

**Community Affairs
Legislation Committee**

Examination of Budget Estimates 2001-2002

Additional Information Received

VOLUME 1

**Centrelink, AIFS &
FaCS Output Groups: Cross outputs, 1.1, 1.2, 1.4,
2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4**

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PORTFOLIO**

AUGUST 2001

Note: Where published reports, etc. have been provided in response to questions, they have not been included in the Additional Information volume in order to conserve resources. The title page of each report has been included in this document for reference purposes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2001-2002

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice relating
to the estimates hearing held on 30 May 2001

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 1(a)

Topic: Centrelink Manager's Welfare Reform Briefing

Hansard Page: CA240

Senator Faulkner asked:

Would you be able to table for the benefit of the estimates committee what the program was at the briefing?

Answer:

The program for the Centrelink Manager's Welfare Reform Briefing was as follows:

- John Pascoe (Centrelink Board Chairman) Welcome and introduction of the Minister
- Address by Minister Anthony
- Consultative Forum Member's Views and Expectations
 - Elaine Henry, Chief Executive Officer, the Smith Family
 - Elizabeth Morgan, Social Policy Consultant and member of Welfare Reform Reference Group
- What does this mean for Centrelink?
 - Sue Vardon, Centrelink CEO
- Overview of package and individual measures by Client Departments
 - DEWRSB: Wayne Gibbons, Deputy Secretary,
 - DFACS : David Kalisch,
Executive Director, Economic and Social Participation
- Whole of Government view
 - Jane Halton, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Preparing for Implementation
 - Carolyn Hogg, General Manager, Service Integration Shop
- Information and Technology, Enabling new Business Capability
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- Resources for Welfare Reform
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- Consultation and Recruitment Strategies
 - Jenni Colwill, National Manager, People Management
- Implications for staff training - the supporting role of the Virtual College
 - Margaret Hamilton, Dean of the Virtual College
- Background to Indigenous measures
 - Pat Turner, Executive Director, Indigenous Community Segment
- Links of disability measures to Disability Improvement Strategy
 - Peter Fisher, National Manager, Disability and Carers Community Segment
- Employment measures and links to Preparing for Work
 - Michelle Gunasekera, National Manager, Employment Services Community Segment
- Parenting measures and links to JET
 - Darryl Alexander, National Manager, Parenting Community Segment
- Working Credit
 - John Wadeson, General Manager, Major Projects
- Open Question Time about Welfare Reform
- FAO Income Reconciliation
 - Grant Tidswell
- Closing Remarks
 - Sue Vardon

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2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 1(b)

Topic: Centrelink Manager's Welfare Reform Briefing

Hansard Page: CA241

Senator Faulkner asked:

Would you be able to take on notice the final costs of the convening of the briefing. You might disaggregate that into travel and whatever general categories were that might have been involved in that.

Answer:

The estimated cost of the Centrelink Manager's Welfare Reform Briefing is \$269,723
Final accounts have not yet been received.

Accommodation	70,526
Travel costs	181,566
Conference Costs	17,631
Total	\$269,723

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 2

Topic: Estimated unemployment figures for budget year and the forward years

Hansard Page: CA242

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide the effect of changes in unemployed numbers to the extent that they are underpinning Centrelink's numbers in the future.

Answer:

Treasury economic parameters for the 2001-02 Budget are provided in the Budget papers including forecast changes in expenditure on assistance to the unemployed (see Budget Paper No. 1, 2001-02, page 6-27 and 6-30).

The estimated average number of people on unemployment related payments for 2001-02 can be derived from information available in the Department of Family and Community Services Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) for 2001-2002 (pages 72 and 137). This shows that the estimated number of people on NSA and Youth Allowance (YA) (other) in 2001-02 is 699 000. This includes 610 000 on NSA and 89 000 on YA (other).

Estimates for 2002-03 and beyond are not published by the Treasury or FaCS.

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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 58

Topic: Windsor office client numbers

Hansard Page: CA264

Senator Denman asked:

What are the client numbers in the Windsor office?

Answer:

Total Customer Numbers for Windsor : 36385

Broken down into main payment types:

Disability	3960
Carers	1256
Age	11535
Wives	185
Families	10727
Newstart	5047
Youth Allowance	2624
Austudy	641

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 3

Topic: Centrelink Staff Numbers

Hansard Page: CA243

Senator Chris Evans asked:

Do you have a table of staff numbers for the out years?

Answer:

Projected Centrelink average staffing levels are provided in the table below. Changes over these four years are based on a number of factors, including the Australians Working Together package and other 2001/02 budget measures, and changes to customer numbers.

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Average staffing number	21,430	21,875	21,248	20,654

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 4

Topic: Estimated Capital requirements for Centrelink

Hansard Page: CA245

Senator Chris Evans asked:

Are capital items spread over the four budget years?

Answer:

Capital funds are provided to Centrelink in the year in which they are required. The following table shows the requirements known at Budget 2001/02 in each of the forward years. These figures are a consequence of phased implementation of the Australians Working Together Package, other 2001/02 budget measures and previous budget measures.

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Capital Appropriations	24,250	8,701	7,941	0

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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
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Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 5

Topic: Outreach Programs/Centres

Hansard Page: CA245/246

Senator West asked:

- a) Do Centrelink agents receive a confirmation slip back? Do they receive some confirmation back from Centrelink that the fax has been received?
- b) The outreach programs, while Centrelink takes material out there and accepts faxes back from those organisations, provide no assistance to those who are actually participating in the outreach.
- c) If Centrelink is providing a visiting service in one of those outreach places, does that centre receive any reimbursements for costs incurred?
- d) If Centrelink is providing a visiting service in an outreach place, does that centre receive any reimbursements for the costs incurred?
- e) If, when a place is used as an outreach centre and there is a visit from Centrelink, does reimbursement take place to those centres? In specific terms about Bohlevale.
- f) Apparently Bohlevale ran a vacation care program and received a debt notice in 1999 from Centrelink in relation to its vacation care program. Please follow this up.

Answer:

a) Centrelink does not send a notice back to the originating site that a facsimile has been received. A standard feature on facsimile machines is the automatic reporting feature confirming the delivery of a document which can be activated by the sender to confirm delivery.

b) Since its creation in 1997, Centrelink has established a range of service delivery arrangements in order to enhance customer access to our services. The remuneration and support provided to a particular community depends upon the contractual relationship between Centrelink and the host organisation.

In all cases negotiations are held between Centrelink and the host organisation to ensure that a mutually acceptable agreement on services and support is reached. This can include an allowance to cover the costs associated with the host organisation providing the Centrelink service and sending information to Centrelink.

c) Centrelink's standard practice is to pay an allowance to host organisations to contribute to their operations as negotiated with the host organisation in setting up the arrangements.

d) Centrelink's standard practice is to pay an allowance to host organisations to contribute to their operations as negotiated with the host organisation in setting up the arrangements.

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e) Centrelink's standard practice is to pay an allowance to host organisations to contribute to their operations as negotiated with the host organisation in setting up the arrangements.

In the specific case of Bohlevale, an arrangement was negotiated between Centrelink and the Bohlevale Community Centre in 1999 in response to representations from the Centre. The service initially consisted of:

- provision of brochures and other Centrelink information;
- provision of a facsimile machine for customers to send their documentation to Centrelink;
- installation of a telephone with lines dedicated to Centrelink Call Centres; and
- access to a personal computer for customers to prepare resumes.

The costs for the facsimile and telephone facilities are met by Centrelink. There have been no further representations from the community in relation to seeking additional funding.

f) The Bohlevale District Community Centre were advanced funds in 1999 to operate a series of school holiday child care programs. The initial submission was based on an anticipated number of children participating in the programs.

Following completion of the programs, an acquittal for the advance payment was received by Centrelink from the Centre. This claim indicated that the expected number of participants was not reached, and a debt notice was therefore raised for the unspent funds.

Consistent with standard recovery arrangements, this debt was included in the determination of the advance payment made to the Centre in relation to their next claim for funding.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 6

Topic: Families – income estimations

Hansard Page: CA282

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide the figure on the number of families who have made a change to their estimates or the number of changes in estimates.

Answer:

As at 4 May 2001, 803,204 Family Assistance Office customers had changed their income estimates resulting in 1,348,314 changes in estimates. Please note where customers may have changed their estimates more than once, only the latest change is reflected in the above figures.

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Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 8

Topic: Families

Hansard Page: CA293

Senator Evans asked:

Do you have figures for the number of changes in income estimation or changes in income declarations for CCB?

Answer:

As at 4 May, 190,422 customers in receipt of CCB had changed their income estimate. Please note that where customers have changed their estimate more than once, only the latest change is reflected in the above figure.

CRN _____

Date of issue ____ / ____ / ____

Name and address

Family Assistance Office



Family Assistance Office

FA007(M).0107

Request for income details (2001-2002 financial year) Family Tax Benefit / Child Care Benefit

- We will check your estimated income against your actual income at the end of the financial year. If your estimates were too high you may receive a 'top-up' after the end of the financial year. If your estimates were lower than your actual income for the financial year you may have to repay any excess to the Family Assistance Office.
- If you currently receive Family Tax Benefit or Child Care Benefit, you may give this information over the phone or complete and return this form. Your rates will only be adjusted from the date this information is received by the Family Assistance Office.
- If you (or your partner) recently stopped receiving a government pension or benefit, you must provide a new estimate as soon as possible or your Family Tax Benefit/Child Care Benefit will be affected. You may give this information over the phone or complete and return this form.

You may ask to be sent a copy of the brochures 'Estimating your Income' and 'Your right to Privacy', or arrange to discuss your form when you lodge it. For more information visit the website at www.familyassist.gov.au or contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150 between 8am and 8pm.

Privacy and your personal information

Your personal information is protected by law. Family assistance law provides the authority to collect this information.

- The Family Assistance Office will use the information you provide to assess your entitlement to Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Benefit.
- The Family Assistance Office may give your information to partner agencies including Centrelink, the Australian Taxation Office, the Health Insurance Commission and the Department of Family and Community Services for the purpose of assessing, delivering and monitoring payments and services provided to you.
- The Family Assistance Office may disclose limited personal information about you (e.g. income) to other parties when your circumstances affect their entitlements to payments and services.
- Limited personal information may be used for customer surveys run by the Family Assistance Office, its partner agencies or by research organisations on their behalf.

1 Your telephone contact numbers

Home ()	Work ()
----------------	----------------

2 Has your marital status changed since you last told us about it?

No ☐ ► go to Question 5
Yes ☐

3 What is your current marital status?

Married ☐ ► Date of marriage: ____ / ____ / ____

Living de facto ☐ ► Date you started living de facto: ____ / ____ / ____

Divorced ☐ ► Date of divorce: ____ / ____ / ____

► go to Question 5

Widowed ☐ ► Date of partner's death: ____ / ____ / ____

► go to Question 5

Separated ☐ ► Date of separation: ____ / ____ / ____
-previously married or lived de facto

► go to Question 5

4 Partner details

Partner's full name

Partner's date of birth Partner's country of birth

____ / ____ / ____	_____
--------------------	-------

Partner's tax file number

NOTE: The Family Assistance Office will detach and destroy your partner's Tax File Number



NOTE: The rate of Family Tax Benefit and/or Child Care Benefit you can get depends on your (and your partner's) annual family income for the **2001-2002 financial year**.

5 Taxable income

- Enter all the amounts of income that you (and your partner) expect to receive during the entire financial year (i.e. from 1 July to 30 June) in each of the categories below.
- Then add these amounts up and enter your total estimated taxable income at the bottom.
- If you expect any figure to be zero, write \$0. If you expect any figure to be a loss, make sure you show this with a minus '-' sign and that you subtract it from the total in that column.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
A Estimated taxable income from salary and wages	\$	\$
B Estimated taxable income from lump sum payments	\$	\$
C Estimated taxable income from business or self employment	\$	\$
D Estimated taxable income from investments	\$	\$
E Estimated taxable income from real estate	Profit \$	Profit \$
	Loss \$	Loss \$
F Estimated taxable income from government pensions or benefits (e.g. Parenting Payment, Newstart Allowance, Age Pension etc.)	\$	\$
Include amounts you have received and/or expect to receive from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Do not include non taxable payments such as Family Tax Benefit, Telephone Allowance, Mobility Allowance, Rent Assistance or Carer Allowance etc.		
G Other estimated taxable income not already included	\$	\$
TOTAL estimated taxable income (total of A to G)	\$	\$

6 Employer provided or fringe benefits

An employer provided or fringe benefit is any right, privilege, service, in-kind payment or facility that an employee receives (or assigns to someone else) from their employment.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Do you expect to get any employer provided benefits that will be reported on your group certificate at the end of the 2001-2002 financial year?	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐
	Estimated amount \$	Estimated amount \$

7 Net rental property losses

A net rental property loss is a loss from your rental property that you expect to declare on your individual income tax return. If you entered a net loss for your taxable income from real estate at Question 5E, you should tick 'Yes' to Question 7 and copy the amount of the loss.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Do you expect to make a net loss from rental property during the 2001-2002 financial year?	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐
	Estimated amount \$	Estimated amount \$

8 Tax free pensions and benefits

Any **tax free** pensions and benefits you have received and/or expect to receive from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs during the financial year will be counted as income.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Do you expect to get any tax free pensions or benefits during the 2001-2002 financial year?	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐
	Estimated amount \$	Estimated amount \$

9 Foreign income

Any income from sources outside Australia for which you do not have to pay Australian income tax is counted as income. If you expect to pay Australian tax on any foreign income, you should not include the amount here at Question 9. Instead, you should include the amount of foreign income at Question 5.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Do you expect to get income from outside Australia on which you do not have to pay Australian income tax during the 2001-2002 financial year?	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐
	Estimated amount (in Australian dollars) \$AUD	Estimated amount (in Australian dollars) \$AUD

10 Child support/maintenance you pay

This Question is **not** about child support/maintenance you (or your partner) **receive**.

If you **PAY** child support/maintenance, half (50%)* of the amount you **PAY** will be deducted from your total income. This means you may get more family assistance. Maintenance is a payment you (or your current partner) make to support your natural or adopted child from a previous relationship. It may include private maintenance; Child Support Agency (CSA) maintenance; 'non-cash' maintenance; or other amounts (e.g. a property settlement).

* Subject to the passage of legislation, from 1 July 2001 this amount may change to the full amount (100%) of any child support you (and/or your partner) pay.

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Do you expect to PAY any child maintenance during the 2001-2002 financial year?	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐
	Full estimated amount \$	Full estimated amount \$

You should keep proof of the child support/maintenance you **PAY** as you may be asked to show evidence of your claim.

11 Statement

- I understand I may receive a top up or have to pay back money after the end of the financial year if my income estimate is incorrect.
- I declare the information I have provided on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand deliberately giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Your signature

	Date / /
--	-------------

Your partner's signature

	Date / /
--	-------------

Remember, you can update your estimate at any time by ringing the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 57

Topic: Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: CA286

Senator Evans asked:

Do you have the number of families who cancelled their entitlement to Family Tax Benefit parts A and B?

Answer:

Between the period 1 July 2000 and 22 June 2001, a total of 250,088 customers cancelled their Family Tax Benefit (FTB) payments.

This consisted of 99,969 - FTB (A) and 150,119 - FTB(B).

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Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 7

Hansard Page: CA285

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide the instructions (or training material) given to Centrelink officers about providing advice to customers on their end of year income.

Answer:

There is a wide range of information available to staff on this subject and it is difficult to provide a complete list therefore a selection has been chosen which are the most likely reference material for staff to use (please see Attachment A).

These include:

- Family Assistance Office training material;
- e-ref – electronic policy and procedural information for Centrelink staff;
- Family Assistance office Guide – maintained by FaCS.

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QON 7 ATTACHMENT A

Family Assistance Office Guide

4.4.3 Estimate of Income Not Reasonable

Summary

FTB is calculated on the basis of the customer's and their partner's (1.1.P.30) adjusted taxable income (1.1.A.20) for the current income year. Where a claim is made for FTB by instalment or for a past period where the taxable income (1.1.T.20) for the income year is not known, a reasonable estimate of the taxable income for that year can be provided. The estimate is used to calculate the customer's FTB entitlement and is reconciled against their actual income for the relevant income year when it becomes available. Any adjustments are then made to the customer's payment after that reconciliation.

Policy reference: FA Guide 3.2.8 Reasonable Estimate of Income

Estimate considered unreasonable - cancellation of entitlement

When a claimant provides an estimate of their adjusted taxable income that is NOT considered to be reasonable, FTB entitlement MUST be cancelled. The date of effect of the cancellation is the day after the end of the claimant's latest entitlement period.

Act reference: FA(Admin)Act section 28A Variation of instalment entitlement determination where estimate of amount is not reasonable

Subsequent estimate considered reasonable

If the claimant subsequently provides an estimate of adjusted taxable income which is considered reasonable, or Centrelink becomes aware of the claimant's actual assessed adjusted taxable income details, the cancellation of entitlement should be withdrawn. The date of effect of this variation is the date of cancellation. The variation reinstates the determination that applied before the cancellation.

Act reference: FA(Admin)Act section 20 Determination of rate may be based on estimate

Date this topic last updated: **1 July 2000**

Department of Family & Community Services

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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3.5.1 CCB Entitlement - General Provisions

Summary

The following table shows:

- the type of care for which a customer can receive CCB, and
- where the method of calculating a customer's CCB entitlement (1.1.E.30) can be found in the Families Assistance Act.

If a customer receives CCB for...	Then their entitlement is calculated in...
approved care (FA Guide 1.1.A.90),	FAAct schedule 2.
Registered care (1.1.R.20),	FAAct section 83, section 84.

This section contains one topic that explains the general provisions involved in calculating a customer's CCB entitlement, and covers:

- calculating CCB entitlement for approved care,
- when an approved care customer:
 - has a taxable income percentage (1.1.T.30) of 100%, or
 - must provide an estimate of their ATI,
- calculating CCB entitlement for registered care,
- calculating the amount owing when a customer dies, and
- indexation of CCB rates.

Calculating CCB entitlement - approved care

The amount of CCB entitlement for approved care is dependent upon:

- the number of children in care,
- the type of care (1.1.T.70) used,
- the hours of care for which the customer is liable to pay,
- the customer's ATI (1.1.A.20),
- whether the child is a school child, and
- the fee charged by the service.

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The following formula is used to determine a customer's CCB entitlement:

Eligible child care hours (1.1.E.20) x appropriate standard hourly rate (1.1.S.100) x
adjustment percentage (1.1.A.40)

Calculating the adjustment percentage is complex and it is advisable to do this first. The calculations involved are detailed in the referenced section.

Act reference: FAAct section 72 Weekly limit on rate of fee reductions while individual is conditionally eligible for care provided by an approved child care service, schedule 2 CCB rate calculator

Policy reference: FA Guide 3.5.2 Calculating Approved Care CCB Entitlement

Approved care - taxable income percentage of 100%

For the purposes of calculating their CCB entitlement, a customer using an approved service (1.1.A.90) automatically has a taxable income percentage of 100% if:

- they are receiving income support (1.1.I.50), OR
- their estimate of their ATI in the current financial year is less than \$28,200 per year.

Act reference: FAAct schedule 2 clause 7 CCB rate calculator

Approved care - estimate of income

A customer MUST provide an estimate of their financial year's income to the FAO before their entitlement is assessed if they:

- are NOT receiving income support, AND
- want to claim their CCB entitlement in the form of fee reductions, AND
- either:
 - apply for CCB approved care, OR
 - complete a form for annual reassessment of CCB approved care.

The customer is responsible for the accuracy of the estimate and can vary the estimate at any time.

A customer need NOT provide an estimate if they want to claim:

- only the minimum rate of CCB,
- CCB entitlement as a lump sum payment after the end of the financial year.

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E-ref – electronic policy and procedural information for Centrelink staff

The value of a customer's (and their partner's) assets does not affect their rate of Family Tax Benefit (FTB), however, the level of their income can.

For an instalment claim or a claim for a past period in the current financial year, a person's FTB rate is based on an estimate that the person gives of their expected income for the financial year. For a claim for a past period in a previous financial year, the rate is based on the person's actual income in the past financial year.

A person's FTB rate is reduced if their adjusted taxable income is above set limits.

There are separate income tests for Part A and Part B:

- the Part A income test is based on the adjusted taxable income of the person and their partner,
- if income is above the Part A income free area, Part A is reduced from the maximum rate,
- if income is above the higher income free area, Part A is reduced from the base rate;
- the Part B income test is based only on the adjusted taxable income of the secondary earner,
- if income is above the Part B income free area, Part B is reduced from the standard rate.

Part A and Part B are reduced by 30c for every \$1 above these free areas.

Some customers are exempt from the income test. This includes

- Customers receiving income support payments are exempt from the income test for Part A. **Note:** Part B for these partnered customers is still income tested,
- Single parents are exempt from the income test for Part B.

Customers are required to provide estimates of their Adjusted Taxable Income when they make a claim for instalment payments of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) and/or fortnightly reduced fees of Child Care Benefit (CCB) for the current financial year. If they lodge a claim for a past period in the previous financial year then the customer is required to be assessed on their actual taxable income as assessed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Once a customer has provided an estimate with their claim they can revise it at any time, this should be actively encouraged by all Customer Service Officers (CSOs). Estimates can be given in writing or over the phone.

The role of all CSOs in relation to estimates of Adjusted Taxable Income are:

- Advise customers of the **consequences** of giving an estimate of their income for FTB:

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- if a customer, **over-estimates** their income, they may still receive instalments throughout the year, and when the reconciliation process takes place they will receive any extra entitlement as a lump sum; When customers over-estimate, officers should check how this affects the customer's entitlement to a Health Care Card (HCC) and Rent Assistance (RA). (I.e. if their income is too high it may preclude them from entitlement to a HCC and RA.)
- If a customer **under-estimates** their income, they may receive higher amounts during the year but are likely to have to repay some of it. The amount will be calculated during the reconciliation process.
- The Family Assistance Office (FAO) officer must determine the estimate to be reasonable.
- Further contact with a customer should be scheduled to coincide with other contacts where ever possible.
- Advise customers of the consequences of giving us an estimate of their income for CCB:
 - If a customer **over-estimates their income**, their child care fees will still be reduced during the year and they will receive a lump sum as part of the reconciliation process.
 - If a customer **under-estimates their income**, they may pay less for child care during the year but are likely to have to pay extra for that child care as part of the reconciliation process.

Customers who do not need to provide an estimate, include:

- For FTB (A), approved care organisations.
- For FTB (A) and CCB, customers receiving income support payments.
- For FTB (B), single customers receiving income support payments.
- Customers who claim only the minimum rate of CCB and do not claim FTB at the same time.
- Customers who claim FTB or CCB for a **past period** after they have lodged their tax returns and received their Tax Notices of Assessment back from the tax office. Income assessed by the ATO must be used in the calculation of CCB entitlement.

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Output Group: Centrelink

Question No: 22

Topic: Child Care Benefit

Hansard Page: CA351

Senator Evans asked:

Can you give me the breakdown of overpayment and underpayment numbers in terms of CCB organisations late in submitting reconciliation?

Answer:

Summary of services advanced in 2000 Break 4, 2001 Period 1 and 2001 Term 1, for services acquitted at 18th June 2001.

- 38% of services were advanced amounts greater than the acquitted amount. 62% of services were advanced amounts less than the acquitted amount.

Services underpaid in the initial advance lodge a statement for payment. Once this statement is acquitted, arrears calculated are paid to the service within three working days. Services that consider that they were underpaid in the initial advance can apply for an additional advances. 14% of services underpaid in the initial advance received an additional advance.

This relates to initial (primary) claims only. Many services are submitting supplementary claims in relation to these payment periods which will result in additional payments.

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24 August 2001

Ms Leonie Peake
Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Peake,

I gave evidence before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on 30 May 2001 on behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

I have now had the opportunity to review the Senate Hansard for that day and consider there is a need for further clarification of my answers in relation to one matter.

Senator Chris Evans asked about the contractual issues associated with the appointment of Dr Peter Saunders who was Research Manager at the Institute. I have checked the details and need to correct some points made at the hearing.

Dr Saunders was engaged as Research Manager on a two-year fixed term appointment from 4 January 1999 to 3 January 2001, on leave from his position as Professor of Sociology at Sussex University in the UK. Dr Saunders resigned from the Institute with effect from 6 October 2000, to enable him to travel within Australia prior to the resumption of his position at Sussex University.

I apologise if my answers to the Committee may have led to some confusion in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

David I. Stanton
Director

hc/let/13263

30 May 2001

Senator Chris Evans
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Evans

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES —
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

I have been asked to comment on the letter dated 25 May 2001 from the Assistant Secretary, Ministerial and Communications Branch, of the Department of Family and Community Services, concerning responses to questions on notice about IT outsourcing.

The last paragraph of this letter states:

The Minister for Family and Community Services is considering issues of legal privilege, privacy and commercial confidentiality and sensitivity around some of the requested material. Cabinet confidentiality is also an issue with respect to some material. As a consequence, some answers have not been provided with this letter.

Presumably this paragraph means that the minister is considering whether a claim of public interest immunity should be raised in relation to some of the material required by the questions. The language of the paragraph suggests grounds on which public interest immunity claims might be raised. It also suggests that the department is under a common misconception about claims of public interest immunity. That misconception is that material maybe withheld from a parliamentary committee simply on the basis that it is “confidential”. The recent report of the Auditor-General has again sought to dispel this misconception:

The fact that particular information is confidential, for example, because it relates to the commercial activities of a person or body with which the Executive Government is contracting, does not, by itself, provide grounds for resisting disclosure on the basis of public interest immunity. (*The Use of Confidentiality Provisions in Commonwealth Contracts*, paragraph 1.31)

Before the consideration referred to in the letter proceeds any further, it might be advantageous to remind the department of the appropriate scope of the grounds which are suggested in the letter. The letter appears to refer to the following grounds:

- “legal privilege” The rule about admissibility of evidence in courts which the courts recognise under the name of “legal professional privilege” has never been accepted as a ground for withholding information from a parliamentary committee. Legal advice to

government is frequently disclosed. The only recognised basis on which it may be withheld in a parliamentary forum is that its disclosure would prejudice the positions of litigants, including the Commonwealth, in legal proceedings.

- “privacy” A recognised ground for not disclosing information in a parliamentary forum is that the disclosure of the information would unreasonably invade the privacy of individuals. In most instances where information is required by parliamentary committees, however, this problem is easily avoided by not identifying the individuals to whom the required information relates.
- “commercial confidentiality” As the Auditor-General’s report has recently reminded us, the mere fact that information relates to commercial transactions or is covered by a confidentiality clause in a contract does not provide a ground for non-disclosure in a parliamentary forum. The recognised ground is that disclosure of the information would damage the commercial interests of traders, including the Commonwealth, engaged in transactions. A department must be able to demonstrate a reasonable apprehension of damage to commercial interests before raising this ground for a public interest immunity claim.
- “sensitivity” I do not know what this term means. It appears to be used as a catch-all phrase in the public service when no other ground for withholding information will stand up. There is no ground for a public interest immunity claim known as “sensitivity”.
- “Cabinet confidentiality” There is a misunderstanding in the public service that anything remotely connected with cabinet can be withheld. The recognised ground for a public interest immunity claim is that disclosure of particular information would reveal the deliberations of cabinet and thereby imperil the ability of cabinet to deliberate freely while preserving collective ministerial responsibility. This is how the ground has been expounded by the courts in several recent cases. A department cannot put a “Cabinet” sticker on any document and then claim cabinet confidentiality for it.

Perhaps the department should be reminded of the foregoing matters before it gets to the stage of recommending inflated or unrecognised grounds for public interest immunity claims.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

(Harry Evans)

Department of Family and Community Services

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ACT 2610
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The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS – 20 FEBRUARY 2001
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – IT OUSOURCING**

On 24 May 2001 I enclosed the portfolio's responses to IT Outsourcing questions on notice from the Additional Estimates hearings held on 20 February 2001.

As a result of a clerical error, the answers provided to questions 87(d) and 22(j) contain three errors relating to dates on which Steering Committee meetings were held.

The answers to Questions on Notice 87(d) and 22(j) state that Steering Committee meetings were held on 3 September 1999 and 10 November 1999. The meetings in question actually occurred on 3 September 1998 and 10 November 1998 and these dates were included in the response previously provided.

In addition, there was a meeting held on 3 December 1998 which we previously failed to locate and advise.

I apologise for these errors.

[*signed*]

Andrew Herscovitch
Assistant Secretary
Ministerial and Communications Branch
19 June 2001

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Output Group: Across All Outcomes

Question No: 56

Topic: Expenditure of grants programs

Hansard Page: CA304

Senator West asked:

Please provide a timetable of expenditure and the communication strategies associated with each of the grants programs across each outcome.

Answer:

OUTCOME 1 – STRONGER FAMILIES
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NETWORKS INITIATIVE

Criteria under which the Minister will allocate/approve funding

Family and Community Networks Initiative grants are approved by the Minister for Community Services on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- (i) Identified high need community.
- (ii) Ability to achieve Program aims, which are to improve access to family-related information and services for families and community organisations and to enhance the capacity of communities and services to work together more effectively to address the needs of families and communities.
- (iii) Expressed community need.
- (iv) Demonstrate that the community has difficulty with access to services such as is often experienced in rural, regional and outer metropolitan areas.
- (v) Demonstrated support for the project from relevant government and non-government agencies, prospective service users and/or project participants.
- (vi) Capacity to undertake all aspects of the project
- (vii) Extent to which the budget is comprehensive, realistic and provides value for money.
- (viii) Extent to which alternative and complementary funding have been explored or secured.
- (ix) Ability to sustain the project after funding ceases, if relevant.

What communication material informs the public of grant availability?

The Department produced a brochure and guidelines for grant applicants. Total costs of the brochure were \$1700.

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Provide a monthly calendar of receipt of grant applications.

There is no specific timetable for receipt of Program grant applications. As stated in the Program Guidelines (page 2) at Attachment A, applications for funding can be received at any time.

Provide a calendar of when grant disbursements are likely to be paid.

Month	Planned 2001-02 Grant Expenditure
Jul 2001	\$22,000
Aug 2001	\$110,000
Sep 2001	\$280,000
Oct 2001	\$400,000
Nov 2001	\$22,000
Dec 2001	\$60,000
Jan 2002	\$23,000
Feb 2002	\$115,000
Mar 2002	\$155,000
Apr 2002	\$320,000
May 2002	\$180,000
Jun 2002	\$480,000
Total	\$2,167,000

How much has been spent in 2000/01?

\$4.09 million of the 2000/01 Family and Community Networks Initiative program allocation of \$4.837 million has been spent.

How much to be spent in 2001/02?

The total allocation of \$2.167 million will be spent in 2001/02.

What is the communication strategy for the Family and Community Networks Initiative?

Detail advertising and media.

Family and Community Networks Initiative does not have a Communications Strategy. However, a program brochure (Attachment B) describing the Program and its aims was produced at a cost of \$1,700.

NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG STRATEGY EXPENDITURE (FAMILY SUPPORT COMPONENT)

Expenditure this financial year is \$1,131,500 million, allocation was \$2,241,500 million.

Allocation for next financial year is \$2,835,500 million.

Timetable of grants is \$10,759,000 million over 4 years. Payments are made to each State and Territory Government on a monthly basis and are in accordance with the Memorandums of Understanding.

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NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG STRATEGY COMMUNICATION (FAMILY SUPPORT COMPONENT)

There is no formal communication strategy for the Family Support component of the National Illicit Drug Strategy. Each State and Territory devises its own communication strategy in the context of the project proposal and the community itself.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SERVICES PROGRAM EXPENDITURE

Expenditure this financial year is \$6.5m, allocation was \$6.5m. Allocation for next financial year is \$6.6m.

Timetable of grant payments to 93 Youth Activities Services and 83 Family Liaison Workers paid under the program monthly, in accordance with the funding agreements.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SERVICES COMMUNICATION

There is no formal communication strategy for the program.

Generally each Youth Activities Service arranges its own communication suitable for the community it serves

RECONNECT EXPENDITURE

Expenditure this financial year is \$12.838m, allocation was \$13.838m.

Allocation for next financial year is \$20.244m.

Timetable of grants for 88 established services is in January and July in accordance with the funding agreements. Payments to the 12 services being established through community development processes will commence once funding agreements have been signed.

RECONNECT COMMUNICATION

There is no formal communication strategy for the program, however, the department has provided posters to services and is developing a brochure. Generally each Reconnect service arranges its own communication suitable for the community it serves. They can use the products provided by the department at their discretion.

CHILD CARE SUPPORT BROADBAND

The 2000-01 broadband allocation for Child Care Support was \$164.272 million. Grants are made throughout the year. Full expenditure is anticipated for 2000-01.

The allocation for 2001-02 is \$173.943 million.

CHILD CARE SUPPORT COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

There is no specific communication strategy for Child Care Support. Some funds are used to produce information products eg brochures; to inform services and families about child care programs and their entitlements.

In 2000-01, a one off initiative was funded to produce a booklet to inform the child care industry about 'Flexible Child Care in Rural and Remote Australia'. The cost of this was \$20,582.

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The Child Care Support broadband also supports the work of the Commonwealth Child Care Advisory Council. \$113,260 was spent during 2000-01 on two newsletters. A third newsletter is proposed for 2000-01, the cost estimated to be \$66,000.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$2.692m, allocation was \$2.738m.
The allocation for 2001-02 is \$3.923m. This amount is fully committed.

Three non government organisations have been funded for communications activity around child abuse issues. These organisations are NAPCAN Australia (\$400,000), Australians Against Child Abuse (\$205,200), and Child Abuse Prevention Service (\$150,000), totalling \$755,200.

Contracts are made with organisations for 2 years (running until 2002/03), with payments to the organisations made 6 monthly.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PILOT PROGRAMMES

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$1.326m, allocation was \$1.360m.
The allocation for 2001-02 is \$0.000m.
There is no specific allocation for communication activity.

GRANTS TO FAMILY RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$25.550m, allocation was \$26.348m.
The allocation for 2001-02 is \$27.615m.
There is no specific allocation for communication activity.
Family Relationship Support payments are made quarterly and the current contracts run until June 2002.

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BRANCH COMPONENT)

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$8.208m, allocation was \$9.009m.
The allocation for 2001-02 is \$8.281m.
State playgroups associations have been funded during 2000-01 for marketing to improve the take up rate for playgroups for parents with children aged 0-5. \$700,000 was allocated to this activity during 2000-01.
A range of contract terms is in place and payment schedules vary depending on the contracted activity.

INDIGENOUS PARENTING AND FAMILY WELLBEING

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$0.965m, allocation was \$1.255m.
The allocation for 2001-02 is \$2.038m.
There is no specific allocation for communication activity.
Two year contracts are being negotiated with service providers and payments will be made quarterly.

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PRE MARRIAGE EDUCATION VOUCHERS

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$0.241m, allocation was \$0.402m.

The allocation for 2001-02 is \$0.000m.

There is no specific allocation for communication activity.

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN SPP

Expected expenditure this financial year is \$0.354m, allocation was \$0.354m.

The allocation for 2001-02 is \$0.360m.

There is no specific allocation for communication activity.

Payments are made monthly to the New South Wales State Government.

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OUTCOME 2 – STRONGER COMMUNITIES

This response consists of a package covering the elements that form the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. These are:

- (a) Five Linked Initiatives
 - Stronger Families Fund;
 - Early Intervention, Parenting and Family Relationship Support;
 - Local Solutions to Local Problems;
 - Potential Leadership in Local Communities; and
 - Can Do Community
- (b) Volunteering Initiatives
 - International Year of Volunteers Small Grants and Practical Solutions;
 - National Skills Development
- (c) Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care
- (d) SFCS Communications
- (e) Longitudinal Study of Australia Children

Individual information follows on these elements except for the Longitudinal Study for which there are no Administered funds.

STRONGER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGY FIVE LINKED INITIATIVES

The Stronger Families and Communities Strategy has five linked initiatives. These are:

- Stronger Families Fund;
- Early Intervention, Parenting and Family Relationship Support;
- Local Solutions to Local Problems;
- Potential Leadership in Local Communities; and
- Can Do Community

Criteria under which the Minister will allocate/approve funding

The Minister, on the basis of recommendations from the Stronger Families and Communities State/Territory Advisory Groups, determines project funding.

Funding for the five linked initiatives is allocated to ensure a geographic spread across Australia, including appropriate recognition of the special needs of rural and regional areas and disadvantaged communities, especially indigenous communities.

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Funding has been allocated to FaCS state and territory offices as follows:

- for indigenous projects
 - funding is allocated on the basis of indigenous populations
 - a minimum of \$20m over four years is available for these projects
 - state and territory offices will work collaboratively in developing cross-border projects in recognition of the transient nature of indigenous populations
- for non-indigenous projects
 - funding is allocated on the basis of Socio-Economic Indices For Areas (SEIFA) data
 - a minimum amount of \$500,000 in the first full year has been allocated to smaller states and territories

A national allocation of 5% is available for projects of national significance.

These funding arrangements will be reviewed by the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership.

Communication material that informs the public of grant availability

The Department's internet site – www.facs.gov.au contains information on the Strategy and the linked initiatives that provide opportunities for community funding. An information package (Attachment A) and a Community guide (Attachment B) was released in December 2000 outlining how to find out more about the Strategy and access funds. About 20,000 copies of the guide have been distributed. A central contact number (1800 300 125) has also been put in place.

Monthly calendar of receipt of applications for grant

Not applicable. The applications for funding are considered progressively as they are submitted.

Calendar of when grants are likely to be paid

Not applicable. The applications for funding are considered progressively, as they are submitted.

How much has been spent this year

Funding breakdown at 10 May 2001

Over \$5.64 million has already been committed to fund 39 community projects under the five linked initiatives of the Strategy. Funding became available in January 2001. Projects come from a wide range of locations and cover many activities and target groups.

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STATE	No. OF PROJECTS	VALUE \$
ACT	1	\$150,000
NT	4	\$469,073
NSW	10	\$801,162
VIC	1	\$260,000
TAS	1	\$150,000
SA	6	\$362,253
WA	3	\$432,000
QLD	9	\$1,318,900
NATIONAL	4	\$1,710,000

How much to be spent next financial year

\$30.702 million

A calendar of disbursements

Not applicable.

What is the communication strategy around these grants? What advertising, what will it look like, what media, and when?

Once a project is approved for funding the following publicity occurs:

- A media release from Minister Anthony
- A media release from the local member or Senator's office providing information on the Strategy, the project and the funding allocated.

We are also working towards increasing media coverage for these projects through developing stories for the media about the SFCS and what has been achieved so far. The publicity activities around project funding is consistent with the messages of the broader SFCS communications initiative about strong families and communities.

VOLUNTEERING — INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS 2001 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS GRANTS, AND THE NATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering is a key element under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. There are several initiatives which support volunteering:

- The International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001 Program which includes the:
 - IYV 2001 Small Grants
 - IYV Practical Solutions Grants, and
- National Skills Development for Volunteers.

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Criteria under which Minister will allocate/approve funding

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

Applications were assessed against criteria including:

- The proposal addressed one or more of the IYV objectives:
- to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution volunteers make to a strong, cohesive Australian society
- to have community, business, the media and government work together to build an Australian society that encourages and nurtures a culture of volunteering
- to support Australian communities in their engagement in valuable and productive voluntary activities
- The budget is reasonable for the planned and itemised activity;

The grants program distributed funding in a fair and equitable manner, ensuring geographic dispersion of projects across Australia and funding a broad range of community groups.

IYV Practical Solutions Grants

To support and encourage volunteering and to be consistent with the objectives of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy;

To be practical in nature that encourages local effort;

Aimed specifically at encouraging and supporting IYV

An emphasis on regional Australia, disadvantaged areas or the needs of indigenous families and communities.

National Skills Development Program

As this is a new program, detailed criteria for the broad rollout of the National Skills Development for Volunteers grants are being developed using a comprehensive needs analysis. In the interim, pilot projects approved by the Minister for Community Services need to:

- (i) be well targeted towards area of need;
- (ii) demonstrate a potential for wider application (eg a local strategy with possible implications for piloting a national approach - transferability); or
be small local activities recommended by the International Year of Volunteers Small Grants Committee;
- (iii) represent value for money;
- (iv) be timely;
- (v) be accredited where appropriate; and
- (vi) not duplicate any other activity already underway.

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Communication material that informs the public of grant availability

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

There was no formal communications strategy for the IYV 2001 Small Grants Program. The Program was announced by the then Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Jocelyn Newman, in October 2000 and it was promoted through existing networks. Peak volunteering organisations were sent information about the Program and they broadly publicised the Grants. The IYV website provide details of the Program and the grant application kit. Local newspapers also ran stories on the availability of Grants. Simultaneously application kits were sent to approximately 3500 community organisations around Australia, some of whom had participated in consultations to develop the IYV objectives, and others who responded to publicity. All Members of Parliament and Senators and State and Territory governments were sent application kits as were the Commonwealth Government's interdepartmental committee members. The application kits cost \$4 218.00 to produce.

IYV Practical Solutions Grants

There was no formal communication strategy for the Practical Solutions Grants. Volunteer Australia and its state bodies, and Australian Volunteers International were invited to submit proposals for practical community development projects for IYV.

National Skills Development Program

Information about the National Skills Development for Volunteers program is contained on the Department of Family and Community Services' Website under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS) and in the SFCS *Community Guide*.

Monthly calendar of receipt of grant applications

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

Applications for grants were sought on 5 October 2000. Applications for Round 1 closed on 10 January 2001, approximately 3300 applications were received. Applications for Round 2 closed on 10 April 2001, approximately 5300 applications were received.

IYV Practical Solutions Grants

Volunteering Australia and its state bodies, and Australian Volunteers International were invited to submit proposals for practical community development projects for IYV in June 2000.

National Skills Development Program

Not applicable

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Calendar of when grants are likely to be paid

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

Grants to successful Round 1 applicants were made to applicants in April to June 2001.
Grants to successful Round 2 applicants are expected to be paid from the end of July 2001 as offers of grants are accepted.

National Skills Development Program

A specific timetable for payment of grants has not yet been developed for this Program at this stage as only initial pilot projects have been recently been announced

How much has been spent this year

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

The original budget for the IYV Small Grants Program (SPG) was \$2.5 million over two rounds. Because of the unanticipated interest in this program (in excess of 8,000 applications), additional funding from other parts of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (of which IYV is a part) was identified. The total allocation is now \$5.4 million for this program.

Expenditure for 2000-2001 (Round 1) was \$2.2 million. In excess of 720 submissions were funded Australia-wide and announced in March-April.

IYV Practical Solutions Grants

Total committed funding for 8 grants to some peak volunteering organisations is \$190,000 over 2 years. Expenditure for 2000/2001 is \$82,500.

National Skills Development Program

\$468, 913 of the 2000/01 program allocation of \$550, 000 has been spent or committed.

How much to be spent next financial year

IYV 2001 Small Grants Program

The allocation for 2001/2002 (Round Two) is \$3.2 million. Applications are currently being assessed. Announcement is expected in July.

IYV Practical Solutions Grants

Projected expenditure for 2001/2002 is \$107,500.

National Skills Development Program

The total allocation of \$1.85 million will be spent in 2001/02.

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Calendar of disbursements

Not applicable.

What is the Communications Strategy around these grants?

International Year of Volunteers 2001

Not applicable.

National Skills Development Program

Included within the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy communications strategy

GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE IN CHILD CARE

The Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care element of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy include the following initiatives:

- In-home care (implementation 1/1/2001)
- Expansion of family day care and outside school hours care to other operators (including private providers) (implementation date 1/1/2001)
- Quality Assurance for family day care (implementation 1/7/2001)
- Quality Assurance for outside school hours care (implementation 1/7/2002)
- Incentives to encourage the establishment of child care centres in rural areas (implementation 1/7/2001)

The response for the grants under these initiatives is provides as follows:

Criteria under which Minister will allocate/approve funding

Applications for in-home care, family day care and outside school hours care are assessed by the Department against a set of criteria which reflect the requirements of relevant legislation, including the Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000 and the Child Care Benefit (Allocation of Child Care Places) Determination 2000. The criteria includes aspects such as the applicant's expertise and experience in providing child care and the applicant's ability to meet and provide the appropriate quality of child care. Applicants need to demonstrate demand for care in their applications.

Departmental guidelines have been developed for applications under the initiative to provide incentives to establish a centre in a rural area.

The development of Quality Assurance systems for family day care and outside school hours care does not involve grants to services.

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Communication material that informs the public of grant availability

Fact Sheets on in-home care, family day care and outside school hours care initiatives were developed and available prior to the implementation date for these initiatives.

Information on the in-home care initiative was sent to all child care services in November last year. At the same time, an initial advertisement inviting applications for in-home care was placed in metropolitan, regional and rural newspapers.

Applications for family day care and outside school hours care funding are invited by the Department's State/ Territory offices, as part of the National Planning System for child care.

Guidelines for the initiative to encourage the establishment of centres in rural areas, are available from the Department's State and Territory offices.

A booklet on "Flexible Child Care in Rural and Remote Australia" has been produced and will be distributed shortly.

Information has been provided to peak child care bodies and other interested stakeholders. Other communication material has included articles in Departmental and sector newsletters.

Information has also been included on the Department's website www.facs.gov.au.

Monthly calendar of receipt of grant applications

Applications for the initial round of in-home care funding were invited by the Department in November 2000. The Department is currently seeking applications for the second round of in-home care funding.

Applications for areas identified as requiring family day care and outside school hours care services are called by the Department, in accordance with the National Planning System.

Applications for incentives for the establishment of centres in rural areas are considered progressively, as they are submitted.

Calendar of when grants are likely to be paid

Funding to successful applicants for in-home care, family day care and outside school hours care commences upon completion of the approval process. Successful applicants under the initiative to provide incentives to establish centres in rural areas, will also commence receipt of funding upon the completion of the approval process.

How much has been spent this year

Total funding for the Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care element for FY2000-2001 is \$4.022m. Full expenditure is anticipated.

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How much to be spent next financial year

The allocation for 2001-2002 is \$12.008m.

Calendar of disbursements

Not applicable.

What is the Communications Strategy around these grants?

Consultation on the elements of the Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care element of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, occurred with child care peak bodies and other stakeholders.

Communication products have included brochures, fact sheets, a press advertisement, a mail out of information to child care services, guidelines and forms for service-providers.

A media release announcing the commencement of the in-home care initiative was issued by the former Minister for Family and Community Services, on 10 January 2001.

A special issue of Jigsaw – the publication of the National Family Day Care Council of Australia, was funded to provide information on the new Quality Assurance system for family day care.

A booklet on “Flexible Child Care in Rural and Remote Australia has been produced.

Information has also been included on the Department’s website www.facs.gov.au and distributed to the Child Care Access Hotline, Family Assistance Offices and the Department’s State and Territory offices.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Funding for the communication strategy has been provided to support the overall *Stronger Families and Communities Strategy* by placing messages specific to each of the overarching themes into the Australian community that:

- set an agenda for discussion by raising the profile, importance and awareness of particular issues;
- illustrate a range of behaviours compatible with desired outcomes; and
- provide specific and real life examples of desired outcomes and associated efficacious behaviour.

The broad aims of the communication strategy are to:

- a) raise awareness amongst families and communities of the importance to the families themselves, and to their communities of strong families who are actively involved in their communities;
- b) reaffirm the concept that family and community, not governments, provide the most effective social support; and that

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c) governments actively support that process by providing a range of relevant services and programs.

Criteria under which Minister will allocate/approve funding

Not applicable. There are no grants being made under this component of the SFCS.

Communication material that informs the public of grant availability

Not applicable. There are no grants being made under this component of the SFCS.

Monthly calendar of receipt of grant applications

Not applicable. There are no grants being made under this component of the SFCS.

Calendar of when grants are likely to be paid

Not applicable. There are no grants being made under this component of the SFCS.

How much has been spent this year

Funding for the Communications Strategy was for \$8 million over four years, commencing in 200/2001. This funding is all in Departmental funds. Expenditure for this financial year \$357,000 and carryover is currently being negotiated with Department of Finance.

How much to be spent next financial year

Funding for 2001/2002 is \$2.502 million.

Calendar of disbursements

There are no grants being made under this component of the SFCS. The original timetable for spending under this initiative was for \$3.501 million in 2000-01, \$2.502 million in 2001/2 and \$1.1 million and \$1 million for the subsequent two outyears.

What is the Communications Strategy around these grants?

Separate from specific communications for individual initiatives, this overall campaign is likely to include a number of facets of media based on market research currently being undertaken. Timing of media content is not yet finalised and will be an issue discussed with the Ministerial Council for Government Communications, the Government Communications Office and The Minister's office.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Twenty nine projects funded under the Business and Community Partnerships Facilitating Best Practice Partnerships in 1999, are due their final payment 2000/01. The Salvation Army Education Foundation received \$500 000 for a training project and the CIVICUS Asia Pacific Secretariat \$55 000. The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership received funding of \$3 131 041 to develop and promote a culture of corporate and individual social responsibility in Australia.

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Criteria

Facilitating Best Practice Partnership:

In order to be considered for funding under the Business and Community Partnerships initiative, projects submitted demonstrated the following characteristics:

1. Improve corporate/community knowledge and appreciation of the value of corporate/community partnerships;
2. Improve the quality of the development and marketing of the types of projects/programs being offered to the corporate by non-profit organisations;
3. Improve the ability of community organisations to engage in mutually advantageous partnerships;
4. Improve the quality of community organisations operations, and hence, their ability to enter into corporate partnerships;
5. Provide an opportunity for community organisations to not only improve their own quality of operation, but also to replicate the processes involved in this improvement and consequently transfer them to other non profit organisations;
6. Provide an opportunity for a community organisation to build leadership in a program/service segment that is recognised as being essential for the development of the Government's Business and Community Partnerships initiative. Such programs might, for example, include:
 - leadership/corporate outreach;
 - philanthropy, volunteering, citizenship, social capital;
 - non profit sector management, marketing, and/or financial skills enhancement;
 - replication of successful initiatives that address major community issues; and
 - opportunities for broader discussion, educational and promotional exposure.

Communication

There is no formal communications strategy for the Facilitating Best Practice Partnerships grants. Advertisements seeking projects for one-off funding were placed in the major weekend press on 30-31 January and 6-7 February 1999. A total of 560 applications were received.

Managed externally, the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership develops a work plan and indicative budget, including a community strategy to progress the initiative.

When Grants Paid

In the financial year of 2000/01, payments to organisations under the Facilitating Best Practice Partnerships grants follow:

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Report Due 2000/01	Organisation	Amount
30 June	- 107.9 FM	\$4,000
30 June	- Tasmanian West Coast Business Development	\$500
30 June	- Centre for Corporate Affairs	\$5,000
30 July	- Tasmania Communities Online	\$1,500
28 Oct	- ACOSS	\$2,000
31 July	- The Aust. Asian Assoc. of WA	\$2,000
30 July	- Central West Group Apprentices Ltd	\$1,000
30 July	- Urban Ministry Network	\$3,500
30 July	- Rotary Club of South Broken Hill	\$2,000
30 July	- Central Coast Work Keys Ltd	\$1,000
15 May	- COSBOA	\$4,000
30 March	- SEAL Force	\$5,000
30 July	- Beacon Foundation	\$5,000
30 Oct	- Eyre Regional Development Board	\$2,000
30 April	- LEED	\$1,000
30 Sept	- Rotary Club of Sydney	\$259.71
	- Alannah and Madeline Foundation	\$1 000
	- Ecumenical Housing	\$5 000
	- Good Beginnings	\$1 000
	- Greening Australia	\$2 000
	Total	\$48 759.71

\$500 000 to the Salvation Army Education Foundation (September 2000, March 2001) and \$55 000 to CIVICUS Asia Pacific Secretariat (July 2000). Payments to the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership are made by monthly instalments.

Total Expenditure 2000/01

\$3 754 000

Total Expenditure 2001/02

\$2 422 000.

Communication Strategy

An analysis of the key findings of the Facilitating Best Practice Partnerships grant project outcomes will be presented to the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership July 2001.

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

- The National Homelessness Strategy has been allocated \$3.2 million over three years (financial years ending 2001-2003) for demonstration projects under four broad themes; prevention, early intervention, working together and crisis transition and support.

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- There are no specific deadlines for grants under the National Homelessness Strategy in 2001/2002.
- Grants will be allocated as determined by the Minister.
- A consultation round will be undertaken in regard to the National Homelessness Strategy document being developed by the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH).
- Grants that have been allocated under the National Homelessness Strategy to date are outlined in the table below:

Projects	Timelines	Funding 2000/2001	Funding 2001/2002
Action Research on families in Caravan Parks The FaCS Child Care Branch is managing an innovative project which provides intensive work with families on selected caravan parks in QLD, NT, SA and northern NSW. This project will: • foster the development of community partnerships; • support parents to provide a positive social and educational opportunities for their children using trained staff; and • build links with agency networks. The NHS contribution to this project provides an action research overlay to the work undertaken by the Child Care Branch through the Playgroup Association and Save the Children.	March 2001 – Jan 2003	\$76,000	\$151,000
Working Out of Homelessness The development of a best practice model to assist the chronically homeless to become ready for employment and training programs.	February to August 2001	\$41,000	\$10,300

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Improving Centrelink Services for People who are Homeless ▪ Centrelink and Homelessness Best Practice Forum: involved Senior Officers from Centrelink, FaCS and DEWRSB ▪ Cross-Matching Data Project: collaborative action research project between homeless services and Centrelink services ▪ Poster and Training Project: design and production of materials for homeless services to assist in reducing breaching of clients (includes training component). ▪ Noah's Ark Placements: One week placements for homeless service providers at local Centrelink Offices. ▪ Centrelink Community Officer (CCO) Demonstration Project: expansion of existing CCO program in areas of high need to develop better linkages between Centrelink and community agencies assisting homeless people. ▪ Parity edition on Centrelink and Homelessness: dedication of August/September edition of Parity to exploring this issue. ▪ Coordination of Centrelink initiatives under the NHS: position in Centrelink National Office to liaise with NHS and coordinate all homelessness related initiatives within Centrelink.	March 2001 – July 2003	\$25,000 \$35,000 \$20,000 \$127,000 approx. \$500,000 approx. \$100,000	\$40,000 \$50,000
A Strategic Direction in Indigenous Homelessness ▪ Indigenous Homelessness Conference ▪ Demonstration Projects ➤ Families and Children in Crisis project (SA) ➤ Community Support Worker in Transitional Lifestyle House (SA) ➤ Research into safe houses in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Communities (QLD)		\$145,000 \$2000 for prelim. consultation	\$450,000
Information and Education Tools for Young People ▪ This project will develop an educational resource for 14 to 18 year olds about housing issues, including homelessness, which will be distributed to high schools throughout Australia.	Research March – July 2001 Develop/distribute 2001/2002	\$80,000	
Youth Action Housing Options (YAHO) • Funding of demonstration projects (in WA and TAS) in conjunction with DETYA that aims to prevent youth homelessness by supporting young offenders pre and post release to secure appropriate, safe and affordable housing. • Consultants will develop a good practice resource kit to be used nationally by workers supporting young offenders in order to prevent homelessness.	June 2001 – June 2002	\$140,000	\$50,000
Older Homeless People The Australian component of a comparative international study of prevention and alleviation of homelessness among older homeless people funded through Wintringham Hostels in Melbourne.		\$16,000	\$66,000

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Parity Funding	March – August 2001	\$18,000	\$2,000
Funding has been provided to assist Parity magazine to achieve an increased and more nationally oriented subscription base and to disseminate information on the National Homelessness Strategy.			

NATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH (NHR) FUND*

Expenditure in 2000-01 against original estimate:

Expenditure: \$419,625

Estimate: \$420,000

Allocation for 2001-02

\$420,000

Timetable of grants made and a calendar of future expenditures under the program

2000-01

Date	Amount	Recipient	Description
3 April 2001	\$374,625	AHURI Ltd	Supplements core funding commitment of \$1.5m pa. Remainder met by \$1.2m allocated from Departmental funds.
June 2001	\$45,000	Health Habitat Research	Part funding (with Community Branch) to undertake development of the National Indigenous housing Maintenance Resource Kit.

2001-02

Date	Amount	Recipient	Description
TBA	\$374,625	AHURI Ltd	Supplements core funding
TBA	\$45,375	TBA	Research

[* Previous reporting in 1999-2000 FaCS Annual Report (page 381) shows AHURI core funding allocated from the Housing Reform Fund]

NATIONAL HOUSING PRIORITIES (NHP)

Estimate 2000-2001

\$978,000

Expenditure 2000-2001

\$778,945

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Allocation 2002-2002

\$348,000

Additional \$2000 increase gained at Additional Estimates due to 0.5% in Wage Cost Index used to index part of the program. Underspend of NHP funds derives from savings in several projects.

NHP funds will be used in 2001-2002 to maintain core funding to the Community Housing Federation of Australia and the National Community Housing Forum. This funding will be paid quarterly.

There is no communications strategy associated with this program.

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

Criteria

The funding level provided by the Commonwealth for the ER program is determined each year in the Budget and since 1997/98 it has been a flat rate linked to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Prior to this the funding was linked to estimated unemployment figures.

Distribution of funding:

To ensure an equitable distribution method ER funds are distributed according to a funding formula. The following breakdown is how the funds are distributed:

- 91% of funds go to general agencies;
- 8% of funds go to indigenous specific agencies; and
- 1% of funds are used for development of training and support activities in the program.

Number of Agencies/Outlets:

Funding will go to approximately 900 agencies through over 1200 outlets.

Calculation of allocations for Statistical Local Areas:

The funds to general agencies are calculated according to Centrelink statistics on the numbers of people accessing the following benefits:

- Disability Support Pensions;
- Newstart and Youth Allowance;
- Exceptional Circumstances (ie payments to families in rural areas where a disaster has occurred);
- Community Development and Employment Program Allowance;
- Parenting Payment Single; and
- Family Tax Benefit Part A - Maximum

The funds to indigenous agencies are calculated according to Census data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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The calculation of amounts to go to each Agency outlet in every Statistical Local Area across Australia is performed automatically after statistical data is fed into the electronic system. Once allocations are made the State/Territory offices in consultation with their State Advisory Committees (SACs) make any necessary adjustments and then distribute the funds to the Agency outlets.

Communication Strategy

There is no formal ER communication strategy however contact with Agencies is maintained through the ER Bulletin. The proposed ER training program for 2001-02 is specifically targeted at ER paid workers and volunteers. The purpose of the training is to make the Agency staff more aware of the Program and its objectives.

When Grants Paid

Agencies receive their funding in two payments. In July, a payment of 5/12 of the total amount is paid and in December a payment of 7/12 is paid.

2000-01 Expenditure

As at 8 June 2001 expenditure for the financial year is \$25,664,971.89.

2001-02 Expenditure and Disbursement

In 2001-02 the amount of \$26,414,000, which includes 1% for development of training and support for ER volunteers and paid workers, has been allocated. The remainder is expected to be disbursed in accordance with the following table:

State/ Terry	General Funding	Indigenous Funding	Total \$	% General	% Indigenous	General Popltn	Indigenous Popltn
NSW	7 618 426	607 838	8 226 264	31.58	28.76	849 880	101 467
Vic	5 590 307	128 766	5 719 073	23.08	6.09	621 173	21 495
Qld	5 064 883	572 249	5 637 132	21.07	27.08	567 088	95 526
SA	2 119 490	122 482	2 241 972	8.82	5.80	237 308	20 446
WA	2 252 246	304 282	2 556 528	9.37	14.40	252 172	50 794
TAS	785 559	83 022	868 581	3.26	3.93	87 774	13 859
NT	408 933	277 139	686 071	1.70	13.12	45 786	46 263
ACT	282 149	17 343	299 491	1.12	0.82	30 085	2 895
Total	24 121 991	2 113 120	26 235 111	100.00	100.00	2 691 266	352 745

The Total Funding for States and Territories = \$26,235,111 is distributed:

5/12th = \$10,931,296 July

7/12th = \$15,303,815 December

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OUTCOME 3 – ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SERVICES

Under this item, grants are provided for the provision of employment, advocacy, respite, print and caption and translation services for people with a disability.

Grants are generally recurrent in nature and paid monthly in advance in respect to approximately 1000 service outlets.

The estimated expenditure for Employment Assistance and Other Services in 2000-01 is \$281.166m. In 2001-02 funds of \$289.019m will be available, this includes indexation and other variations as stated in the 2001-02 Portfolio Budget Statements.

A number of activities are undertaken in order to inform the community of the programs provided for people with disabilities and of the abilities and contributions of people with disabilities. These activities include:

- Newsletters to all providers on Employment Assistance Reforms.
- Disability News (published quarterly), which provides information on government programs to assist people with disabilities;
- The Prime Minister's Employer of the Year Awards (event usually held close to International Day of People with Disabilities) which recognise businesses employing people with disabilities and highlight the contributions made by those employees and the benefits of employing people with disabilities;
- Information on the assistance offered through the department to assist businesses that want to employ people with people with disabilities (ad hoc);
- Funding to conference organisers to assist people with disabilities participate in relevant conferences (annual funding round advertised in March prior to the financial year concerned);
- Tender processes to establish new providers as new initiatives are implemented (ad hoc).

There is no communication strategy associated with the National Secretariat Program.

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes
Topic: Funding to peak body secretariats

Question No: 55

Hansard Page: CA300

Senator West asked:

Maybe there is a list of secretariats that you support somewhere that you can bring. Does it appear in the annual report?

Answer:

Name of grant program: National Secretariat Program

Expenditure this financial year:
Organisation funded through the National Secretariat Program 2000-2001

Australian Association of the Deaf	\$114,134
Australian Council of Social Service	\$467,227
ACROD	\$269,953
Australian Early Childhood Association	\$301,101
Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	\$301,101
Blind Citizens of Australia	\$165,386
Centacare Australia	\$107,720
Deafness Forum of Australia	\$169,239
Family Services Australia	\$153,822
Head Injury Council of Australia	\$112,758
Lone Fathers Association of Australia	\$ 50,000
National Caucus of Disability Consumer Organisations	\$ 82,316
National Council on Intellectual Disability	\$129,785
National Council of Single Mothers and their Children	\$ 50,000
National Ethnic Disability Alliance	\$112,759
Physical Disability Council of Australia	\$112,432
Relationships Australia	\$105,730
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care	\$129,785
Volunteering Australia	\$129,785
Women with Disabilities Australia	\$112,432

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Allocation for next financial year:

National Secretariat Program

Organisations to be funded through National Secretariat grants 2001 - 2004

Australian Council of Social Service	467,227
Australian Federation of Disability Consumers (new)	250,000
ACROD	250,000
Australian Early Childhood Association	250,000
Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations	250,000
Australian Federation of Family Services (new)	250,000
Volunteering Australia	150,000
Unallocated funds for Community Sector development	100,000

Organisations to be funded through Secretariat Support grants 2001 - 2002

Australian Association of Deaf	120,000
National Council of Intellectual Disability	120,000
Blind Citizens Australia	120,000
Deafness Forum of Australia	120,000
National Ethnic Disability Alliance	120,000
Head Injury Council of Australia	120,000
Physical Disability Council of Australia	120,000
Women With Disabilities Australia	120,000

In addition organisations to be funded through Program Support grants 2001 - 2002

Centacare Australia	107,720
Family Services Australia	153,822
Relationships Australia	105,730
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care	129,785
Lone Fathers Association Australia	51,101
National Council of Single Mothers and their Children	51,101
Australian Association of the Deaf	40,000
Blind Citizens Australia	40,000
Deafness Forum of Australia	40,000

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Timetable of grants made and a calendar of future expenditures under the program:

All grants are subject to Ministerial approval by the Minister for Family and Community Services prior to being offered to the organisations.

Each secretariat, apart from the two new Federations for families and disabilities, will be offered triennial funding agreements, from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2004.

The new Federations will initially be offered funding for one year, with a subsequent contract for two years and then triennial funding subject to successful negotiations of outcomes contracts and performance review.

At the end of three years the national secretariats will all be evaluated with a view to providing triennial funding from that time onwards for all.

Secretariat support organisations will be provided with funding on an annual basis, commencing on 1 July 2001. At the end of each year an evaluation of progress will be undertaken jointly between the Department and the organisation.

Name of grant program: Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA)

Expenditure 2000-2001	\$200,000
Estimated Allocation for 2001-2002	\$200,000

Core funding for CHFA is made quarterly.

Name of grant program: National Community Housing Forum (NCHF)

Expenditure 2000-2001	\$265,000
Estimated Allocation for 2001-2002	\$265,000

Core funding for NCHF funding is made quarterly.

There are no communication strategies associated with the funding of these discretionary grants.

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 51

Topic: Budget Estimates

Hansard Page: CA303

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide budget estimates for next four years on all programs.

Answer:

The attached table summarises the current budget estimates for the FaCS portfolio for 2000-01 to 2004-05. These estimates reflect assumptions made on economic parameters (the unemployment rate, CPI, and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings), expected changes in customer numbers and the expected impacts of new policy changes. Accordingly, they are expected to be revised over time as assumptions are refined in the light of emerging trends.

FaCS Appropriations - 2001-2002 Budget Estimate						
Output	Program	RESOURCING (ACCRUAL) (\$M)				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.0	Ex Gratia payments for DVA pensioners receiving Family Assistance	0.514	0.514	0.530	0.540	0.550
1.0	National Secretariats - Outcome 1	0.724	0.674	0.680	0.690	0.690
1.0	Payments to Universities and other organisations (Outcome 1)	0.082	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.090
	TOTAL 1.0 App Bill 1	1.320	1.267	1.289	1.310	1.330
1.0	GRAND TOTAL 1.0 Administered	1.320	1.267	1.289	1.310	1.330
1.1	Child Abuse Prevention	2.738	3.923	4.000	4.090	4.170
1.1	Domestic Violence Pilot Programs	1.360	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.1	Family Adjustment Payment	0.600	0.350	0.020	0.000	0.000
1.1	Family and Community Network Initiative	4.837	2.167	2.400	2.450	2.460
1.1	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	26.348	27.615	22.360	21.020	21.470
1.1	Indigenous Parenting and family well-being	1.255	2.038	2.070	1.849	1.888
1.1	Pre Marriage Education Vouchers	0.402	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.1	Services for Families LGA	2.400	2.160	2.190	2.220	2.270
1.1	Services for Families with children	6.609	6.121	5.690	5.780	5.900
1.1	Stronger Families and Communities Strategy: Families Initiative	0.608	18.495	24.280	31.110	31.760
	TOTAL 1.1 App Bill 1	47.157	62.869	63.010	68.519	69.918
1.1	Strengthening and Supporting Families Coping with Illicit Drug Use Measure	1.131	4.753	4.880	0.000	0.000
1.1	Services for Families with children SPP	0.354	0.360	0.360	0.370	0.380
1.1	TOTAL 1.1 App Bill 2	1.485	5.113	5.240	0.370	0.380
1.1	Double Orphan Pension	1.969	1.868	2.014	2.151	2.164
1.1	Family Allowance	12.824	0.214	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.1	Family Tax Benefit A	7728.231	8136.396	8278.685	8389.031	8607.794
1.1	Family Tax Benefit B	2157.440	2328.679	2354.249	2392.002	2446.658
1.1	Family Tax Payment	3.426	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.1	Maternity Allowance	224.554	222.536	226.279	231.711	236.398
1.1	TOTAL 1.1 Special Appropriations	10128.444	10689.693	10861.227	11014.895	11293.014
1.1	GRAND TOTAL 1.1 Administered	10177.086	10757.675	10929.477	11083.784	11363.312
1.1	1.1 Departmentals	409.670	419.899			
1.2	Ex Gratia payments to former Austudy Recipients whose payments limited by Youth Allowance	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.2	Reconnect (Youth Homelessness Early Intervention)	12.838	20.244	19.240	19.240	19.240
1.2	Youth Activities Services	6.500	6.601	6.680	6.780	6.930
1.2	Youth Homeless Pilot Program	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.2	The Mentoring Marketplace	0.000	0.000	0.802	1.372	2.250
1.2	Transition to Independent Living Allowance	0.000	0.000	0.897	2.560	2.560
1.2	TOTAL 1.2 App Bill 1	19.430	26.845	27.619	29.952	30.980
1.2	Austudy Payment	240.734	241.692	250.426	262.088	267.306
1.2	Fares Allowance	0.995	1.095	1.095	1.095	1.095
1.2	Student Financial Supplement Loans Scheme	174.076	159.233	159.119	159.119	159.119
1.2	Youth Allowance	2097.115	2259.407	2323.625	2389.174	2422.252
1.2	TOTAL 1.2 Special Appropriations	2512.920	2661.427	2734.265	2811.476	2849.772
1.2	GRAND TOTAL 1.2 Administered	2532.350	2688.272	2761.884	2841.428	2880.752
1.2	1.2 Departmentals	224.178	223.355			
1.3	Child Support Agency - Payments to cover cheque dishonours etc	0.867	0.802	1.680	1.690	1.690
1.3	TOTAL 1.3 App Bill 1	0.867	0.802	1.680	1.690	1.690
1.3	Child Support s77 - Shortfalls in CSA Trust	0.041	0.043	0.078	0.080	0.080
1.3	Child Support s78 - Unexplained Remittances	0.002	0.002	0.004	0.004	0.004
1.3	TOTAL 1.3 Special Appropriations	0.043	0.045	0.082	0.084	0.084
1.3	GRAND TOTAL 1.3 Administered	0.910	0.847	1.762	1.774	1.774
1.3	1.3 Departmentals	211.238	222.432			

FaCS Appropriations - 2001-2002 Budget Estimate						
Output	Program	RESOURCING (ACCRUAL) (\$M)				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.4	Childcare Assistance	17.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.4	Childcare Capital Loans	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.4	Childcare Services Capital LGA	0.930	0.540	0.530	0.320	0.320
1.4	Childcare Services Current LGA	44.480	46.170	47.850	49.610	49.730
1.4	Stronger Families and Communities Strategy: Child Care Initiative	0.500	4.290	4.830	4.920	5.020
1.4	Support for Childcare	118.862	122.943	126.980	129.780	130.090
1.4	Childcare for eligible parents undergoing training	10.103	10.363	11.991	12.230	12.476
1.4	TOTAL 1.4 App Bill 1	191.875	184.306	192.181	196.860	197.636
1.4	Support for Childcare SPP	12.494	11.155	10.480	9.810	10.060
1.4	TOTAL 1.4 App Bill 2	12.494	11.155	10.480	9.810	10.060
1.4	Childcare Benefit	989.383	1166.245	1260.082	1363.912	1392.621
1.4	Childcare Cash Rebate	50.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.4	TOTAL 1.4 Special Appropriations	1039.383	1166.245	1260.082	1363.912	1392.621
1.4	GRAND TOTAL 1.4 Administered	1243.752	1361.706	1462.743	1570.582	1600.317
1.4	1.4 Departmentals	148.980	127.867			
	Outcome 1 TOTAL App Bill 1	260.649	276.089	285.779	298.331	301.554
	Outcome 1 TOTAL App Bill 2	13.979	16.268	15.720	10.180	10.440
	Outcome 1 TOTAL Special Appropriations	13680.790	14517.410	14855.656	15190.367	15535.491
	Outcome 1 TOTAL Administered	13955.418	14809.767	15157.155	15498.878	15847.485
	Outcome 1 TOTAL Departmental	994.066	993.553			
2.0	National Secretariats - Outcome 2	0.673	0.674	0.680	0.690	0.690
2.0	TOTAL 2.0 App Bill 1	0.673	0.674	0.680	0.690	0.690
2.1	GRAND TOTAL 2.0 Administered	0.673	0.674	0.680	0.690	0.690
2.1	Family Homeless and Early Intervention Pilots	0.000	0.669	1.384	0.713	0.000
2.1	National Housing Priorities	0.980	0.348	0.360	0.360	0.360
2.1	National Housing Research	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420
2.1	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program - National priorities	1.008	1.408	0.810	0.810	0.810
2.1	TOTAL 2.1 App Bill 1	2.408	2.845	2.974	2.303	1.590
2.1	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) - Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (sub-item)	91.000	91.000	99.940	100.850	100.770
2.1	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) - Base Funding (sub-item)	843.050	833.575	824.190	725.230	716.030
2.1	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) - Community Housing Program (sub-item)	63.990	63.985	63.990	63.990	63.990
2.1	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) - Crisis Accommodation Program (sub-item)	39.660	39.660	39.660	39.660	39.660
2.1	Social Housing Subsidy Program (SHSP)	2.130	2.130	2.130	2.130	2.130
2.1	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (for expenditure under SAAA)	157.683	162.256	166.220	169.540	173.100
2.1	TOTAL 2.1 App Bill 2	1197.513	1192.606	1196.130	1101.400	1095.680
2.1	State Grants (Housing) Act 1971	5.500	2.750	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.1	TOTAL 2.1 Special Appropriations	5.500	2.750	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.1	GRAND TOTAL 2.1 Administered	1205.421	1198.201	1199.104	1103.703	1097.270
2.1	2.1 Departmentals	9.642	5.995			
2.2	Business and Community Sector Partnerships	2.381	5.704	2.480	2.430	2.480
2.2	Emergency Relief	26.117	26.414	27.100	27.750	28.450
2.2	GST Assistance Scheme	8.800	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.2	Indigenous Housing-and Infrastructure - expand the supply of healthy housing	0.000	0.500	2.563	3.152	3.231
2.2	National Research on Gambling	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
2.2	Postal Concessions to the Blind	5.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.2	Payments under s33 of the FMA Act	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070
2.2	Payments under special circumstances	0.005	0.005	0.010	0.010	0.010
2.2	Reimbursement to Great Southern Rail for concessional fares	2.565	2.660	2.730	2.790	2.860
2.2	Stronger Families and Communities Strategy: Communities Initiative	2.464	19.319	16.620	16.590	16.940
2.2	Volunteer Management Program	1.573	1.591	1.610	1.620	1.640
2.2	TOTAL 2.1 App Bill 1	49.475	56.963	53.683	54.912	56.181
2.2	Compensation for Extension of Fringe Benefits	164.480	170.857	176.830	183.080	189.760
2.2	TOTAL 2.2 App Bill 2	164.480	170.857	176.830	183.080	189.760
2.2	GRAND TOTAL 2.2 Administered	213.955	227.820	230.513	237.992	245.941
2.2	2.2 Departmentals	31.410	41.708			
	Outcome 2 TOTAL App Bill 1	52.556	60.482	57.337	57.905	58.461
	Outcome 2 TOTAL App Bill 2	1361.993	1363.463	1372.960	1284.480	1285.440
	Outcome 2 TOTAL Special Appropriations	5.500	2.750	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Outcome 2 TOTAL Administered	1420.049	1426.695	1430.297	1342.385	1343.901
	Outcome 2 TOTAL Departmental	41.052	47.703			

FaCS Appropriations - 2001-2002 Budget Estimate						
Output	Program	RESOURCING (ACCRUAL) (\$M)				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
3.0	National Secretariats - Outcome 3	0.673	0.674	0.680	0.690	0.690
3.0	Payments to Universities and other organisations (Outcome 3)	0.078	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.080
3.0	TOTAL 3.0 App Bill 1	0.751	0.753	0.760	0.770	0.770
3.0	GRAND TOTAL 3.0 Administered	0.751	0.753	0.760	0.770	0.770
3.1	Ex Gratia Payments to former Special Benefit recipients undertaking full-time courses	1.053	0.447	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.1	Ex-gratia Payments to partners of ABSTUDY Recipients	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.1	JET - Payments for training	3.344	3.399	3.730	4.680	4.920
3.1	Payment to Voluntary Work Agencies	1.603	1.888	2.310	3.480	3.910
3.1	Supported Participation Program	0.000	0.000	30.682	39.308	53.468
3.1	Welfare Reform Pilots	1.728	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.1	Welfare Reform Consultative Forum	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000
3.1	TOTAL 3.1 App Bill 1	7.978	6.134	37.122	47.468	62.298
3.1	Bereavement Allowance	0.761	0.840	0.861	0.890	0.911
3.1	Mature Age Allowance	350.653	397.459	447.942	446.616	368.588
3.1	Newstart Allowance	5057.930	5214.300	5044.356	4945.750	5147.543
3.1	Parenting Payment (Partnered)	1476.265	1406.264	1344.179	1327.817	1312.845
3.1	Parenting Payment (Single)	3851.045	4132.405	4394.933	4619.619	4886.015
3.1	Partner Allowance (Benefit)	349.077	368.400	371.566	304.762	150.352
3.1	Partner Allowance (Pension)	369.718	425.944	469.214	434.576	280.619
3.1	Pensioner Education Supplement	55.490	59.813	64.995	70.652	74.417
3.1	Special Benefit	112.730	151.643	204.765	239.115	263.960
3.1	Widow Allowance	330.058	390.384	441.849	496.516	547.805
3.1	TOTAL 3.1 Special Appropriations	11953.727	12547.452	12784.660	12886.313	13033.055
3.1	GRAND TOTAL 3.1 Administered	11961.705	12553.586	12821.782	12933.781	13095.353
3.1	3.1 Departmentals	492.107	538.033			
3.2	Employment Assistance and other Services(inc Exp under DSA 1986)	279.826	287.719	309.520	347.350	372.420
3.2	Disability Services Current LGA (Local Gov. Authorities)(Sub-item)	1.240	1.300	1.330	1.370	1.420
3.2	Pilot program to assist clients with severe disabilities	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.2	Ex Gratia payments to young Disability Support Pension recipients	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.2	TOTAL 3.2 App Bill 1	281.189	289.019	310.850	348.720	373.840
3.2	Commonwealth - State Disability Agreement	427.764	501.165	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.2	TOTAL 3.2 App Bill 2	427.764	501.165	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.2	Disability Support Pension	5815.966	6269.640	6671.178	7128.183	7511.553
3.2	Mobility Allowance	59.378	68.036	75.302	81.684	87.982
3.2	Sickness Allowance	94.046	93.483	92.571	95.393	97.046
3.2	Wife Pension (DSP)	445.794	395.352	342.051	297.063	250.043
3.2	TOTAL 3.2 Special Appropriations	6415.184	6826.511	7181.102	7602.323	7946.624
3.2	GRAND TOTAL 3.2 Administered	7124.137	7616.695	7491.952	7951.043	8320.464
3.2	3.2 Departmentals	355.250	360.209			
3.3	Carer Allowance Adult	244.104	310.820	358.603	409.358	461.259
3.3	Carer Allowance Child	287.148	311.454	333.792	358.451	383.358
3.3	Carer Payment	479.714	594.399	721.197	861.517	1007.029
3.3	TOTAL 3.3 Special Appropriations	1010.966	1216.673	1413.592	1629.326	1851.646
3.3	GRAND TOTAL 3.3 Administered	1010.966	1216.673	1413.592	1629.326	1851.646
3.3	3.3 Departmentals	20.403	19.606			
3.4	Ex gratia payments to "top up" the Aged Persons Savings Bonus	22.500	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.4	National Information Centre on Retirement Investments	0.430	0.439	0.450	0.460	0.460
3.4	TOTAL 3.4 App Bill 1	22.930	2.939	0.450	0.460	0.460
3.4	One-off Payment to Seniors	547.700	9.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.4	Age Pension	15695.193	16463.695	17365.721	18263.055	19184.297
3.4	Aged Persons Savings Bonus	1733.938	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.4	Self Funded Retirees Supplementary Bonus	661.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.4	Widow B Pension	76.513	63.849	51.564	43.924	35.789
3.4	Wife Pension (Age)	232.236	214.308	182.804	163.726	135.644
3.4	Telephone Allowance to Seniors	0.000	20.400	20.900	21.500	22.000
3.4	TOTAL 3.4 Special Appropriations	18946.680	16771.252	17620.989	18492.205	19377.730
3.4	GRAND TOTAL 3.4 Administered	18969.610	16774.191	17621.439	18492.665	19378.190
3.4	3.4 Departmentals	233.993	234.723			
	Outcome 3 TOTAL App Bill 1	312.848	298.845	349.182	397.418	437.368
	Outcome 3 TOTAL App Bill 2	427.764	501.165	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Outcome 3 TOTAL Special Appropriations	38326.557	37361.888	39000.343	40610.167	42209.055
	Outcome 3 TOTAL Administered	39067.169	38161.898	39349.525	41007.585	42646.423
	Outcome 3 TOTAL Departmental	1101.753	1152.571			

FaCS Appropriations - 2001-2002 Budget Estimate						
Output	Program	RESOURCING (ACCRUAL) (\$M)				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	FaCS TOTAL App Bill 1	626.053	635.416	692.298	753.654	797.383
	FaCS TOTAL App Bill 2	1803.736	1880.896	1388.680	1294.660	1295.880
	FaCS Total Annual Apps	2429.789	2516.312	2080.978	2048.314	2093.263
	FaCS TOTAL Special Appropriations	52012.847	51882.048	53855.999	55800.534	57744.546
	Provisional Estimates (Commonwealth State Disability Agreement 2002/03 on)			409.979	418.178	426.543
	FaCS TOTAL Administered	54442.636	54398.360	56346.956	58267.026	60264.352
	FaCS TOTAL Departmental	2136.871	2193.827	2294.433	2247.475	2217.478
	FaCS GRAND TOTAL Estimates	56579.507	56592.187	58641.389	60514.501	62481.830
NB	Departmental output splits for 02-03 on will be done through internal FaCS processes just before the start of each new Financial Year					

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 53(a)

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA314

Senator Evans asked:

What assumptions drive these estimates (including Australian and international experiences used to draw up these assumptions)?

Answer:

- The process for estimating savings is as follows:
 - Establish, by forward projection of historical FaCS data, the maximum number of people that could be affected by measures;
 - Estimate the number that are likely to be affected in particular ways (eg return to full time or part time work, reporting of increased income, breach penalties) based on historical information about related programs, specific pilots, and international experience with similar reforms;
 - Calculate the impact on income support expenditure based on the discounted numbers and adjustments for displacement of other people from work who subsequently gain income support entitlements.
- Assumptions about the numbers of customers likely to be affected by measures and the impact of the package on income support expenditure are conservative and informed by specific research:
 - Relevant data has been available from a number of Australian programs, trials and pilots conducted by FaCS including the Jobs, Education and Training Program, the Assessment and Contestability Trial, the Parenting Payment Intervention Pilot, the Mature Age Participation Pilot, the Workless Families Pilot and the Newstart Allowance/Youth Allowance Incapacitated Customers Pilot;
 - International experience has been particularly relevant in estimating savings from measures affecting parents (the UK New Deal for Lone Parents program) and the Working Credit (OECD and US information).
- Offsets arising from expanded Mutual Obligation and older worker measures are based on historical Centrelink data and FaCS commissioned breach and participation rate data to calculate estimates of percentage of customers who find work, full or part-time, or who are breached. These figures have been adjusted for age and payment type and for displacement effects.

Assumptions which have informed the estimate of savings from helping parents return to work are:

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- Once the measure is fully implemented, the number of customers with a youngest child of school age is expected to be 3% lower (net of displacement), as a result of compulsory interviews. This is supported by:
 - Experience in the UK with the New Deal for Lone Parents that achieved a 3.3% reduction (also net of displacement) in customer numbers from a voluntary interview.
 - Recent FaCS experience which found a 2% increase in exit rates from sending a letter requiring parents to attend a review interview at their Centrelink office.
- There is also expected to be an increase in the number of Parenting Payment recipients who have earnings, and an increase in the level of earnings for those already working. It is expected that 5% of interviewed customers and 10% of activity tested Parenting Payment recipients will report new part time work, and similar percentages of those already working are expected to report increased earnings.
 - These assumptions are considered conservative. A similar programme in Oregon, US, showed a 10% increase in part time work.

The following assumptions have informed the estimate of savings from people with disabilities:

- The assumptions about decrease in the DSP grant rate and increase in DSP customers cancelled on review are informed by data from the Assessment and Contestability Trial. This data suggests that up to 5 percent of trial participants recently granted DSP would actually have the capacity to work 30 hours or more per week without intervention.
- In relation to changes to the Newstart and Youth Allowance (Incapacitated) assessment process, data from the Newstart (Incapacitated) Trial suggests that closer scrutiny of customers seeking exemption from the activity test due to incapacity will result in around 22 percent not being granted an exemption. Of those customers not granted an exemption, 3% are assumed to leave payment due to taking up employment.
- Assumptions about increased earnings by customers with disabilities were derived from disability employment assistance data, which shows that around 42 percent of people who take up employment assistance places move into a job. Data from the 1999 Open and Supported Employment Services Census suggests that, of these, around 36 percent will receive a reduced rate of income support.
- The Working Credit measure is the major measure impacting on all customer groups. Assumptions about the impact of Working Credit on reported customer earnings were based on Australian evidence of a number of previous changes to income tests. It is now known that previous income test liberalisations have all demonstrated positive behavioural effects on workforce participation and reporting of earnings. OECD and US-based research shows the highest impact of financial incentives on behaviour when improved financial incentives are introduced at the same time as requirements and additional servicing, such as across this whole package. The major group expected to increase both the **amount** of earnings reported and the **proportion** of people reporting

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earnings are those on Newstart Allowance. Second round effects of people moving to full time work as a result of this incentive were not taken into account in the estimated savings.

- Assumptions that have informed the estimate of savings from mature age people are:
 - Increased numbers of customers declaring earnings and an increase in part time work;
 - A conservative estimate of an increase of 1% of customers leaving payment entirely to take up full-time work – discounted for displacement effects;
 - Entitlement reviews resulting in downward variations of payments (3.7% of entitlement reviews) and identification of debts (1% of entitlement reviews);
 - A very small breaching rate (research shows that older people breach at less than a quarter of the breach rate for younger people).

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 53(b)

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA314

Senator Evans asked:

How many people need to go back to work to save you \$600 million?

Answer:

- The estimated \$600 million saving accrues from various measures and is derived from people going back to full and part-time work or increasing the amount of work they do at various points over the four year period of the forward estimates. These customers may be receiving a variety of payments, including Newstart, Parenting Payment, Disability Support Pension, and associated allowances. Therefore, the number below is indicative only and subject to the above qualification.
- To save \$600m in Newstart Allowance expenditure over four years would require 17,836 current customers to remain off payment for the entire period. The same amount could be saved from more people reporting increased incomes that are insufficient to remove them completely from payment or a smaller number of people leaving higher value payments.
- The calculation is based on an average rate of Newstart Allowance of \$323.46 per fortnight as at 1 June 2001, and disregards workforce displacement and people moving between payments or moving on and off payment relatively quickly.

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 53(c)

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA 313

Senator Evans asked:

Are you able to break down the \$900 million by programs at all? Even if you cannot give the exact figures, what is the nature of the DSP contribution to these savings?

Answer:

- *Australians Working Together* is a complex package whose various elements interact, and where different measures may impact in offsetting ways on the one program type. We also expect that measures will work together to produce combined effects in a number of instances (eg, annual interviews for parents, Participation Pack and Working Credit).
- However, with this qualification, the table below provides an attribution of the total package saving to the main payment programs. It includes programs where the package will lead to additional expenditure as well as those where there are savings, and shows the estimated savings across the forward estimates period.

Program	20001-02 \$	2002-03 \$	2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	Total \$
Employment (Newstart, Youth Allowance – Unemployed)	0	-33.967	133.138	617.397	716.568
Disability (DSP, Carer Payment)	0	-30.889	-79.48	-111.535	-221.904
Parenting Payment	0	-55.514	-182.947	-211.296	-449.757
Mature Age, Partner, Widow Wife Allowances	0	-10.34	-252.744	-751.661	-1014.745
Other (eg Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Family Tax Benefit A)	0	-0.819	8.725	38.368	46.274
		-131.529	-373.308	-418.727	-923.564

- The figures for employment programs show an overall net increase because they include a proportion of people who would under existing rules be expected to claim and receive from other payments such as Mature Age and Partner Allowance rather than moving off payment (approximately \$1 billion) and people who will go on to Newstart instead of Disability Support Pension (approximately \$200 million). This overshadows reductions in Newstart Allowance as a result of the changes to employment programs and the Working Credit (approximately \$150 million).

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- Savings on Parenting Payment are largely attributable to increased activity as a result of the Parents Measure (approximately \$270 million) and an increase in reported earnings as a result of the Working Credit (approximately \$180 million).
- The majority of Disability Support Pension (DSP) savings derive from the new assessment procedures leading to slightly higher rejection and cancellation rates. Savings also derive from more customers reporting earnings as a result of the Working Credit as well as better linkages to interventions and more help to find work through the increase in employment assistance and rehabilitation places. No DSP savings result from breaching.
- Majority of savings from Mature Age Allowance will be realised in 2004-05 when the payment is closed off and people formerly eligible for this payment will claim Newstart – this change is reflected in the offsetting positive adjustment for Newstart Allowance.

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Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 53(d)

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA315

Senator Evans asked:

Provide a breakdown by elements of the projected \$923 million savings.

Answer:

- \$923 million is the estimated savings figure for the entire *Australians Working Together Package*. It includes figures for measures being implemented by FaCS, DEWRSB and DETYA.
- Answers to questions 53(a), (b) and (c) are also relevant to this question. In summary:
 - savings are not listed by measure because of the complexity of the package, with individual measures interacting;
 - savings are conservative, being discounted for displacement effects;
 - savings derive from three major sources: people coming off payment or receiving reduced payment as a result of increased earnings; decreases in payments as a result of identification of incorrect payments through entitlement reviews; and breaching.
- Income support savings in relation to declared return to work or increased earnings, “behavioural savings” are expected to be \$587 million over four years, 63% of total savings. In addition, it is expected that entitlement reviews will identify savings from incorrect payments in relation to earnings. These savings are expected to be \$304 million over four years, 33% of expected savings. They also include some cases where people no longer qualify to receive payments. Savings in relation to financial penalties applied where people fail to meet requirements, “breaching savings”, are expected to be minor, estimated at \$33 million over four years, less than 4% of expected savings.
- Savings are cumulative over the four years of the package, as more and more people are helped to go back to work.
- Total savings were published in Budget Paper 2. This is our best estimate of the net effect of the package as a whole over the four years.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2001-2002 Budget Estimates, 30 May 2001

Output Group: Cross All Outcomes

Question No: 53(e)

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA315

Senator Evans asked:

For information on numbers assisted by measure.

Answer:

- For older workers, approximately 170,000 customers will be offered Voluntary Participation Planning, with approximately 35,000 expected to take up the offer. There will be a total of 10,400 additional funded places.
- 10,000 Widow Allowees per year will have Participation Planning Interviews. There will be 1,000 additional funded places per year.
- 200,000 new claimants and current customers will be subject to new flexible participation requirements for older Newstart Allowances. There will be 11,400 new additional funded places over four years.
- Changes to DSP assessment procedures will potentially affect all new applicants for DSP (approximately 100,000 people a year) and around 50,000 current DSP customers a year when their DSP eligibility is reviewed.
- Approximately 58,750 NSA/YA customers seeking exemption from the activity test due to incapacity each year will be affected by changes to NSA/YA assessment processes.
- 12,300 specialist employment assistance places will be created to help jobseekers with disabilities (this is in addition to planned growth funding for 5,000 employment assistance places over the forward estimates period). A further 11,000 rehabilitation assistance places will also be created.
- There are currently around 340,000 work-force age customers with reported earnings who, depending on their earnings patterns, could benefit from the Working Credit. It is expected that the number of customers reporting earnings and the amounts of earnings reported by existed earners will increase as a result of the impact of the total AWT package, and therefore new earners are also likely to benefit from the Working Credit. The customers who will receive the greatest benefit will be those with low private income and who have been receiving income support payments long enough to build up a significant Working Credit balance. These are the people who face the greatest financial barriers to taking up employment.

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- From September, 2002, approximately, 280,000 new Parenting Payment customers per annum will be given information about the benefits of work and the assistance available to help them return to work.
- Approximately 87,000 parents with a youngest child aged 12-15 will have annual planning interviews to help them plan for a return to work each year.
- There will be approximately 38,000 funded placements per annum on full implementation in expanded access to education, training and support services for parents.
- From July 2003, part time activity requirements for parents with a youngest child aged 13-15 will involve approximately 64,000 customers per annum.
- Extension of annual planning interviews to parents with a youngest child aged 6-11 will affect 184,000 customers per annum.

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Output Group: Cross-Outcome

Question No: 42

Topic: Declining Fertility

Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

- a) Has the Department undertaken any analysis of the social and economic implications of Australia's declining fertility rate? If so, could a copy be provided?
- b) With Australia's fertility rate below replacement level, with the number of babies born each year in decline since 1991, with the number of couples without children having overtaken the number of couples with children, has the Department undertaken any analysis or considered measures to reverse this trend, such as, for example, measures to remove disincentives to parenting and making it easier for women to combine work and family?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Family and Community Services released Occasional Paper No. 2, *Low fertility: a discussion paper*, in February 2001. As a discussion paper the paper represents the views of the author and does not represent the views of the Government, the Minister for Family and Community Services, the Department of Family and Community Services or any Commonwealth department.

The Paper may be accessed at:

[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/occasional_papers/\\$file/No.2.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/occasional_papers/$file/No.2.pdf)

- b) The paper provided a general overview of the data available up to that time. It considered whether the decline in the fertility rate matters in terms of social policy and reviewed relevant academic work relating to possible causes. It broadly considered policy intervention and briefly nominated some broad strategies that could be considered by government.

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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 43

Topic: Income Test

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

As the system of assessing income for the purposes of the income test on an annual basis prevents some families receiving as much assistance as others in similar circumstances, has the Department considered using an income averaging approach so that families making a change from two to one income could be allowed to average their income over two financial years to allow a more realistic assessment of their situation?

Answer:

No.

The new rules for Family Tax Benefit are much simpler and all families receive exactly what they are entitled to. Families receive exactly the same entitlement whether they claim as fortnightly payments or through the tax system.

The new family assistance arrangements now have a consistent definition of income. Although families can receive many different forms of income under a variety of circumstances, taxable income provides a fair and objective measure of relative financial need, and an appropriate way to target family assistance.

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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 44

Topic: Income limits

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

Has the Department undertaken any analysis of the cost of increasing the income limits for the payment of minimum rate Family Tax Benefit Part A from the present \$76,249 per annum (for one child)?

Answer:

No.

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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 46

Topic: Changes to the payment structure

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

Has the Department considered continuing the tax-free threshold for single- income families and not cutting it out when the youngest child turns five?

Answer:

No. Family Tax Benefit Part B, which replaced six different tax rebates and payments from 1 July 2000, provides additional assistance to single income families, including sole parents. This payment provides more assistance for families with a child under five, to help these families choose a balance of family and work responsibilities appropriate to them while their children are very young.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 47

Topic: Tax-free thresholds

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

Families who have one parent (usually the mother) undertaking the full-time caring role have only \$5000 added to the tax free threshold rather than the full \$6000 threshold that is accorded to paid workers. Has the Department received submissions and/or considered changing this situation?

Answer:

The Department has not directly received such a submission but is aware of a recent submission to the Government from the Women's Action Alliance, which included a recommendation on this issue. The Department has not given consideration to changing the current arrangements for Family Tax Benefit Part B, which were implemented on 1 July 2000.

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ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 48

Topic: Maternity Allowance

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

Has the Department undertaken an analysis of the social and economic effects of increasing the Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance for all mothers of newborns, particularly those who do not qualify for full time paid maternity leave? If so, could a copy of such analysis be provided?

Answer:

No, the Department has not undertaken this analysis.

Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance are paid to over 90 per cent of families with newborns, and is paid regardless of whether they receive paid maternity leave. In addition, the Government provides substantial assistance to families through Family Tax Benefit of up to \$5,632 per year for a family with one child and this is increased by up to \$3,839 per year for each additional child (2000-01 rates).

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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 49

Topic: Maternity Allowance

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

At present most two income families face a drastic reduction in income when a baby arrives. Few have access to paid maternity leave and the FaCS Maternity Allowance is too little and too tightly means tested to be a substitute. Has the Department undertaken any analysis on the issues of providing a substantial payment approaching the value of about three months worth of average weekly earnings in the first year of each newborn's life, subject to an income test on the caring parents income to ensure that one parent stayed at home for the first year? If so, could a copy of any such analysis be provided?

Answer:

No, the Department has not undertaken this analysis.

Maternity Allowance is an income tested, lump sum payment intended to assist with the costs of a new baby. In 2000-01 it was paid to families with combined income of less than \$76,249 (plus \$6,248 for each additional child) which is over 90 per cent of all families with dependent children. Family Tax Benefit is also available to these families. Specifically, Family Tax Benefit, Part B, provides extra assistance to single income families, with a higher rate for families with a child under the age of five.

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Output Group: Cross all Outcomes – Budget Measures

Question No: 50

Topic: Overseas Adoption

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

- a) Given that US and Europe offer tax breaks of up to \$10,000 for couples pursuing overseas adoption, has the Department considered any proposals to improve the situation for prospective adoptive couples who often find the cost of adoption an overwhelming obstacle?
- b) Has the Department also considered requests to extend maternity allowance to adoptive couples?
- c) How has the Department responded to submissions from inter country adoption groups on these matters?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) Adoptive parents have been eligible for Maternity Allowance since its introduction in February 1996 where adoptive parents lodged a claim within 26 weeks of the child's birth, giving adoptive parents 13 weeks more than natural parents to assist in making the necessary arrangements.

These rules for adoptive parents were further relaxed on 1 July 2000 to recognise the nature of adoption procedures. Maternity Allowance can now be paid to adoptive parents where the child is not over 26 weeks old when placed in their care. Adoptive parents can now also lodge claims, providing they are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A, at some time within 13 weeks of the child's placement, rather than the birth.

- c) The Department is not aware of any formal submissions from inter country adoption groups.

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Output Group: Cross Outcome - 1 Stronger Families

Question No: 9

Topic: Details of the Seminar attended by Dr Ellen Galinsky

Hansard Page: CA275 / 276

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What was the total cost of the Seminar?
- b) Agenda and attendance at the seminar.
- c) What was the cost of attendance by Dr Galinsky, including commission work?
- d) What was the cost to the department of the Sydney business forum?

Answer:

Details of the Seminar attended by Dr Ellen Galinsky

Former Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Jocelyn Newman, approved the Marriage and Family Council recommendation to convene a conference on children's views on work and family. Leading US researcher Ellen Galinsky, as keynote speaker, would present her research on children's perspectives of their working parents. A nominal amount of \$70,000 was allocated under the Stronger Families and Community Strategy to convene the event.

The purpose of the Conference was to raise awareness of, and inject into the work and family debate, an alternative, children's perspective for examining the issue. It also served to highlight findings of an Australian study of children's perspectives of their working parents conducted by the Institute of Family Studies.

Key themes for the Conference drew on the messages highlighted in Ellen Galinsky's research such as:

- the importance of values, strong and caring family relationships and intentional parenting;
- need to move the debate beyond whether mothers should work or not as a parent's work life is not a predictor of how children assess their parent's parenting skills;
- when family life is going well, work life is also likely to be going well, ie one side does not necessarily take away from the other.

a) What was the total cost of the Conference?

\$57,342

b) Agenda and attendance at the seminar.

The Agenda for the Conference is at Attachment A. A total of 134 people attended comprising representatives from government, business, academia and the community.

c) What was the cost of attendance by Dr Galinsky, including commission work?

The total costs for Dr Galinsky's attendance at two functions – the Conference and the Business Forum - was \$38,452 (includes airfares, fees, accommodation/travel allowance and provision of books to participants).

d) What was the cost to the department of the Sydney business forum?

\$22,876

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FINAL PROGRAM
CONFERENCE ON FAMILY AND WORK : LISTEN TO OUR CHILDREN
2 MAY 2001

AM

- 8.00 Registration
- 9.00 Welcome
Ms Pauline Frick
Chair, Marriage and Family Council
- 9.10 Opening Address
Senator Amanda Vanstone
Minister for Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
- 9.30 Keynote presentation
Ellen Galinsky
Q' and A's
- 11.00 Morning Tea
- 11.30 Dr David Rosalky
Secretary
Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
- Dr Virginia Lewis
Research Officer, AIFS
"Work and Family : The Family's Perspective"
Q's and A's
- 12.30 Lunch

PM

- 1.30 Reach Youth Theatre presentation
- 2.00 Afternoon sessions

"Parenting and Work"	"New Perspectives on Children, Work, Community"
Panelists: Ms Jeannette Harrison Ms Marinella Mendes Ms Liz Broderick Dr Margaret Lindorff Q's and A's	Panelists: Dr Graeme Russell Prof Pierre Baume Dr Don Edgar Ms Kerri Watson Q's and A's

- 3.30 Global café "Making Family and Work More Compatible"
Dr Tricia Szirom
- 5.00 Close

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance
Topic: Marriage and Family Council

Question No: 10

Hansard Page: CA277

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide the Terms of Reference and membership of the Marriage and Family Council.

Answer:

Terms of Reference for the Marriage and Family Council

1. The Marriage and Family Council advises the Minister for Family and Community Services generally on ways to enhance marriage and family relationships. The Council is an important element of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to develop a National Families Strategy.
2. The Marriage and Family Council will:
 - i. Make recommendations to the Minister on improving the effectiveness of marriage and relationship education, with a particular emphasis on who would most benefit and how to reach them;
 - ii. Advise on appropriate service approaches including oversight of the trial of vouchers for pre-marriage course and information kits;
 - iii. Provide comment and advice on existing research and identify areas for future research in the area of enhancing marriage and relationships;
 - iv. Provide comment and advice on relevant reports, discussion papers or other materials relevant to enhancing marriage and relationships;
 - v. Assist in the dissemination and coordination of information on enhancing marriage and relationships in conjunction with the national family strategy;
 - vi. Promote and contribute to the development of the national family strategy
3. In performing its functions, the Council will, as possible within resource constraints, consult with service providers, educational and research institutions, and community organisations.
4. The Council will contribute to relevant departmental publications on, and the overall development of, the national family strategy to strengthen and support families in consultation with the family policy unit in the Department of Family and Community Services.
5. The Council will provide the Minister with a report of its operations after each meeting.

Charter – 1999

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Membership of the Marriage and Family Council

Chair: Ms Pauline Frick, Executive Director, Centacare Whyalla

- Mr Joe Calleja, Director Court Support Services, Ministry of Justice, WA State Government;
- Ms Joanne Cavanagh, Director, Southern Family Life Service Association Ltd;
- Ms Belinda Curtis, Corporate Diversity Manager, AMP;
- Mrs Elizabeth Dalzell, Relationship Counsellor, Wesley Mission Perth;
- Ms Dianne Gibson, National, Director, Relationships Australia;
- Mr Jeremy Nott, Assistant Secretary, Family Relationships Branch, Department of Family and Community Services;
- Mr Lin Reilly, Director of Counselling Services, Lifeline Counselling, Ipswich;
- Dr Graeme Russell, Associate Professor in Psychology, Macquarie University;
- Ms Michele Simons, Lecturer, University of South Australia;
- Mr David Stanton, Director, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 20

Topic: National Illicit Drug Strategy: Strengthening and Supporting Families with Illicit Drug Use Measure

Hansard Page: CA 301/ 302/ 303

Senator Denman asked:

- a) Please provide a breakdown of money allocation by State/Territory.
- b) Details of each State/Territory specific plan.
- c) Details of any groups or reference bodies which affect decision making/policy formulation.
- d) Plan for expenditure.
- e) Please provide the various ways states are spending the money according to the memorandum.

Answer:

- a) The breakdown of money for each State and Territory for the Family Support component of the National Illicit Drug Strategy is:

State/Territory	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total
New South Wales	570,000	885,000	895,000	905,000	3,255,000
Victoria	420,000	653,000	653,000	653,000	2,379,000
Queensland	460,000	460,000	460,000	460,000	1,840,000
Western Australia	322,500	292,500	277,500	277,500	1,170,000
South Australia	237,000	237,000	237,000	237,000	948,000
Tasmania	60,000	93,000	93,000	104,000	350,000
Australian Capital Territory	92,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	407,000
Northern Territory	80,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	410,000

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b) Each State and Territory's specific plan is listed below. Please note New South Wales, Northern Territory and Queensland's Memorandums of Understanding have not been signed and therefore their plans are in draft format.

State / Territory	Program Name / Description
Australian Capital Territory	<u>Parent Education and Support Program:</u> Group education and support program for parents of 12-17 year olds with an emphasis on the development of effective communication skills for parents around illicit drug use issues within the family.

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New South Wales (Draft)	<u>1. Telephone Advice and Referral Service:</u> Expansion of an existing service to a 24 hour 7 days per week service which provides advice to parents of a young person suffering the effects of illicit drug use. <u>2. On-line Information Service:</u> An on-line information service for families affected by illicit drugs. <u>3. Family Drug Kit:</u> Information for families about a range of drugs, early warning signs of drug use, how to protect young people from drug use and treatment information. <u>4. Provision of Training Material:</u> Provision of materials for community health centres and communities to help assist families and carers of drug users in relation to cannabis dependence, home detoxification and heroin overdose prevention. <u>5. Visits Service / Family Support:</u> 5 Pilot projects to offer family support specifically targeted for drug related family problems.
Northern Territory (Draft)	<u>Remote Communities Project:</u> Developmental workshops for 20 remote communities across Northern Territory. Program will be implemented with frontline workers and aims to develop interventions relevant for remote indigenous communities to help families deal with drug use issues.
Queensland (Draft)	<u>1. Parent Education and Support Program:</u> Expansion of an existing program to provide parents with the skills to deal with their child's illicit drug use. There will be a specific focus on understanding drug use, effective communication, and conflict resolution. <u>2. Intensive Family Intervention Program:</u> Targeted to provide family support to parents from indigenous or culturally diverse backgrounds in the central Brisbane, Logan and Inala areas.
South Australia	<u>Kinship Support Service:</u> A service targeted to indigenous families affected by illicit drug use. Provision of education, counselling and referral services and linking families and their kinship networks to other appropriate services. The service will be delivered in North –Western metropolitan Adelaide.
Tasmania	<u>Family Support Model:</u> A staged, cross-sector project involving the coordination and development of existing Family Support and Drug and Alcohol Services. The second stage will involve the resourcing of services to provide specifically targeted intervention to families affected by illicit drug use.
Victoria	<u>About Better Communication about Drugs Program (ABCD):</u> Preventative program aimed at preparing parents to deal with drug use issues involving adolescence. There will be a specific focus on communication, information about drugs, developmental issues, values, local support services etc. Targeted to socially and economically disadvantaged and non english speaking backgrounds and indigenous parents. Program will be delivered across 10 sites including 8 metropolitan and 2 regional areas.
Western Australia	<u>Family Program Supporting Police Diversion:</u> Expansion of the Community Drug Service Teams to help provide Information and advice, counselling, outreach support and follow-up. Program is designed to complement the Police Diversion Program. Target groups are all families of drug users diverted by police into compulsory interventions. Drug users targeted are under 18, still living at home and first time offenders.

c) The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is integral in the development of each State and Territory's project proposals. Each project proposal developed by the State and Territory needs to be endorsed by the ANCD.

There will also be management arrangements between the service provider, respective State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government. This collaborative

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partnership will be responsible for policy development, administering the funding, providing service support, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of each initiative and service delivery. Also, each State and Territory has a State and Territory Reference Group that oversees and monitors all Commonwealth – funded diversion programs.

d) The expenditure plan for the National Illicit Drug Strategy is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure Amount
2000-01	2,241,500
2001-02	2,835,500
2002-03	2,831,000
2003-04	2,851,000
	Total: 10,759,000

e) Currently, all State and Territory are involved in tender based processes to select community and non-government organisations to deliver the services.

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Output Group: Outcome 1 – Stronger Families

Question No: 29

Topic: Family Allowance estimate overpayments

Hansard Page: CA293

Senator Evans asked:

Please confirm the total number of estimate overpayments in the last year of the old regime.

Answer:

Centrelink advise a total of 44,445 Family Allowance customers had an estimate debt raised in the 1999/2000 financial year.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance
Topic: Family Program Outlays

Question No: 11 & 12

Hansard Page: CA305

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Please provide a table that summarises the outlays by payment type under the old family tax payments system and the new FTB/CCB arrangements.
- b) Please quantify or tabulate the tax systems changes

Answer:

The table below shows outlays under both the tax and social security family assistance arrangements prior to 1 July 2000 and estimated outlays for Family Tax Benefit and Childcare Benefit in relation to the 2000-2001 financial year.

1999-00 Program	(\$million)	2000-01 Program	(\$million)
Family Allowance including Minimum Rate Family Allowance	6,560	Family Tax Benefit Part A payments through FaCS portfolio	7,728
Family Tax Payment, Part A and Part B	531		
Family Tax Assistance, Part A	300	Family Tax Benefit Part B payments through FaCS portfolio	2,157
Basic Parenting Payment	645		
Guardian Allowance	340		
Dependent Spouse Rebate (with child)	110		
Sole Parent Rebate	236	Family Tax Benefit payments through tax system	1,340
Family Tax Assistance, Part B	86		
Childcare Cash Rebate	126	Child Care Benefit	1,056
Child Care Assistance (including Child Care Assistance SPP)	749		
Total	9,683		12,281

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 15

Topic: Income free areas for large families

Hansard Page: CA310

Senator Evans asked:

If the family was large enough, would it have been possible for there to be no increase in their income free area? Is that the way the taper worked?

Answer:

With the introduction of Family Tax Benefit on 1 July 2000, of the 1.8 million families who received Family Tax Benefit, some 280 families with nine or more children would not have had their income free area increased. However, these families would have benefited from the increase in payments of at least \$140 per child per year and the reduction in the taper rate from 50 per cent to 30 per cent. This combined with the reduced taper rates means that large families benefited significantly from the tax reform changes.

For example, eligible families with nine children received a real increase of at least \$1260 per year. As a result of the reduction in the taper rate such a family can earn \$24,700 a year more and still receive more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 16

Topic: Large Family Supplement

Hansard Page: CA310

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Did the Large Family Supplement go up by four per cent?
- b) Is it indexed like other payments?

Answer:

- a) No. Large Family Supplement was indexed on 1 July 2000 to take account of the CPI increase for the period July to December 1999. Under Tax Reform, Australian families who were entitled to at least the base rate of Family Tax Benefit, including large families, were given an increase of at least \$140 per child per year.
- b) Large Family Supplement is indexed along with Family Tax Benefit on 1 July each year. On 1 July 2001, Large Family Supplement was indexed for the CPI increase in the period January to December 2000.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 13

Topic: Tax Instalments

Hansard Page: CA 306

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide figures on those who will use the opportunity to reduce their tax instalments throughout the year.

Answer:

The Australian Taxation Office advises that they are unable to provide figures on these customers as this data is not collected from employers.

The ATO had previously estimated, based on past experience, that between 10,000 and 20,000 customers may seek to anticipate their end of year Family Tax Benefit entitlement as reduced PAYG withholdings. However, it is emphasised that this was an estimate and that Family Tax Benefit is very different from the entitlements which it replaces. This in turn could generate different customer behaviour than experienced in the past.

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Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance

Question No: 14

Topic: Indexation arrangements

Hansard Page: CA308

Senator Evans asked:

How did the transition from Family Allowance to Family Tax Benefit impact on indexation arrangements?

Answer:

The previous Family Allowance was indexed on 1 January each year using the CPI increases which occurred in the previous July to June period.

On 1 January 2000, Family Allowance was indexed as normal for changes to the CPI which occurred in the period July 1998 to June 1999. When Family Tax Benefit was introduced the indexation point was changed to 1 July. The rates were indexed again on 1 July 2000 to provide for the CPI changes in the period July to December 1999 to ensure that this period of indexation was also included in setting the rate of FTB. On 1 July 2001, FTB was indexed for the CPI increase in the period January to December 2000.

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Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support

Question No: 17

Topic: Youth Poverty

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

With reference to ACOSS statistics released on 10 May 2001 showing 80,000 students are living below the Henderson poverty line and the St Vincent de Paul report titled "Two Australias" which found that many young Australians are being left behind as the gap between 'the haves and have nots' in Australia widens:

- a) Has the Department made a formal response to the findings contained in these public reports? Please provide copies of any response/s made.
- b) Are any FACS officers delegated to monitor or respond in any way to such reports? Please provide details.
- c) Please detail the nature of any liaison between FACS and DETYA on responding to such reports, and on student welfare issues and measures generally?

Answer:

- a) No
- b) Strategic Policy and Analysis Branch monitors such reports. The Department does not normally respond to such reports. Reports regarding youth issues are also monitored by Youth and Students Branch.
- c) FaCS and DETYA liaise in regards to student welfare issues and measures. FaCS and DETYA are working together on the Youth Allowance Evaluation and consider possible responses to issues raised in such reports on an ongoing basis.

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Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Students

Question No: 18

Topic: Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce Report

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Given that the Youth Pathways Action Plan taskforce was announced on the 1 September 1999, and reported in January as a major part of the government's response to the 1996 Prime Minister's Youth Homelessness Taskforce's final report 'Putting Families in the Picture', why did the Government delay making a comprehensive and funded response to this latest Prime Ministerial taskforce report in the 2001-02 budget?
- b) Given that the taskforce has already consulted extensively with all stakeholder groups during the development of their five-year national action plan, please explain why the Minister has chosen to further consult with stakeholder groups (DETYA Question No. E322)?
- c) Please detail the process to be employed to conduct these additional consultations? When will these consultations commence?
- d) What are the projected costs of this additional consultation program?
- e) Apart from the mentoring program and the one-off payment to young people in state care, what considerations has the Minister given to the 24 recommendations put forward in the Taskforce report?
- f) Have any of these recommendations been costed by the department. Please provide a progress update and details of any costings done by the Department

Answer:

- a) The Government has not delayed responding to the Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce (YPAPT) Report. The Taskforce submitted its Report in January 2001 and, soon after, in the context of the 2001-2002 Budget, the Government made an immediate response to address some immediate needs and reinforce initiatives already underway. A more comprehensive response requires consultation with States and Territories and other stakeholder groups.
- b-d) Responding effectively to some of the recommendations of the YPAPT Report requires the involvement and cooperation of a number of players including the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and other stakeholders. The framework of the consultative process required has not been developed. The details of this process would be the subject of discussions between FaCS and the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA).
- e) Many of the YPAPT Report recommendations fall beyond the Family and Community Services portfolio and some require the cooperation and collaboration of not only Commonwealth agencies but also State/Territory governments and community organisations. The consultative process currently being developed seeks to explore options for this collaboration. Opportunities will also be taken through existing FaCS programs to progress the recommendations of the YPAPT Report. How this may apply specifically to individual recommendations has yet to be determined.
- f) No, the recommendations have not been costed.

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Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Students Support

Question No: 19

Topic: Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the Transition to Independent Living Allowance for young people in state care:

- a) What is the proposed formula and/or criteria for determining who is eligible for the maximum payment?
- b) Please explain the application process for this new one-off payment.
- c) How many young Australians will receive some payment based on current figures? Please provide a breakdown of figures that illustrate how many young people will be eligible for each level of payment? What is the figure for the expected average payment?
- d) Will this one-off payment be considered as income according to Centrelink definitions? If yes, will payment and social security recipients be penalised for exceeding maximum income thresholds?
- e) Will the young people eligible for the payment be in receipt of the payment at the commencement of their transition plan or at the completion of their program obligations?
- f) Will young people receiving the payment benefit be subjected to current breaching regulations if found guilty of an administrative or activity breach?
- g) According to the Budget Papers, this payment will become available from the 1 March 2003. Will this payment be paid retrospectively to young people who would have been eligible for some payment if the program commenced March 2001 or March 2002 instead of March 2003?

Answer:

- (a–c, e & f) The details referred to in these questions are still to be developed in consultations with State and Territory governments.
- (d) There is no intention to regard this one-off payment as income.
- (g) No.

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Output Group: 1.3 Childcare Benefits

Question No: 21

Topic: Closure rate of Outside school hours care services

Hansard Page: CA349

Senator EVANS asked:

Is there still a high turnover or a high closure rate of outside school hours care services?
What are the numbers?

Answer:

The number of outside school hours service closures has been declining since 1998. In 1998 there were 142 closures, whereas in 2000 there were only 92 closures. This represents a 35 percent drop in the number of closed outside school hours care services.

Year	Number of services at 30 June	Number of closures	% services closed
1997	3544	124	3.50
1998	3958	142	3.59
1999	4496	114	2.54
2000	4706	92	1.95

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Senator Sue Knowles
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Knowles,

Budget Estimates Hearing Of 30 May 2001 – Correction Of Hansard

Output Group: 1.4 - Child Care Support
Topic: New Jet Measure In 2000-2001 Budget /
Family Day Care Quality Assurance
Hansard Page: CA 357/356

I am writing to correct the response made to two questions from Senator Evans at the Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearing on Wednesday, 30 May 2001 (CA 357). My answers were wrong in the detail and may have been misleading.

The first question related to the Jobs Education and Training, Special Fee Assistance component of “Australians Working Together – More Child Care Places”. Senator Evans asked whether this initiative would assist around 7,000 families per year, or around 7,000 families over the period of the initiative, from September 2002 to June 2005. At the time I indicated that around 7,000 families would be assisted over the course of the years for which funding was indicated ie 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. Upon checking I have ascertained that the correct response is that approximately 7,000 families will be assisted in each full year.

A series of Questions relating to the introduction of the Family Day Care Quality Assurance system and the links to ongoing approval for Child Care Benefit were asked. (Hansard pages CA 355-356).

Senator Evans asked (CA 356) “Is there going to be a requirement for services to be accredited, to be refunded?” and he further asked “When would you envisage that becoming operative?”

I want to clarify the answer given as it was incomplete.

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In order to be approved or continue to be approved for Child Care Benefit, Family Day Care schemes will be required to participate in the quality assurance system in accordance with any quality assurance requirements published by the National Childcare Accreditation Council. They will be required to maintain good quality child care or make satisfactory progress to improve the quality of child care in accordance with the FDC QA as assessed by the Council.

This includes a requirement to register to participate in the system. Existing schemes will have a period of 3 months from 1 July 2001 in which to register. New schemes after that date will be required to register prior to approval for Child Care Benefit being granted. Failure to register within the specified time would be failure to comply with the system.

It is anticipated that validation visits to schemes would commence in approximately 18 months. Therefore, there would be no requirement for schemes to be accredited prior to that time.

The requirements for Family Day Care Quality Assurance parallel those for the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System for Long Day Care.

Joan Corbett
Assistant Secretary
Child Care Services Branch
June 2001

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Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support

Question No: 24

Topic: Childcare Benefit Debts

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- a) Officers have undertaken to provide on notice the number of income estimation changes for FTB A & B, and CCB. Please provide a sub-total for CCB.
- b) Are there any plans for CCB debts to be waived?
- c) Would there be any legal barriers to the waiving of CCB debts?
- d) For the trend in the number of maximum, partial and minimum rate CCB payments made since July 2000. Please provide separate totals for approved, and registered services

Answer:

- a) Number of income estimate changes applied to FTB and CCB payments:
FTB A income estimates as at 1 June 2001 is 719,313;
FTB B income estimates as at 1 June 2001 is 438,579;
CCB income estimates as at 1 June 2001 is 190,422;
Total 1,348,314 income estimates.

Note: Where a customer is in receipt of more than one payment the change to income estimate is applied to each payment.

- b) On 1 July the Government announced plans to assist families in adjusting to the transition to the new system of family assistance payments by waiving its right to recover the first \$1000 of any Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit overpayments for the 2000-2001 year.

CCB debts may also be waived under the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999* if they are not cost effective to recover (s.99), and in special circumstances that make it desirable to waive (s101).

- c) *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999* clearly specifies the circumstances under which CCB debts must or may be waived or written off. In general, the effect of these provisions is that specific debts may be waived when recovery is not cost effective. However, the Minister may also determine a class of debts by disallowable instrument which may then be waived at the Secretary's discretion (s. 95, 97-102).

Consideration is being given to the need for legislation to support the waiver plans announced on 1 July.

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- d) Between the September 2000 and December 2000 quarters the number of customers claiming CCB for approved care increased by 10.3 percent while the amount of CCB paid increased by 5.2 percent. Over the same period the number of persons claiming CCB for registered care dropped by 14.3 percent while the amount of CCB paid dropped by 6.7 percent.

The proportion of customers on Maximum rate CCB was relatively stable over the period September to December (39.5 percent in the September quarter to 39.2 percent in the December quarter). The proportion on Broken rate CCB was 48.7 percent in September and 48.4 percent in December. The proportion of customers on Minimum rate CCB increased slightly from 11.7 percent in September quarter to 12.4 percent in December quarter.

		Approved care		Registered care	
		Customers	CCB (\$m)	Customers	CCB (\$m)
Maximum rate	Sept 00	173,200	148.9	Registered care customers receive only minimum rate	
	Dec 00	189,700	159.5		
Broken rate	Sept 00	213,700	125.2	Registered care customers receive only minimum rate	
	Dec 00	233,900	130.5		
Minimum rate	Sept 00	51,500	11.6	20,854	1.5
	Dec 00	59,900	10.6	17,870	1.4
Total	Sept 00	438,400	285.7	20,854	1.5
	Dec 00	483,500	300.6	17,870	1.4

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Question No: 25

Topic: Family Day Care Pilot

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator EVANS asked:

- a) Is FaCS using questionnaires to undertake attitudinal testing of FDC carers involved in the pilot Quality Assurance Program?**

Answer:

Questionnaires have been used in the pilot for the Family Day Care Quality Assurance system but they are not for attitudinal testing. They are designed for Family Day Care Carers and Co-ordination Unit staff involved in the pilot program to assist them in identifying areas for possible improvement in their practices as well as identifying areas of practice that are carried out well. The carers and co-ordination unit staff are testing these questionnaires to determine if they are valid and appropriate for use as part of the Quality Assurance System for Family Day Care.

- b) Please provide a copy of the test material.**

Answer:

Copies of the questionnaires are attached.

[Note: attachments have not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

- c) What research supports the use of these types of tests? What is their purpose?**

Answer:

Research on the test questionnaires and their design was undertaken by the Assessment Research Centre of the University of Melbourne and conducted by academics in the field of early childhood development. The research included a literature review of current research and theory concerning Quality Assurance in services for young children and consultations with key Family Day Care stakeholders.

The purpose of the questionnaires is as a tool to assist carers and staff to reflect on their child care practices and to provide feedback to them on this. The aim is to assist participants in identifying areas for possible improvement and areas to maintain quality care. The use of questionnaires is a possible method to help carers and co-ordination unit staff to evaluate their service provision.

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- d) How are the tests administered? For example, are the tests posted out for carers to complete in their own time? How are the results notified? What sort of counselling or feedback is available to people who complete the test?**

Answer:

The Family Day Care schemes participating in the pilot were provided with a number of questionnaires (which are scannable forms) and these were distributed to the carers. An envelope was provided in which the completed forms were to be returned. The carers were given instructions by their service on how to complete the forms and were given a time frame in which to complete them. Scheme staff or family or friends assisted some carers and this was encouraged, particularly where language was a barrier to understanding.

The completed forms were sent to the Assessment Research Centre at the University of Melbourne for validation of the questions and analysis. The individual reports that resulted from this analysis were forwarded to each service. The reports were sent in sealed envelopes with a carer identification number on the outside of the envelope. Co-ordination Unit staff forwarded the reports to the Carers.

The Co-ordination Unit staff and Carers were asked to provide FaCS with detailed feedback about the perceived accuracy of these reports and the value of the questionnaire. Carers and Co-ordination Unit staff were testing the validity and appropriateness of the questionnaires and subsequent reports. FaCS is currently reviewing this feed back.

- e) Does FaCS rely entirely on the questionnaires to assess the suitability of carers, or do the surveys supplement other assessment, eg interviews?**

Answer:

FaCS is not assessing the suitability of carers. The questionnaires supplement other assessments. FaCS is testing a tool that may assist Carers and other scheme staff to self-evaluate their practices for the purpose of continuous improvement as part of the proposed Quality Assurance system.

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Question No: 26

Topic: Long day care centre openings and closures from April 1999 to March 2000

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator EVANS asked:

- a) How many (a) private and (b) community-based long day care centres have opened since April 1999? Please provide the postcode for each centre.
- b) How many (a) private and (b) community-based long day care centres have closed since April 1999? Please provide postcode for each centre.

Answer:

- a) The following tables show the number and postcode of private and community based long day care centre openings between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2001.

Private Centre openings by state, with postcode

State	Number of openings	Postcodes
NSW	39	2529, 2192, 2770, 2015, 2209, 2750, 2166, 2086, 2096, 2216, 2760, 2155, 2153, 2560, 2233, 2194, 2137, 2540, 2196, 2574, 2156, 2340, 2325, 2075, 2794, 2031, 2166, 2145, 2213, 2019, 2131, 2142, 2229, 2155, 2170, 2086, 2207, 2710, 2134
VIC	10	3939, 3977, 3184, 3029, 3802, 3109, 3181, 3429, 3150, 3305
QLD	15	4817, 4879, 4213, 4605, 4814, 4114, 4214, 4221, 4156, 4006, 4036, 4212, 4509, 4116, 4680
SA	2	5114, 5109
WA	2	6169, 6530
TAS	0	
NT	0	
ACT	1	2617
Total	69	

Community Centre openings by state, with postcode

State	Number of openings	Postcodes
NSW	13	2763, 2730, 2835, 2653, 2216, 2875, 2794, 2365, 2710, 2644, 2712, 2711, 2675
VIC	6	3490, 3400, 3225, 3722, 3620, 3995
QLD	8	4714, 4361, 4875, 4490, 4387, 4823, 4000, 4350
SA	2	5341, 5095
WA	4	6000, 6054, 6056, 6000
TAS	3	7304, 7000, 7021
NT	1	0822
ACT	1	2606
Total	38	

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- b) The following tables show the number and postcode of private and community based long day care centre closures between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2001.

Private Centre closures by state, with postcode

State	Number of closures	Postcodes
NSW	42	2558, 2560, 2827, 2032, 2034, 2050, 2750, 2456, 2192, 2500, 2148, 2196, 2529, 2136, 2190, 2033, 2024, 2031, 2117, 2213, 2450, 2100, 2093, 2232, 2770, 2210, 2217, 2170, 2456, 2516, 2474, 2760, 2142, 2233, 2166, 2380, 2326, 2061, 2506, 2092, 2026, 2485
VIC	38	7073, 3161, 3150, 3184, 3149, 3128, 3185, 3175, 3172, 3150, 3941, 3131, 3181, 3075, 3930, 3152, 3109, 3173, 3127, 3144, 3039, 3338, 3152, 3146, 3166, 3093, 3207, 3170, 3025, 3153, 3429, 3076, 3039, 3073, 3930, 3180, 3796, 3101
QLD	19	4680, 4872, 4217, 4000, 4019, 4213, 4820, 4034, 4874, 4558, 4216, 4006, 4680, 4880, 4122, 4740, 4077, 4006, 4720
SA	4	5109, 5093, 5043, 5010
WA	16	6056, 6021, 6020, 6398, 6003, 6054, 6009, 6076, 6104, 6014, 6062, 6162, 6014, 6058, 6006, 6005
TAS	3	7008, 7250, 7256
NT	0	
ACT	1	2607
Total	123	

Community Centre closures by state, with postcode

State	Number of closures	Postcodes
NSW	15	2033, 2233, 2620, 2129, 2340, 2508, 2879, 2195, 2117, 2541, 2021, 2060, 2330, 2168, 2200
VIC	14	3071, 3174, 3031, 3201, 3690, 3585, 3068, 3131, 3028, 3021, 3021, 3115, 3181, 3067
QLD	9	4870, 4108, 4207, 4006, 4114, 4161, 4350, 4074, 4870
SA	3	5085, 5015, 5172
WA	10	6426, 6064, 6210, 6009, 6443, 6701, 6720, 6028, 6210, 6725
TAS	3	7007, 7109, 7307
NT	1	0885
ACT	0	
Total	55	

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Question No: 27

Topic: Needs Based Planning of new Long Day Care Centres

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Chris Evans asked:

Since needs-based planning of new LDC places was lifted in December 1999, has FaCS attempted to monitor whether new services are being established in areas of need? If not, why not? If so, what are the results of the monitoring?

Answer:

Planning Advisory Committees in each State and Territory and FaCS monitor the supply of long day care centres. Between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2001 72 long day care centres have opened and 71 have closed.

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Question No: 23

Topic: Caravan Parks Family Crisis Pilot

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Chris Evans asked:

- a) Can the Department provide a total budget for the caravan park pilots project?
- b) Did the funding for the caravan park pilot for the Tweed area come from the original funding allocation announced by Senator Newman or was the funding sourced from elsewhere? If so what program(s) was this funding sourced from?

Answer:

- a) The final budget for the Caravan Parks Family Crisis Pilot projects across three states and the Northern Territory is \$991,903 over two years. The budget for the Tweed/south Gold Coast component is \$244,292 over two years. Earlier this year Minister Newman announced initial funding of \$737,000 of the total before the Tweed/south Gold Coast component was finalised. Since then we have approved a further \$10,611 for additional action research and administration costs.
- b) The funding for the Caravan Parks Family Crisis Pilot projects comes from the Child Care Support broadband and the National Homelessness Strategy.

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Question No: 30

Topic: Details of special JET fee assistance

Hansard Page: CA356

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What is the average fee currently paid for special fee assistance?
- b) What is the number on the payment?
- c) What is the average time on the payment?

Answer:

- a) It is estimated that the average special JET fee assistance paid is \$360 per year. The amount paid is based on the individual's financial circumstances and their ability to contribute to the cost of child care.
- b) It is estimated that in 2000 – 2001 around 10,000 JET customers will be assisted by special JET fee assistance.
- c) Information on the average length of time on special JET fee assistance is not available. The amount of time spent on special JET fee assistance can vary considerably depending on the activity undertaken.

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Question No: 28

Topic: Unit cost of Outside School Hours Care places

Hansard Page: CA358

Senator EVANS asked:

What is your unit cost for a child care place per annum?

Answer:

Outside School Hours Care places receive subsidies to assist with their establishment during the first two years of operation. The subsidies are based on the type of Outside School Hours Care place, that is After School Care, Vacation Care or Before School Care. After School Care and Vacation Care are the most common types of Outside School Hours Care used by Australian families.

The estimated subsidy cost per year for an Outside School Hours Care place (in 2000-01 dollars) is:

	First Year	Second Year
Vacation Care place	\$359.35	\$284.35
After School Care place	\$365.30	\$289.05
Before School Care place	\$119.55	\$68.70

All families are entitled to Child Care Benefit, but payment depends on the family's circumstances, including family income, the number of children in care, and the number of hours of care used.

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Output Group: 2.2 Community Support

Question No: 32

Topic: Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

Hansard Page: CA 295-296, 304

Senator West asked:

- (a) ‘...can you give me the government priorities, please?’
- (b) ‘...a list of who is on these advisory groups?’
- (c) ‘What guidelines, what criteria, have been developed for the distribution of all this money?’

Answer:

- (a) Copies of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy *Community Guide* that include the objectives and priorities of the Program, are provided.

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/families-StrongFamCommStrategy.htm>

- (b) Membership of Stronger Families and Communities Partnership National, State, Territory and Indigenous Advisory Groups:

- (i) Stronger Families and Communities Partnership – National Advisory Group
A national advisory group entitled the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership has been established to provide advice to the Minister on the broad parameters of the implementation of the strategy. The Partnership includes experts from both family services and community development fields along with the business sector. The Partnership’s Terms of Reference are at Attachment A, and a list of members of the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership Advisory Group is at Attachment B.

- (ii) State/Territory Advisory Groups

To ensure that decision making is responsive to local conditions and the aspirations of local communities, each State and Territory Office of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services has set up a state-based advisory group. The State/Territory Advisory Groups consist of a balanced membership of practitioners, business and other family and community experts to provide quality and breadth of advice. The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Groups are at Attachment C, and a list of members of the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership Advisory Group is at Attachment D.

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(iii) The Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable

The Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable was convened, at the request of the Prime Minister, by Senators Newman and Herron on 24 October 2000 to arrive at a mutual understanding of the needs of indigenous people and communities. The Roundtable includes senior indigenous and community leaders as well as industry, church and educational representatives.

The Roundtable was tasked with developing principles for indigenous community capacity building which can be applied under the Stronger Families and Communities

Strategy, including projects of national significance, but which could also be applied more broadly across Government programs.

The Roundtable has nominated a Working Group of its representatives to pursue the work arising from the Roundtable and to provide broad advice to the Government on issues including:

- community capacity building,
- social, cultural and economic development,
- community leadership,
- family violence,
- the use of funds under the Strategy, and
- the development of national approaches

The principles for working in partnership with indigenous communities are at Attachment E and a list of members of the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership Advisory Group is at Attachment F.

Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable Working Group

The role of the Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable Working Group, in relation to the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, is to provide advice to the Minister for Family and Community Services and the Minister for Community Services on indigenous projects of national significance. The Working Group is also available to provide advice on state and territory-based projects. Members of the Working Group may also be proactive in identifying projects of national significance to the Roundtable itself or they may identify state and territory projects to the STAG.

The Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable is separate to the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership, however there are linkages between the groups eg. Ms Boni Robertson is a member of both the Roundtable Working Group and the Partnership.

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(c) 'What guidelines, what criteria, have been developed for the distribution of all this money?'

The Managers' Guidelines which are available for public viewing are at [Attachment G](#). Following is a short summary of the guide in relation to assessment of projects.

The aim of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy is to contribute to enhancing the strength of Australian families and communities.

The Strategy focuses on three areas that are important to families:

- Early childhood and the needs of families with young children,
- Strengthening marriage and relationships, and
- Balancing work and family.

The Strategy equally recognises that strong communities have:

- Strong leadership,
- Skills and knowledge,
- Partnerships between public and private sectors, and
- A solid core of committed volunteers.

The Strategy aims to strengthen these characteristics in communities where they are weak and so increase their capacity to meet the challenges of economic and social change and to cope with the pressures that lead to family and social breakdown.

The National Partnership for the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy agreed to planning principles to guide the implementation of the strategy in each State/Territory, which are:

- striking a balance between meeting needs and maximising opportunities;
- giving effect to the principle of flexibility and local solutions; and
- ensuring a balance between various target groups and between program elements.

The following core criteria will be taken into account when determining which projects are approved.

- The extent of community support for the project. This should be demonstrated clearly throughout project development processes.
- The benefit to the community in the short and long term.
- The extent to which the project will contribute to increasing sustainable community capacity in the longer term. Some projects will be direct service delivery while others may not be direct service delivery but build capacity, for example through the development of leadership skills and networks.

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- Whether the project complements, rather than competes with other projects or activities, including working in partnerships and building on existing resources where appropriate.
- Conformity with plans and priorities set by either the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership or State/Territory Advisory Groups.

Proposals also need to be consistent with:

- Principles of Strategy;
- Aim of the Strategy and individual initiatives.

The Strategy is designed for the following key target groups:

- Families, including those with young children, isolated families and families at risk,
- Communities; those ready and willing to tackle local problems, rural and regional communities, as well as communities facing particular challenges and those at risk,
- Young people, particularly in rural and regional Australia,
- Emerging non-traditional community leaders, such as older women and young people, and
- Indigenous families and communities

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ATTACHMENT A

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SFCS PARTNERSHIP

Listed below are the terms of reference for the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership:

1. Provide advice to Government on a broad range of approaches to strengthening families and communities and identify emerging needs and opportunities for new initiatives under the Strategy.
2. Provide advice to Government on the implementation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, particularly with respect to:
 - project frameworks and guidelines,
 - funding envelopes for states and territories,
 - targeting and priorities,
 - the development of nationally-based projects, and
 - evaluation.
3. Identify opportunities to establish links with other Commonwealth Government initiatives, those of other spheres of government, and with non-government initiatives.
4. Promote the underlying themes of the Strategy, including through participation in public forums, the Leadership conference, and activities under the Can Do Communities initiative.
5. Oversight the performance monitoring and evaluation of initiatives under the Strategy.

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ATTACHMENT B

STRONGER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

CHAIR

Ms Elaine Henry, OAM

CEO, Smith Family

Executive Director of National Mutual Trustees and a Trustee of the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Ms Boni Robertson

Chairperson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence

Associate Professor, Gummurrii Centre, Griffith University

Member of Indigenous Community Capacity

Building Roundtable and Working Group

Professor John Chudleigh

Former Principal, Orange Agricultural College, University of Sydney

Professor Graham Vimpani

Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Newcastle – Foundation member of the National Initiative for the Early Years.

Dr Jill Tabart

Former President of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia.

Ms Pauline Frick

Executive Director, Centacare, Whyalla

Member, National Board of Centacare Australia

Chair, Marriage and Family Council.

Ms Alison Hardacre

Representative, Youth Round Table 1999

President, International Law Student's Association.

Mrs Margaret Smith, AO

Immediate Past President, Country Women's Association.

Ms Lisa Paul

Deputy Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services

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ATTACHMENT C

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SFCS STATE AND TERRITORY ADVISORY GROUPS

Following are the terms of reference for the State/Territory Advisory Groups.

In line with the priorities and frameworks set out by the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership:

1. Provide advice on specific proposals and recommendations on funding priorities to the Minister for Family and Community Services.
2. Ensure that communities that do not have the capacity to develop local initiatives to strengthen their community are assisted to do so.
3. Promote opportunities for collaboration with business, community and State/Local government stakeholders in the particular jurisdiction.
4. Provide advice to the Stronger Families and Communities Partnership on performance and emerging areas of need.

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ATTACHMENT D

STRONGER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGY STATE AND TERRITORY ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

The membership of the State and Territory Advisory Groups are listed in the tables that follow.

ACT

NAME	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Barbara Pamphillon	Community Education, University of Canberra
Mr Rod Frazer	Company Director, Canberra Southern Cross Club
Mr Killion Banda	Coordinator, Migrant Resource Centre of Canberra & Queanbeyan
Ms Yodie Batzke	Chairperson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Regional Council
Ms Sue Leppert	Anglicare
Chief Magistrate Ron Cahill	ACT Chief Magistrate
Mr Joseph Murphy	State Manager, FaCS ACT State Office (Health & Aged Care)

QUEENSLAND

NAME	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Helga Biro	Director, Centacare, Cairns
Ms Lyn Simpson	Director, The Communication Centre, QUT
Mr Morrie O'Conner	Community Living Program
Ms Trish Williams	Indigenous youth worker
Mr Kerry Herron	Chair, Queensland Advisory Committee and State Vice President, Committee for Economic Development of Australia
Dr Donna Pendergast	Lecturer in Education, University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus
Mr Glen Halloran	State Manager, FaCS Qld State Office

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NEW SOUTH WALES

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Tonia Godhard	CEO, Sydney Day Nursery Children's Services Inc
Ms Margaret Miller	NSW Cancer Council
Ms Claerwyn Little	Burnside Social Justice and Research Program
Mr Tom Slookee	Chair, National Organisation for Aboriginal Housing; Member, Indigenous Community Capacity Building Roundtable and Working Group
Professor Bill Randolph	Director, Urban Frontiers Program, University of Western Sydney
Mr Craig Tapper	Management Consultant
Ms Jan Carter	Counsellor, Gunnedah community
Ms Rita Budlevskis	State Manager, FaCS NSW State Office

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Captain Brad Halse	Divisional Social Program Secretary of the Salvation; background in youth and social work.
Ms Sue Middleton	WA representative Regional Women's Advisory Council; member of Regional Australia Summit Steering Committee; Regional Solutions Board member
Professor Tom Stannage	Professor and Executive Dean, Division of Humanities, Curtin University of Technology
Ms Isabelle Adams	Has been a member of WA Children's Advisory Council, Australian Early Childhood Association, National Aboriginal Education Committee Early Childhood Education Working Party, and the Early Childhood Representative on Ministerial Council For Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs Aboriginal Education TaskForce
Mr Peter Kenyon	Director of the Bank of IDEAS which is involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of local, regional and national employment and economic development policies/projects)
Mr Mark Anderson	CEO of Fairbridge, a non profit organisation dedicated to the development of young people
Mrs Anne Griffiths	Coordinator of Education Services at the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA
Ms Emma Kate McGuirk	State Manager, FaCS WA State Office

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VICTORIA

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Raeleen Berriman	Service Coordinator, Home Care Services NSW; former Director Murray Darling Community Care; participant in the Australian Rural Leadership Program 1999-2000; involved in indigenous women's issues
Ms Pam Regan	Manager, Community Services, City of Moonee Valley; former Manager, Family and Health Services, City of Darebin
Ms June McLoughlin	Director, Early Childhood Unit, Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital; Victorian Representative on National Community Child Care Council; Committee Member of Australian Early Intervention Association; Chairperson, National Childcare and Children's Health Board; Founding Member and Director of NIFTEY
Captain David Eldridge	Captain, Salvation Army; Chair; Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness; Chair, Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce; Chair (1996-1998), Prime Ministerial Taskforce on Youth Homelessness
Ms Suzanne Russell	Associate Professor of Applied Science, RMIT
Ms Denise Swift	State Manager, FaCS Victorian State Office

TASMANIA

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Lindy Mackey	Manager Community Participation, Glenorchy Council
Mr Paul Pritchard	Deputy National Director, Good Beginnings
Associate Professor Ian Falk	Director, Centre for Research and Learning in Regional Australia; University of Tasmania
Ms Jane Bennett	Production Manager, Ashgrove Cheese; Businesswoman of the year.
Mr John Hargrave	State Manager, FaCS Tasmania State Office

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
Ms Judith Jones	CEO Barossa Council
The Right Reverend Philip Aspinall	Former CEO, Tasmanian Anglicare; Current President Anglicare Australia
Mr John D Smith	Mayor of Whyalla
Ms Carol Gaston	Governor, Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation; Former senior State Government Health Planner; Chair, Major Metropolitan Hospital
Ms Jennifer Cashmore	Board Member National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC); Chair SA Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing; State Minister of Health 1979-82; Board Member of Charitable and Social Welfare Board 1995-98
Ms Melinda Brindle	State Manager, FaCS SA State Office

NORTHERN TERRITORY

<i>NAME</i>	<i>BACKGROUND/ORGANISATION</i>
James Kantilla	Youth worker employed by the Tiwi Health Board
Anne Shepherd	Owner/operator Katherine Newsagency, past president of the Katherine Chamber of Commerce
Peter Fischer	CEO, Anglicare
Helen Pavlin	Private practitioner (family counselling)
Rosie Kunoth – Monks	Board Member for Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
Marguerite Rooke	Migrant Resource Centre – Alice Springs
Ron Watt	Head of School, School of Education - Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education
Helen Bulis	State Manager, FaCS NT State Office

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ATTACHMENT E

PRINCIPLES FOR WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

1. Responses should be built on the existing strengths, assets and capacities of indigenous families and communities, and reflect the value of positive role models and successful approaches
2. Programs should be delivered on a strategic, coordinated and whole of government basis and recognise the complex nature of the problems they seek to address
3. Programs should provide a clear framework of transparent accountability for funding and evaluation that takes into account actual outcomes for people at the community level and the views of communities
4. Programs should be based on the views and aspirations of the whole community, particularly those most affected by programs, and indigenous people themselves should have a central role in the design, planning and delivery of services
5. Time is required to enable the participation of the whole community and this should be reflected in funding cycles
6. Responses should aim to empower indigenous people in leadership and managerial competence.
7. Urgent attention should be given to initiatives which target the needs of children and young people, particularly in the areas of leadership training, self-esteem building, awareness of one's culture and family, and anti-violence training
8. Programs should reflect the specific needs of local communities and families and not be designed on a 'one-size-fits-all' basis
9. Programs should contribute to practical reconciliation by empowering indigenous people to take responsibility within their families and communities for developing solutions to problems
10. Priority should be given to initiatives that encourage self-reliance, sustainable economic and social development, and that encourage the capacity of families and communities to deal with problems as they arise
11. Programs should encourage the growth of local economies
12. Where possible, programs should take account of and respond to regional and local plans
13. Programs must be developed and delivered in ways that give priority to the building of trust and partnerships.

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ATTACHMENT F

INDIGENOUS ROUND TABLE MEMBERS

Mr Joseph Elu Chairman Aboriginal and Torres Strait Commercial Development Corporation
Mr David Liddiard Chief Executive Officer National Aboriginal Sports Corporation
Mr Paul Briggs Chairperson First Nations Advantage Credit Union
Dr Margaret Valadian, OA, MBE Director of the Centre for Indigenous Development Education and Research (Member IRT Working Group)
Mr Eric Wynne ATSIC Commissioner for WA (Member IRT Working Group)
Mr Vince Paparo General Manager Moree Plains Shire Council (Member IRT Working Group)
Dr Evelyn Scott Chairperson Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
Mr Joseph Ross Bunuba Inc
Mr Tom Mayne World Vision (Member IRT Working Group)
Ms Boni Robertson Associate Professor (Member IRT Working Group)
Ms Marjorie Thorpe Member Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
Mr Noel Pearson Volunteer Team Leader Cape York Partnerships
Sir John Carrick KCMG
Reverend Greg Jordan
Mr Tom Slockee Chairperson National Organisation for Aboriginal Housing (Member IRT Working Group)
Mr Paul Wand Chairman of the Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation
Dr Adam Graycar Director Australian Institute of Criminology (Member IRT Working Group)
Mr Brian Butler ATSIC Commissioner for SA (Member IRT Working Group)

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Output Group: 2.2 Community Support

Question No: 33

Topic: Notional Allocations of Funding under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

Hansard Page: CA296

Senator West asked:

‘Is that notional allocation available to us?’

Answer:

Funding for non-indigenous projects under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS) is allocated to State and Territory offices on the basis of Socio-Economic Indices For Areas (SEIFA) data.

Socio-Economic Indexes are groupings that provide a comprehensive profile of the Australian people. These groupings highlight for example, areas of affluence, areas of disadvantage and where more highly educated people live.

Funding for indigenous projects is allocated on the basis of indigenous populations. A minimum of \$20m over four years is available for these projects. State and territory offices will work collaboratively in developing cross-border projects in recognition of the transient nature of indigenous populations.

Five percent of funds have also been nominated for projects of national significance.

The table provided below sets out the notional allocations for 2000/01 and 2001/02 for the five linked initiatives of the SFCS. The initiatives are:

- Stronger Families Fund;
- Early Intervention, Parenting and Family Relationship Support;
- Local Solutions to Local Problems;
- Potential Leadership in Local Communities; and
- Can Do Community

The information provided here refers to the grant funding element of the linked initiatives. Information regarding the other elements of the SFCS (International Year of Volunteers and National Skills Development, Child Care, Communications and Longitudinal Study) are provided under their own questions/headings.

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Table of Notional Allocations for the SFCS Five Linked Initiatives:

<i>State</i>	<i>Funds 00/01</i> \$	<i>Funds 01/02</i> \$
NSW		
General Project	1 251 540	8 120 144
Indigenous Projects	126 806	1 756 398
State Total	1 378 346	9 876 542
VIC		
General Project	730 065	4 737 424
Indigenous Projects	25 897	358 701
State Total	755 962	5 096 125
QLD		
General Project	660 535	4 285 856
Indigenous Projects	124 127	1 719 291
State Total	784 662	6 005 147
SA		
General Project	312 885	2 032 056
Indigenous Projects	25 451	352 517
State Total	338 336	2 384 573
WA		
General Project	382 415	2 483 624
Indigenous Projects	64 296	890 568
State Total	446 711	3 374 192
TAS		
General Project	86 913	574 560
Indigenous Projects	17 413	241 195
State Total	104 326	815 755
NT		
General Project	45 194	298 771
Indigenous Projects	58 938	816 354
State Total	104 132	1 115 125
ACT		
General Project	6 953	45 965
Indigenous Projects	3 572	49 476
Additional		404 000
State Total	10 525	499 441
NATIONAL		
Total Projects	620 000	1 535 100
TOTAL	4 545 000	30 702 000

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Output Group: 2.2 Community Support

Question No: 37

Topic: International Year of Volunteers Communications Strategy

Hansard Page: CA 297, 301-302

Senator West asked:

- (a) What is the budget for communication strategy for International Year of Volunteers (IYV)?
- (b) Would you like to confirm that for me [communications expenditure]?
- (c) Can I have a copy of that calendar [monthly themes for IYV] along with the money associated with it [publicity and communications], please?

Answer:

- (a) What is the budget for communication strategy for IYV?

The original budget for the communication strategy for IYV was approximately \$2.8 million over 2 years.

- (b) Would you like to confirm that for me?

The original allocation noted by Kerry Flanagan in Hansard (CA 301) was \$1.6 million for 2000/2001 and \$1.215 million for 2001/2002. Of the total allocation of \$1.6 million of departmental funds for 2000/2001, \$1.56 million has been spent. The projected expenditure for communications for the IYV in 2001/2002 is \$0.82 million. Some \$0.5 million has been reallocated to the IYV Small Grants program due to the large volume of applications.

- (c) Can I have a copy of that calendar along with the money associated with it, please?

Monthly Themes for IYV

January:	Scope of Volunteering	July:	International Neighbours
February:	Arts and Heritage / Tourism	August:	Pets / Animals
March:	Environment	September:	Sport and Recreation
April:	Young people	October:	Emergency Services
May:	Celebrate the diversity of volunteering	November:	Civic Participation
June:	Family and Community Support	December:	Corporate

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The expected expenditure in 2001-2002 is as follows - timeframes for expenditure are estimates only:

Market research	\$82,000	Sept 2001 and February 2002
IYV website	\$30,000	July 2001- June 2002

Over the period July-December 2001, the remaining \$708,000 will be spent on celebrating IYV theme months, producing key publications, public relations activities, print advertising and production and distribution of IYV merchandise

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Output Group: 2.2 Community Support

Question No: 36

Topic: Telephone Allowance

Hansard Page: CA327-29

Senator Evans asked:

Do you have that [Telephone Allowance] broken down by pensioner groups?

Answer:

The table below gives the breakdown by Pension/Allowance type for all recipients of Telephone Allowance (March 2001 data).

Age Pension	1,441,441
Austudy	19
Bereavement Allowance	40
Carer Payment	38,458
Child Disability Allowance	398
Double Orphan Pension	1
Disability Support Pension	359,045
Exceptional Circumstances	2
Relief Payment	0
Farm Family Restart	4
Family Allowance	1
Mature Age Allowance	1,347
Mature Age Partner Allowance	1
Newstart Mature Age Allowance	28,085
Newstart Allowance	3,767
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	1,447
Parenting Payment (Single)	252,269
Partner Allowance	22,322
Sickness Allowance	143
Special Benefit	1,762
Widow Allowance	4,209
Wife (DSP)	45,174
Widow B Pension	4,760
Wife Pension	24,011
Youth Allowance	86
Not Specified	7,580
Total	2,236,372

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Output Group: Cross Outcome 3 - Economic and Social Participation Question No: 41

Topic: One-off Payment to the Aged

Hansard Page: CA325

Senator Evans asked:

What are the actual figures of the 60,000 or 70,000 social security customers who will receive the One-off Payment to the Aged but are not age pensioners?

Answer:

The following table provides the actual numbers of people who have been or are about to be paid the One-off Payment to the Aged who receive a social security payment other than Age Pension.

PAYMENT TYPE	NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OVER AGE PENSION AGE
Special Benefit	6 152
Partner Allowance	6 383
Widow Allowance	4 856
Disability Support Pension	4 065
Carer Payment	2 362
Wife Pension (Age)	2 223
Widow B Pension	1 160
Wife Pension (Disability)	383
Parenting Payment Single	109

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Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance

Question No: 54

Topic: Personal Advisers and JET specialists for parents

Hansard Page: CA321

Senator Evans asked:

- a) How much of the \$191 million in this split budget item is to fund extra advisers at Centrelink?
- b) Describe JET dollars in the \$191 million, what are those dollars buying – ie
 - More JET advisers for parents
 - Break up of the number of advisers, specialists.

Answer:

- a) The following table provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of providing personal advisers for Parenting Payment customers. This amounts to around \$56.5 million over the three years.

Parenting measure	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Personal Advisers (no.)	113	367	370
Estimated \$ value	\$7.5m	\$24.4m	\$24.6m

- b) In addition to the personal advisers, the measure provides for an additional number of JET specialist advisers and other specialists (social workers, occupational psychologists and disability officers), costing around \$3.5 million over three years.

Parenting measure	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
JET Specialist Advisers (no.)	3	13	13
Estimated \$ value	\$0.2m	\$0.9m	\$0.9m
Social Workers (no.)	7	5	5
Estimated \$ value	\$0.5m	\$0.3m	\$0.3m
Disability Officers (no.)		2	2
Estimated \$ value		\$0.1m	\$0.1m
Occupational Psychologists (no.)		2	2
Estimated \$ value		\$0.1m	\$0.1m

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The remaining \$65 million of Centrelink's funding over 4 years is expected to provide extra Customer Service Centre and Call Centre staff to handle enquiries and the extended new claim interviews; as well as additional interpreters and training. This funding also provides for the development of IT systems and other implementation costs such as project management and communication products.

In addition, FaCS costs of around \$66 million in the \$191 million, are accounted for as follows:

- \$4 million for staff and administrative expenses
- \$6 million for development and production of the Participation Packs
- \$56 million for additional places in FaCS funded services, particularly Disability Employment Services. Funding of \$52.5 million over four years will provide around 3 000 places in Disability Employment Assistance and around 7 600 places in Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services. These places will provide assistance with pre-employment job search, wage subsidies, vocational rehabilitation and post-placement support for parents with disabilities.

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Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance

Question No: 38

Topic: Pensioner Education Supplement

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- 1) Has the Minister considered the Pensioner Education Supplement evaluation?
- 2) Can you provide a copy of the evaluation?

Answers:

- 1) Yes.
- 2) Yes. A copy of the Pensioner Education Supplement evaluation report is attached.

[Note: the Evaluation of the Pensioner Education Supplement, DFACS, Dec 2000, has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

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Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with Disabilities

Question No: 52

Topic: Australians Working Together Package

Hansard Page: CA313

Senator Evans asked:

- a) What will you save in terms of DSP clients?
- b) What is the nature of the DSP contribution to these savings?

Answer:

a) In total, it is anticipated that \$229.3m over the next four years will be saved from Disability Support Pension, noting that this will be partly offset by increased spending on Newstart Allowance.

The response to Question 53(c) explains the nature of the savings in some detail.

b) The majority of Disability Support Pension (DSP) savings derive from the new assessment procedures leading to a slightly higher rejection rate (an average increase of 3.3 percent) and an average increase of 5% in DSP cancellations on review. Based on current payment to payment transfer data it is assumed that 80 percent of affected customers would instead be eligible for Newstart (NSA).

A smaller component (around 20 percent) of DSP savings derive from more customers reporting earnings as a result of the Working Credit as well as better linkages to interventions and more help to find work through the increase in employment assistance and rehabilitation places.

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Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability

Question No: 39

Topic: Disability Trials and Pilots

Hansard Page: CA348

Senator Evans asked:

I would like to get some information on the number of pilot trial studies in the disability area for the last four or five years and the timeframes on those.

Answer:

Seven pilots or trials have been undertaken in the disability area of the Department of Family and Community Services, and the former Departments of Health and Family Services and Social Security over the last four or five years:

- i) the More Intensive and Flexible Services (MIFS) pilot which commenced in July 1996 and operated until June 2000. A final evaluation is due in the near future;
- ii) the school leavers employment assistance pilot undertaken in 1997-98. No formal evaluation was undertaken, but the learnings were utilised in the establishment of the Case Based Funding Trial;
- iii) the post school options pilot in South Australia which commenced in 1999 and was completed and evaluated in December 2000;
- iv) the Case Based Funding Trial which commenced in November 1999 and will be completed and fully evaluated by August 2002;
- v) the pilot program for pre-release prisoners with a disability in NSW which is due to commence in July 2001;
- vi) the Quality Assurance System trial which began in July 2000, was completed in January 2001 and evaluated in early 2001;
- vii) the Assessment and Contestability Trial which commenced in August 2000 and will be completed and fully evaluated by August 2002.

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Output Group: 3.4 – Support for the Aged

Question No: 40

Topic: Growth Pension

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Evans asked:

- Does the Department have any estimates of the relative income generated by \$100,000 invested in a growth pension versus a life expectancy income stream? What would be the gains/losses to the Budget associated with investment in growth pensions versus a life expectancy income stream?
- In 1997, the Treasury and your portfolio undertook to produce a discussion paper on how account based income streams might meet requirement for assets test exemption - that is, become complying income streams. Has this paper ever been produced? If not, why not?
- Were the objectives of the 1998 income stream rules to promote competition in the retirement income streams market and to increase the overall incomes of retirees through better investment returns in income streams?
- What - if any - are the policy barriers preventing recognition of growth pensions as complying income streams?
- Is a technical provision that payments from asset test exempt income streams cannot vary between years, except for indexation - the only legislative barrier to growth pensions? Has this provision been reviewed for consistency with the retirement income? If it has not been reviewed please explain why this has not occurred.
- Does the Department believe that social security asset test rules, which effectively force retirees to invest in interest-based income streams, produce distortions in retirees' investment choices? Has the Department calculated the costs of any inefficiencies so generated to the Australian economy?

Answer:

The Government indicated in its 1997 statement *'Savings: Choice and Incentive'* that the introduction of complying life expectancy income streams would streamline and make more equitable the social security treatment of income stream products while helping to increase the level of competition in the provision of complying retirement income stream products.

The Government is considering industry proposals to expand the range of retirement income streams receiving favourable treatment for taxation and social security purposes.

In a joint press release of 26 August 1997 the Minister for Social Security and the Assistant Treasurer foreshadowed the release of a discussion paper. Given the Government's commitment to tax reform and reform of the social welfare system, the discussion paper has not yet been produced.

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Output Group: 3.4 Support for the Aged

Question No: 45

Topic: Superannuation contributions for women not in the workforce

Hansard Page: Written question on notice

Senator Harradine asked:

In cases where a young woman having her first child surrenders her income and loses her ability to accumulate superannuation for her retirement years, has the Department considered or is the Department aware of any analysis undertaken on the issue of allowing a husband to put half his compulsory superannuation into her name? If so, could a copy of any such analysis be provided?

Answer:

Officers of the Department have met with two community/professional groups with an interest in the issue of superannuation contributions for women who are out of the workforce caring for their young children, and had useful discussions. The Department has, prior to and following that meeting, held discussions with other agencies with an interest in retirement incomes.