scheduled to be completed 31 March 2022, and all round three projects remain scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2021.

Overall Safer Communities Fund program funding by financial year from rounds one to five is as follows:

2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)	2021-22 (\$m)	2022-23 (\$m)	TOTAL (\$m)
6.9	10.0	35.3	61.5	30.8	18.0	17.6	180.1