

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Hearing of 10 September 2020

Written Question on Notice 3 (Senator Gallagher)

Further to the Department's answer to Question on Notice #2 from the Committee's hearing on 10 September:

- a. When did the department first seek additional reporting from agencies on COVID-19 measures in the form of a weekly update on actual expenditure.
- b. When did the department first start compiling this information.
- c. Please provide the weekly actual expenditure information for the items listed at Table 1.

Response

- a. The Department of Finance (Finance) first sent a formal request for additional reporting on COVID-19 measures to agencies on 15 May 2020.
- b. Finance began collating additional information provided by agencies on COVID-19 measures from 21 May 2020.
- c. Actual expenditure information received from agencies to 1 October 2020 is listed at Table 1. Finance worked with relevant agencies to track components of large expenditure items to support the Government's fiscal management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance also works with agencies to provide formal updates on the budget estimates in accordance with the Charter of the Budget Honesty, and supports the Government in reporting on actual expenditure for the previous financial year in the Final Budget Outcome each year. The relevant portfolio department is the authoritative source for additional questions on detailed expenditure information.

Table 1: Total actual expenditure (for tracked components) to 1 October 2020.

Economic and Fiscal Update measure title	Notes	Estimate for tracked components (\$m) *	Total spend for tracked components to 1 October (\$m)
COVID-19 Response Package - aviation support (page 102)	Over two years from 2019-20. Includes the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and excludes the Australian Trade and Investment Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission components. Some payments are made in arrears and/or are offset by commercial revenues.	\$1,699.0	\$827.9
COVID-19 Response Package - boosting cash flow for employers (page 165)	Over two years from 2019-20.	\$31,900.0	\$28,410.0
COVID-19 Response Package - communications, cyber safety and the arts (page 149)	Over two years from 2019-20. Includes the Public Interest News Gathering Program component.	\$55.0	\$33.1
COVID-19 Response Package - ageing and aged care (page 131)	Over four years from 2019-20.	\$812.8	\$639.5
COVID-19 Response Package - emergency response (page 133)	Over two years from 2019-20.	\$3,431.1	\$2,466.4
COVID-19 Response Package - guaranteeing Medicare and access to medicines (page 134)	Over two years from 2019-20.	\$1,500.0	\$2,480.3
COVID-19 Response Package - supporting our hospitals (page 137)	Over two years from 2019-20.	\$3,663.5	\$3,449.9
COVID-19 Response Package - income support for individuals (page 160)	Over two years from 2019-20. Includes the Coronavirus Supplement component.	\$18,126.8	\$14,101.0
COVID-19 Response Package - Infrastructure Stimulus (page 152)	Over three years from 2020-21. Most components of this measure are subject to State and Territory contributions and detailed management via the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.	\$2,000.0	\$155.4

COVID-19 Response Package - JobKeeper Payment (page 167)	Over two years from 2019-20.	\$85,701.7	\$58,822.1
COVID-19 Response Package - payments to support households (page 163)	Over three years from 2019-20. Excludes the Department of Veterans' Affairs component.	\$9,022.5	\$8,923.4
COVID-19 Response Package - prioritising mental health and preventive health (page 136)	Over three years from 2019-20. Excludes the national reporting dashboard and support for clients yet to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme components.	\$90.1	\$50.5
COVID-19 Response Package - Relief and Recovery Fund (page 104)	Over two years from 2019-20. Includes support for exhibiting zoos and aquariums, exporters and tourism businesses, the arts support package and the regional airline network support program expenditure from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, and Australian Trade and Investment Commission only.	\$599.4	\$253.9
COVID-19 Response Package - supporting apprentices and trainees (page 119)	Over five years from 2019-20. Includes the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy component.	\$2,800.0	\$604.4
TOTAL		\$161,401.9	\$121,217.8

* Note, only some components of the measures are being tracked.