

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-355

Subject: Social Cohesion Package — community engagement initiatives

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

As result of the COVID-19 pandemic, could the department provide an update and any change to the Social Cohesion Package — community engagement initiatives. Please provide the following:

- a. When did the each of the programs as part of the package commence?
- b. When will the each of the programs as part of the package commence conclude?
- c. What amount has been expended to date, by year? (Please separate answers for each of the programs contained with the package)
- d. What future expenditure is projected, by year? (Please separate answers for each of the programs contained with the package)
- e. What outcomes are expected from the program, by year? (Please separate answers for each of the programs contained with the package)
- f. Are there any changes to the delivery of the program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (Please separate answers for each of the programs contained with the package)

Answer:

The community engagement initiatives under the Social Cohesion package that have had changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows.

Fostering Integration Grants (FIGs) program

Highly-ranked applications were selected on the basis of whether activities could be delivered consistent with COVID-19 public health requirements.

Mutual Understanding, Support, Tolerance, Engagement and Respect (MUSTER)

Three grants were extended for up to 12 months, to allow for events that were postponed as a result of COVID-19 public health requirements.

Community Languages Multicultural Grants Program (CLMGP)

Language schools were temporarily closed as a result of COVID-19 pandemic public health requirements which has delayed the selection process for both rounds.

Enhanced Community Engagement

Both DIGI Engage and CommUNITY were delivered online in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 public health requirements.

National Youth Hubs Program

As a result of COVID-19 public health requirements a number of Hubs could not operate. Where possible, service providers implemented alternative delivery models involving virtual and online support.