

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program:** 1.7 National Security and Criminal Justice

**Question No. SBE16/134**

**Senator Pratt asked the following questions following the hearing on 12 December 2016:**

1. How much funding was committed to the Safer Communities Fund during the 2016 election campaign (the Campaign)?
2. How many recipients were announced during the Campaign?
3. How much funding was committed all up across all the recipients?
4. Who was responsible for the initial identification of these organisations?
5. Were these recipients selected prior to the 2016 election?
6. Who proposed the establishment of the Safer Communities Fund (did it originate in the Department or through the Minister's office/Liberal party)?
7. When was the Department first made aware of the Safer Communities Fund?
8. And when did the Department take carriage of the roll out of the Safer Communities Fund?
9. What is the relationship between the Safer Communities Fund and Safer Streets Program?
10. How is the Safer Communities Fund funded? Is it funded through existing appropriations or Proceeds of Crime revenue?
11. How much funding has been allocated so far for Safer Communities Fund grants?
12. When will this money be made available to Safer Communities Fund recipients?
13. How many organisations have received letters from the Minister asking them to apply for grants under the Safer Communities Fund?
14. Is the Safer Communities Fund application available broadly, or only to organisations which are invited?
15. Or will applications open to other groups and organisations?
16. When do applications open?
17. Will the application process be advertised? How? How widely?
18. What information will organisations be required to provide?
19. Who will determine who is successful?
20. Who has oversight over this process?
21. What information will organisations be required to provide in the application process?
22. How many organisations who had previously been promised funding under the Safer Communities Fund during the 2016 election campaign received a letter asking them to apply?
23. Were all organisations promised funding under the Safer Communities Fund during the election asked to apply for their funding after the election?
24. Will any organisations promised funding during the Campaign receive their funding from the Safer Communities Fund without being required to now apply?
25. Is it possible that any project which was the subject of a Safer Communities Fund commitment during the election will be rejected in this application process?
26. When the letter says 'subject to budget outcomes', does this mean a recipient could be eligible but not receive a grant under the Safer Communities Fund?
27. Can the Department confirm the government's \$40m commitment?
28. Can the Department confirm whether all projects promised funding will receive funding?
29. Has the Minister contacted the Department about any specific recipients?
30. Will the grants be targeted at specific geographic areas or organisations? On what basis?

31. Are there any eligibility requirements? If so, what are they?
32. Will applicants be required to demonstrate the necessity for and the potential impact of a proposed project?
33. What are the criteria on which applications will be judged?
34. Will consideration be given to whether or not a recipient of a Safer Communities Fund grant has the capacity to manage a project?
35. Will consideration be given to whether or not a recipient of a Safer Communities Fund grant has the capacity to administer funds?
36. Will consideration be given to whether key stakeholders and the community groups support the organisation/project?
37. If the project is to be implemented in an Indigenous community, will consideration be given to consideration given to whether or not the organisation in receipt of a Safer Communities Fund grant has the support of that community, relevant organisations or community leaders?

**The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:**

1. The Government committed \$40 million to the Safer Communities Fund during the 2016 election campaign.
2. 71.
3. \$9.5 million was committed to the 71 recipients.
4. The Department does not have this information.
5. Commitments were announced during the course of the 2016 election campaign.
6. The Department does not have this information.
7. 1 June 2016.
8. The Department commenced work on arrangements for the Safer Communities Fund when the outcome of the 2016 election was known.
9. The Safer Streets Program and the Safer Communities Fund program are separate programs.
10. The Safer Communities fund is funded by an appropriation.
11. \$9.5 million has been committed to date.
12. Funds will be made available to successful applicants upon execution of a funding agreement between the grantee organisation and the Attorney-General's Department.
13. 71.
14. Round One of the Safer Communities Fund commenced on 16 December 2016 and is only open to organisations who received a commitment during the 2016 election campaign. A further open round of the program will be held in the 2017-18 financial year. Arrangements for the open round have not yet been finalised.
15. See answer to question 14.
16. See answer to question 14.
17. See answer to question 14.

18. Organisations will need to address all criteria set out in the guidelines for the 'Safer Communities Fund – Delivery of the Government's Election Commitments (Round 1)'.
  19. The Minister for Justice.
  20. The Minister for Justice.
  21. See answer to question 18.
  22. See answer to question 13.
  23. Yes.
  24. All 71 organisations who received a commitment during the 2016 election campaign will be required to submit an application in accordance with the 'Safer Communities Fund – Delivery of the Government's Election Commitments (Round 1)' guidelines.
  25. Applications for funding under the Safer Communities Fund will be assessed in accordance with the program guidelines.
  26. The Department does not know which letter the honourable senator is referring to.
  27. The Government's document 'The Coalition's Policy for a Safer Communities Fund' commits \$40 million to the implementation of the Safer Communities Fund.
  28. See answer to question 25.
  29. No.
  30. The Safer Communities Fund will boost the efforts of identified local Councils and community organisations to address crime and anti-social behaviour by funding crime prevention initiatives and protect schools, pre-schools and community organisations that are facing security risks associated with racial or religious intolerance.
  31. The eligibility and merit criteria are set out in the 'Safer Communities Fund – Delivery of the Government's Election Commitments (Round 1)' guidelines.
  32. See answer to question 31.
  33. See answer to question 31.
  34. See answer to question 31.
  35. See answer to question 31.
  36. The 'Safer Communities Fund – Delivery of the Government's Election Commitments (Round 1)' guidelines allow for consideration of whether key stakeholders and community groups support the organisation or the project if the applicant provides that information.
  37. The 'Safer Communities Fund – Delivery of the Government's Election Commitments (Round 1)' guidelines allow for consideration of whether the organisation or project has the support of the Indigenous community, relevant organisations or community leaders.