

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Housing and Homelessness

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Senator

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Question:

The December 2016 COAG Communique notes that ‘Leaders agreed that improving housing affordability and addressing homelessness are key pillars of improving social and economic outcomes.’

1 – Were any recommendations made regarding how this would be achieved?

2 – The Communique also notes that ministers and treasurers will improve efforts to ‘provide sustainable funding for homelessness services’. As the co-host of the meeting, can your office give any insight into the discussions regarding sustainable funding? What proposals were made?

Answer:

At its December 2016 meeting, COAG noted a report from housing ministers on initiatives within jurisdictions to improve housing and homelessness outcomes. Housing ministers and Treasurers are continuing to discuss potential reforms in this critical area, including efforts to improve housing supply. Leaders agreed all governments are facing a number of shared challenges and that COAG will consider housing and homelessness further in 2017.

The Commonwealth confirmed it would extend the National Partnership on Homelessness (NPAH) for a further 12 months until 30 June 2018, to support frontline services, while future arrangements to reduce the rise in homelessness were explored.

In the 2017-18 Budget, the Commonwealth announced a new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement would be introduced on 1 July 2018. The new agreement will provide an additional \$375 million over three years from 2018-19: maintaining the annual homelessness funding currently provided under the NPAH. This funding will be ongoing and indexed, to maintain and provide certainty to frontline services that help Australians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.