

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Supplementation of National COVID-19 Coordination Commission funding

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0089

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Question:

CHAIR: ... Ms Foster, the committee was previously told that the NCCC had a budget of \$3 million. I think that was at the last hearing. Can you just confirm the evidence we've heard today that the NCCC now has a budget of \$5½ million?

Mr Thompson: I think the evidence was that it was across two years. The \$3 million budget was for this financial year, and then there's an estimate for next financial year of \$2.4 million.

CHAIR: Okay. I think that is the first time the committee has been advised of that figure. Is PM&C funding this internally? Where's the money coming from?

Ms Foster: I think we've sought funding, because, as you know, in addition to the COVID commission we also have the bushfire agency. And so my memory is that we've sought funding for the three agencies that we are, sort of, sponsoring in our—

CHAIR: But you've sought additional funding for those going into next year?

Ms Foster: We have.

CHAIR: Right. But internally it was funded this year from PM&C?

Ms Foster: What we did, because of the urgency of setting it up, was just to provide a budget from within PM&C's allocation, knowing that we would be seeking funding to—

CHAIR: To cover that, and pay it back over this financial year as well? So you're seeking full supplementation?

Ms Foster: I believe we are, and I'll confirm that on notice.

Answer:

The department was able to reprioritise funding to cover the NCCC costs in the current financial year.

PM&C's future resourcing requirements will be considered through the 2020-21 budget process.