

Community Affairs Committee

Examination of Budget Estimates 2006-2007

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 1

**FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

FaCSIA Outcomes: Cross Outcome, Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

OCTOBER 2006

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2006-2007

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the budget estimates hearings on 29 & 30 May 2006

* Please note that the tabling date of 19 October 2006 is the proposed tabling date

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
	T1 tabled at hearing	List of portfolio programs	1-5	17.08.06
	T10 tabled at hearing	Research, use of STINMOD	6	17.08.06
	T11 tabled at hearing	Research, STINMOD contract	7	17.08.06
	FaCSIA let	FaCSIA letter 18.07.06 amending evidence provided at estimates hearing 29.05.06 relating to executive coaching	8	17.08.06
Evans	3	Fraud	9	17.08.06
Evans	4-5	Ernst and Young	10-11	17.08.06
Ludwig	6	Fraud	12	17.08.06
Ludwig	8	Ernst & Young fraud control	13	17.08.06
Evans	14	DHS compliance package	14	17.08.06
Ludwig	16	Legal services expenditure	15	17.08.06
Ludwig, Evans	7, 9-12	Fraud	16-20	19.10.06
Evans	13	Fraud budget measures	21	19.10.06
Mason	15	Sick leave usage	22-23	19.10.06
Ludwig	17	Coaching and leadership training	24	19.10.06
Outcome 1: Output group 1.1 – Whole-of-government coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians				
	T3 tabled at hearing	2003 national roundtable on Indigenous family violence and child abuse – Indigenous attendees	25	17.08.06
	T4 tabled at hearing	Wadeye – facts and figures: Finances – FaCSIA administered funding in Wadeye and other Australian Government Agency funding in Wadeye (as at 29 May 2006)	26	17.08.06
	T6 tabled at hearing	OIPC evaluation plan for Whole-of-Government activities in Indigenous Affairs 2006-09	27-37	17.08.06
	T7 tabled at hearing	Family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities – report to the Prime Minister	38-48	17.08.06
Evans/Moore	35	Wadeye	49	17.08.06
Crossin	53	Services for Indigenous Australians	50	17.08.06
Evans	77-79	Evaluations and internal reviews of SRAs	51-53	17.08.06
Evans	80-81	Internal implementation review	54-55	17.08.06

Evans	88	Representative	56	17.08.06
Evans	89	Funding to representative bodies	57	17.08.06
Evans	91	Shared Responsibility Agreements : Kunbarlanjnja community	58	17.08.06
Evans	92, 94, 96, 97	Panel of experts	59-62	17.08.06
Evans	33	Wadeye	63	19.10.06
Evans	34	Safety and violence raised with Tripartite Steering Committee	64	19.10.06
Evans	37, 38	Wadeye	65-66	19.10.06
Crossin	50	COAG trial at Wadeye	67-68	19.10.06
Evans	66	Petrol sniffing	69	19.10.06
Evans	82	Internal implementation review	70	19.10.06
Evans	83	Internal performance information review on SRAs	71	19.10.06
Evans	90	National Indigenous Council - membership	72	19.10.06
Evans	93, 95, 98	Panel of experts	73-75	19.10.06
Evans	74	COAG evaluations	76-78	19.10.06
Evans	76	Evaluations and internal reviews of SRA's	79-80	19.10.06
Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 1: Output group 1.2 – Services for Indigenous Australians	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
	T5 tabled at hearing	Breakdown of Indigenous housing funds allocated to the Northern Territory in 2005-06	81	17.08.06
Evans	18-20	Services for Indigenous Australians	82-85	17.08.06
Evans	22, 23	Family Violence Partnership Programme projects	86-87	17.08.06
Evans	24	Services for Indigenous Australians	88	17.08.06
Evans	25	Indigenous housing – returned funding	89	17.08.06
Moore	29	Indigenous housing – housing design guideline manual	90	17.08.06
Evans	36	Wadeye - builders	91	17.08.06
Evans	48	Energy grants credit scheme	92	17.08.06
Crossin	52	Services for Indigenous Australians	93	17.08.06
Crossin	54	Breakdown between housing and infrastructure	94	17.08.06
Crossin	55-57	Services for Indigenous Australians	95-97	17.08.06
Crossin	58	Performance indicators for infrastructure	98	17.08.06
Crossin	59	Number of new houses constructed	99	17.08.06
Crossin	60	Number of upgrades	100	17.08.06
Siewert	62	Incorporation of Indigenous housing in whole-of-government approach	101	17.08.06
Evans	67	La Perouse and Shared Responsibility Agreement	102-103	17.08.06
Evans	71	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – 'Hub and Spoke' model	104	17.08.06
Evans	73	Indigenous Coordination Centres – recruitment of ICC managers	105	17.08.06
Evans	84	Energy charging guidelines	106	17.08.06
Evans	85-87	Electricity charging guidelines	107-109	17.08.06
Evans	99	Indigenous children programme	110	17.08.06
Evans	100	Nhulunbuy housing money from the ABA	111	17.08.06
Crossin	171	Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Board meetings	112	17.08.06
Carr	200-203, 205, 208, 210-211	Alice Springs town camps announcement	113-120	17.08.06
Evans	209	New housing for remote communities – source of funding	121	17.08.06

Carr	212	New housing for remote communities – innovative construction options	122	17.08.06
Carr	213	Treasurer's announcement of new housing for remote communities	123	17.08.06
Carr	214	New housing for remote communities – State involvement	124	17.08.06
Carr	215	New housing for remote communities – house construction options	125	17.08.06
Carr	216	New housing for remote communities - research	126	17.08.06
Carr	217	New housing for remote communities – success indicators	127	17.08.06
Carr	218	New housing for remote communities – provider selection	128	17.08.06
Carr	219	New housing for remote communities – self-build kit homes	129	17.08.06
Carr	220	Treasurer's announcement of new housing for remote communities	130	17.08.06
Evans	1	Cape York Institute Welfare Reform project	131	19.10.06
Siewert	26	Indigenous housing	132-151	19.10.06
Crossin	27	Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) review	152	19.10.06
Adams	28, 30	Indigenous housing	153-154	19.10.06
Evans	31	Wadeye - housing	155	19.10.06
Evans	39, 40	Services for Indigenous Australians	156-157	19.10.06
Carr	42	Yumba Meta E-Sub application	158	19.10.06
Evans	46	Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) staffing - Bourke	159	19.10.06
Evans	47	Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) network staffing profile	160	19.10.06
Crossin	49	Council of Australian Governments trial at Wadeye	161	19.10.06
Crossin	51	Services for Indigenous Australians	162	19.10.06
Siewert	63, 64	Indigenous housing	163-164	19.10.06
Evans	68	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)	165	19.10.06
Evans	69	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – Department of Health and Ageing staff	166	19.10.06
Evans	70	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – unfilled or vacant ICC staff positions	167	19.10.06
Evans	72	Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – solution brokers	168	19.10.06
Carr	204, 207	Alice Springs town camps announcements	169-172	19.10.06
Carr	231	North Queensland Regional Housing Corporation – funding submission	173	19.10.06
Evans	75	Cape York Institute Welfare Reform Project	174	19.10.06
Carr	206	Alice Springs town camps announcement	175	19.10.06
Evans	21	Family Violence Partnership Programme projects	176-183	19.10.06

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 1: Output group 1.3 – Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
Crossin	61	Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations	184	17.08.06
McLucas	65	Petford training farm (Aboriginal Corporation)	185	17.08.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.1 – Support for the Aged				
McLucas	102	Pension bonus scheme	186	17.08.06
Evans	103	Superannuation	187	17.08.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.2 – Support for People with Disabilities				
	T9 tabled at hearing	Business services – 2005-06 mergers (to 30 April 2006)	188-189	17.08.06
McLucas	118	Australian Health Care Associates survey	190	17.08.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.3 – Support for Carers				
Siewert	119	Assistance for carers	191	17.08.06
McLucas	232	Carer payment (child)	192	17.08.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.4 – Support for Youth				
Moore	120	National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group	193	17.08.06
Crossin	121	Youth Affairs – Departmental outputs	194	17.08.06
Crossin	122	Mentor Marketplace programme	195	17.08.06
Crossin	123	YouthLinx	196	17.08.06
Crossin	124	Newly arrived youth support services	197	17.08.06
Crossin	125	National Youth Roundtable	198	17.08.06
Crossin	126	National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group	199	17.08.06
Crossin	127	National youth week	200-201	17.08.06
Crossin	128	Funding for programs within Outcome 2.4 – Departmental appropriations	202-202	17.08.06
Crossin	129, 130	Other youth initiatives	203-235	17.08.06
Crossin	131	Role and purpose of the Youth Bureau	236	17.08.06
Crossin	132	Staffing of the Youth Bureau	237	17.08.06
Crossin	133	Removal of Ministerial (or equivalent representative) for youth affairs in latest Howard Government reshuffle, 24 January 2006	238	17.08.06
Moore	234	National Youth Roundtable 2006 – list of recent projects; list of applicants	239-241	17.08.06
Outcome 2: Output group 2.5 – Support for Women				
Crossin	134	Women's secretariats	242	17.08.06
Crossin	135	Women's safety agenda	243	17.08.06
Crossin	136	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' campaign	244	17.08.06
Crossin	137	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' National helpline	245	17.08.06
Crossin	141	Women's safety agenda	246-249	17.08.06
Crossin	145	Women's safety survey	250	17.08.06
Crossin	138	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' helpline	251	19.10.06
Crossin	139	Support for victims of trafficking	252	19.10.06

Crossin	140	Women's leadership and development programme	253	19.10.06
Crossin	142	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No" campaign	254-255	19.10.06
Crossin	143	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No" helpline	256-259	19.10.06
Crossin	144	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No" campaign	260-261	19.10.06
Crossin	146	Industrial relations and the equal opportunity for women in the workplace agency	262	19.10.06
Crossin	233	'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No" helpline	263	19.10.06
Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 3: Output group 3.1 – Support for Families	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
Evans	2	Modelling of Family Tax Benefit	264	17.08.06
Ludwig	147	Family relationship centres	265	17.08.06
Ludwig	149	Business Partnership Agreement between FaCSIA and Attorney-General's Department	266-276	17.08.06
Ludwig	150	Family relationship centres	277	17.08.06
Moore	152	Family Tax Benefit Part A rate for children in an approved care organisation	278	17.08.06
Evans	153	Communities for children	279	17.08.06
Evans	154	Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008	280	17.08.06
Evans	155	Family Tax Benefit reconciliation	281	17.08.06
Evans	159	FTB health care cards	282	17.08.06
Evans	166	Use of 'optical surveillance' to detect welfare fraud	283	17.08.06
Ludwig	151	Family relationship centres	284	19.10.06
Evans	156	Family Tax Benefit reconciliation	285	19.10.06
Evans	157	Adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit recipients	286	19.10.06
Evans	158	FTB health care cards	287	19.10.06
Evans	164	Budget measure – fraud and compliance – improved assessment of the value of real estate assets	288	19.10.06
Evans	165	Support the System that Supports You and Keeping the System Fair Advertising Campaigns	289	19.10.06
Evans	167	Use of roadblocks to identify welfare fraud	290	19.10.06
Ludwig	148	Family relationship centres	291	19.10.06
Evans	160	Family Tax Benefit reconciliation	292	19.10.06
Evans	161	Number of children by adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit Part A recipients	293-294	19.10.06
Evans	162	Family Tax Benefit reconciliation	295	19.10.06
Evans	163	Adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit recipients	296	19.10.06
		Outcome 3: Output group 3.3 – Child Care Support		
Allison	170	Family day care	297	17.08.06
Moore	173, 174	Child care benefit	298-299	17.08.06
Nash	235	Display of certificate of compliance	300	17.08.06
Allison	236	Review of approach to the setting of national standards for child care	301	17.08.06
Allison	169	Family day care fees	302	19.10.06
Nash	172	Long day care	303	19.10.06

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Housing Support	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
	T2 tabled at hearing	Innovation and investment fund – State/Territories figures 2005-06 – 2009-10	304	17.08.06
Carr	41	Commonwealth rent assistance review	305	17.08.06
Carr	43	Definition of homelessness	306	17.08.06
Carr	44	Access to supported accommodation assistance program by Indigenous persons	307	17.08.06
Carr	104	Supported accommodation assistance program	308	17.08.06
Carr	106	SAAP – case management resource kit	309	17.08.06
Carr	109	National homelessness strategy – projects targeting people with mental illness	310	17.08.06
Carr	110	Housing options for people with mental illness project	311	17.08.06
Carr	111	Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness meetings	312	17.08.06
Carr	113	Homelessness	313	17.08.06
Carr	114	National homelessness strategy – HAPPI project	314	17.08.06
Carr	115	National homelessness strategy – youth practice networks	315	17.08.06
Carr	178	National homelessness strategy – "Exceptionally Vulnerable"	316	17.08.06
Carr	179	National homelessness strategy – Centrelink community officers	317	17.08.06
Carr	182	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – wage cost indices	318	17.08.06
Carr	184	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – consumer price index	319	17.08.06
Carr	186	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement - expenditure	320	17.08.06
Carr	187	Percentage of social housing in total housing stock	321	17.08.06
Carr	188	Rent assistance – focus group research	322	17.08.06
Carr	238	National homelessness strategy – HOME program	323	17.08.06
Carr	105	Supported Accommodation Assistance program – refugee families	324	19.10.06
Carr	107	Mental health package	325	19.10.06
Carr	108	Supported accommodation for people with mental illness	326	19.10.06
Carr	112	National Homelessness Strategy - website	327	19.10.06
Carr	117	HOME Advice Program	328	19.10.06
Carr	177	Welfare to Work – definition of vulnerability	329	19.10.06
Carr	180	Indigenous Housing – Housing Ministers; conference	330	19.10.06
Carr	181	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) review focus	331	19.10.06
Carr	183	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – indexation rate	332	19.10.06
Carr	189	Forward estimates – Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	333	19.10.06
Carr	190	Wage cost indice average	334	19.10.06
Carr	45	Supported Accommodation Assistance program locations	335	19.10.06
Carr	116	National Homeless Strategy – Indigenous homelessness	336	19.10.06
Carr	185	Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – efficiency dividend	337	19.10.06

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 4: Output group 4.2 – Supporting Financial Management	Vol. 1 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate*
Evans	101	Budget measure 2006-07 – extending family income management and improving family payment outcomes for Indigenous children	338-339	19.10.06
		Outcome 4: Output group 4.3 – Community Recovery		
	T8 tabled at hearing	Assistance measures the Australian Government is providing for those in the Cape York region who have been affected by both tropical cyclones Monica and Larry	340	17.08.06
McLucas	191-199	Community recovery	341-349	17.08.06
McLucas	227-230	Tropical cyclone Monica	350-353	17.08.06
		Outcome 4: Output group 4.4 – Community Partnership and Delivery		
McLucas	222-224	Youth information referral service (Mackay)	354-356	17.08.06
McLucas	225, 226	Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)	357-358	19.10.06
Evans	221	Election commitments	359	19.10.06

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Item	PBS 06-07
Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies (Indigenous Children Program)	1.2
Aboriginals Benefit Account	1.2
Age Pension	2.1
Assistance for Carers	2.3
Auslan Interpreting Services	2.2
Bereavement Allowance	2
Carer Allowance	2.3
Carer Payment	2.3
Child Abuse Prevention	3.1
Child Care Benefit	3.3
Child Care for Eligible Parents Undergoing Training	3.3
Child Support	3.2
Combating Petrol Sniffing	1.2
Commonwealth Financial Counselling Programme	4.2
Commonwealth State Housing Agreement	4.1
Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement	2.2
Community Business Partnership	4.4
Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme	1.2
Compensation for Extension of Fringe Benefits to Pensioners and Older Long-term Allowees and Beneficiaries	2.1
Cross Portfolio Indigenous flexible funding pool	1.2
Disaster Relief Payment	4.3
Double Orphan Pension	3.1

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Emergency Relief Programme	4.2
Employment Assistance and Other Services	2.2
Ex-Gratia Payments - SA and NSW floods	4.3
Ex-Gratia Payments to Victims and Family Members of the Bali Terrorist Attacks	4.3
Family and Community Network Initiative	4.4
Family Assistance Office	3
Family Assistance Scheme	3.1
Family Income Management	4.2
Family Relationship Services Programme	3.1
Family Tax Benefit	3.1
Family Violence Partnership Programme	1.2
Family Violence Regional Activities	1.2
Financial Information Service	2.1
Household Organisational Management Expenses Advice Programme	4.2
Indigenous Affairs Litigation	1.2
Indigenous Children Program (New)	1.2
Indigenous Community Leadership	1.2
Indigenous Land Fund	1.2
Indigenous Parenting and Family Well-Being (Indigenous Children Program)	1.2
Indigenous Women's Development Program	1.2
Indigenous Women's Leadership	1.2
London bombings - assistance to victims	4.3
Maternity Immunisation Allowance	3.1

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Maternity Payment	3.1
Mentor Marketplace	2.4
National Homelessness Strategy	4.1
National Housing Priorities	4.1
National Housing Research	4.1
National Illicit Drug Strategy	3.1
National Information Centre on Retirement Investments	2.1
National Research on Gambling	4.2
National Secretariat Programme	4.4
Native Title and Land Rights	1.2
Newly Arrived Youth Support Services	2.4
Nth Qld cyclone assistance	4.3
Payments to universities and other organisations for special studies and research	1.2
Payments under s33 of the FMA Act 1997	2
Payments Under Special Circumstances	4.4
Pension Bonus Scheme	2.1
Public Information	1.2
Ranger Payment	1.2
Reconciliation Place in Canberra	1.2
Reconnect	2.4
Reconnecting People Assistance Package	4.4
Reimbursement to Great Southern Rail for Concessional Fares	2.1
Rent Assistance	4.1

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Repatriation	1.2
Retirement Planning Information Programme	2.1
SAAP Innovation and Investment Fund	4.1
Seniors Concession Allowance	2.1
Services for Families with Children	3.1
Shared Responsibility Agreements Implementation Assistance	1.2
Social Housing Subsidy Programme	4.1
Special Benefit	2
Strong Families and Communities Strategy: Community Initiatives	4.4
Stronger Families and Communities Strategy: Family Initiatives	3.1
Support for Child Care	3.3
Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme	4.1
Telephone Allowance for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Holders	2.1
Transition to Independent Living Allowance	2.4
Tsunami Aftermath Assistance	4.3
Utilities Allowance	2.1
Victims of Trafficking Support Programme	2.5
Volunteer Management Programme	4.4
Widow B Pension	2.5
Wife Pension (Age)	2.5
Wife Pension (Disability Support Pension)	2.5
Women's Leadership and Development	2.5
Women's Safety Agenda	2.5

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Youth Initiatives	2.4
YouthLinx	2.4

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: T10

Topic: Research, use of STINMOD

Hansard Page:

Senator Evans asked:

Do you own the intellectual property rights to STINMOD?

Answer:

Yes, the Commonwealth owns the intellectual property in STINMOD.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: T11

Topic: Research, STINMOD Contract

Hansard Page:

Senator Evans asked:

Who has the contract for the work (in relation to STINMOD)?

Answer:

There is a legally binding 'Deed of Agreement' currently in place (which expires on 30 June 2007). The Deed of Agreement is between the Commonwealth and the University of Canberra (represented by NATSEM) and is signed by FaCSIA, DEWR, DEST and Treasury.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



Australian Government

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GMCS/OUT/2006/0130

Leonie Peak
Committee Secretariat
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee,
Department of the Senate,
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Leonie

AMENDMENT OF ANSWER GIVEN IN ESTIMATES HEARINGS 29 MAY 2006

I refer to the answer that I provided to questions at the Senate Estimates hearings of the Committee on 29 May 2006. My evidence is on page CA 13 of the Hansard.

On 17 July 2006, further information came to my attention and I am now updating my answer as follows.

The department had had six (not four) arrangements for executive coaching, each under a separate contract. The total cost of one-on-one coaching was \$15,670 (not \$6,670).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wood', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Wood
Group Manager,
Corporate Support Group

18 July 2006

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 003

Topic: Fraud

Hansard Page: CA16 – 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

Do you have updated figures since January in regard to fraud?

Answer:

Yes. Since 25 January 2006 (to 30 May 2006), the Department has received 26 reports of suspected fraud. This includes 17 reports received by the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 004

Topic: Ernst & Young

Hansard Page: CA17 – 29 May 2006

Senator Evans asked:

What is the contract with Ernst & Young? Is it an annual retainer?

Answer:

The contract is for the provision of services for audit, fraud, risk and business continuity. This contract operated from 30 June 2003 until 30 June 2006.

The Department recently exercised an option to extend the contract for a further 12 months.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 005

Topic: Ernst & Young

Hansard Page: CA18 - 29 May 2006

Senator Ludwig asked:

Have the Ernst & Young contractors done public service training packages eg: PSP99 and if not, why not?

Answer:

Yes. All Ernst and Young contractors engaged in the provision of fraud control and investigation services for FaCSIA are qualified in accordance with the Australian Government Investigation Standards and as outlined in PSP99.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 006

Topic:Fraud

Hansard Page: CA18, 29 May 2006

Senator Ludwig asked:

Provide the date when last year's annual report was provided to the Attorney General's Department? If that is available you might want to make it available to the Committee.

Answer

The report to the Attorney General's Department was submitted by filling out the Attorney General's Department online fraud questionnaire on 22 September 2005. From time to time, the Attorney General's Department provides consolidated Australian Government agency information deriving from this questionnaire, including information from the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 008

Topic: Ernst & Young Fraud Control

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Can you advise whether Ernst & Young are aware of and conduct their investigations on behalf of FaCSIA in accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Investigation Standards Package?

Please specify whether it is in the contract with Ernst & Young. If not, why not.

Answer:

Ernst & Young are aware of and conduct their investigations on behalf of FaCSIA in accordance with the Australian Government Investigation Standards (which replaced the Commonwealth Fraud Investigation Standards Package in September 2003).

The contract specifies key performance standards, including that the service provider (Ernst & Young) fraud control officers are qualified in fraud prevention and investigation.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 014

Topic: DHS Compliance Package.

Hansard Page: CA25 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

What is the breakdown of the \$266 million?

Answer:

The breakdown of the \$266 million in the DHS Compliance Package is contained on pages 283 to 296 in Budget Paper No. 2, 2006-2007.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross Output

Question No: 016

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- (1) What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).
- (2) What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services.
- (3) What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

Answer:

Expenditure on external legal services as at 31 May 2006 was \$2,338,046 for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (including expenditure for the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations from 1 – 31 May 2006 as records are only available to FaCSIA for this period), \$20,128 for the Institute of Family Studies, \$158,614 for Aboriginal Hostels Limited, \$135,003 for the Indigenous Land Corporation and \$148,556 for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Expenditure on internal legal services as at 31 May 2006 was \$2,161,397 for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (including expenditure for the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations from 1 – 31 May 2006 as records are only available to FaCSIA for this period), \$481,975 for the Indigenous Land Corporation and nil for the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Aboriginal Hostels Limited and the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Projected legal expenditure for 2006/07 has not yet been determined for the Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Projected 2006/07 legal expenditure for the Australian Institute of Family Studies is \$43,000, \$150,000 for Aboriginal Hostels Limited, \$600,000 for the Indigenous Land Corporation and \$150,000 for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 007

Topic: Fraud

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Does FaCSIA have authority to investigate serious or more complex fraud.
2. In respect of the alleged fraud that was identified and an officer was stood down for 7 months, was it in respect of a minor or routine matter. If not, why was it not referred to the AFP for consideration.
3. Was the AFP contacted and asked for advice in respect of the above matter.

Answer:

In accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines 2002, serious or more complex fraud is referred to the AFP. The AFP was consulted on this matter in relation to the procedure to be followed should the investigation reveal serious or complex fraud. In the event it did not.

The case referred to was a complex matter. In relation to the standing down of an officer for seven months, it was considered necessary in the first instance to suspend the officer due to a range of issues including a potential breach of the code of conduct. At the early stage of investigation when it was not certain as to whether the case was a potential fraud or potential breach of the code of conduct (or both), there were concerns regarding the preservation of evidence and interference with witnesses. There were also concerns relating to the well-being of the staff member who had reported the matter. Suspension with pay was considered appropriate (as opposed to without pay) on the basis that the allegations had not been substantiated and no determination was possible as to the guilt of the employee. Towards the end of the investigation, as a matter of natural justice, the employee was advised of the course of action the Department was proposing to take. The employee resigned shortly thereafter.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 009

Topic: Fraud

Hansard Page: CA19 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

The breakdown of which fraud listed in the report involved Departmental officers and which involved third parties such as inappropriate use of funding grants.

Answer:

Since Financial Year 2003-04 there have been 51 reported cases, of which approximately 15% involved allegations against staff.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 010

Topic: Fraud

Hansard Page: CA20 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

With regard to the officer who was suspended on full pay whilst being investigated for fraud, can you advise who inside the Department determined there was not enough evidence for it to be treated as a criminal matter?

Answer:

Three senior Departmental officers, involving the People Branch, the Legal Services Branch and the Chief Internal Auditor, collectively decided there was not enough evidence to treat this as a criminal matter. This decision was based on advice from an independent investigation officer.

The AFP was consulted on this matter.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 011

Topic:Fraud

Hansard Page: CA22 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

Can you indicate what happened as a result of the reports of 2004-05? Have they all been completed now? Can you give an update of the outcomes of the 2004-05 investigations?

Answer

In Financial Year 2004-05 there were 11 reports. Seven of these investigations have been completed with the remainder on going.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 012

Topic: Fraud

Hansard Page: CA22 – 29 May 2006

Senator Evans asked:

Please give a breakdown of cases on the three years provided to the Committee of those which apply to staff and those which apply to agencies, which are funded by FaCSIA.

Answer:

Covered by the response given to Question on Notice No. 009.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 013

Topic: Fraud Budget Measures.

Hansard Page: CA23 29/05

Senator Evans asked:

How much have we saved over the last five years?

Answer:

Over the five years from the 2000/2001 budget there has been approximately \$1.25 billion dollars in savings achieved from FaCS (FaCSIA) initiated compliance budget initiatives.

These savings occurred through identifying people that were not genuinely entitled to social security support.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 015

Topic: Sick Leave Usage

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Mason asked:

- 1) With respect to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (the Department) in the last calendar year or financial year you have records for what is the total number of days of sick leave and unscheduled leave taken by the Department's employees? Over the same period, what was the average number of days of sick leave and unscheduled leave taken per Full Time Equivalent employee of the Department?
- 2) What is the sick leave entitlement allowable to the employees of the Department as part of the terms of their employment (under the Certified Agreement or individual contracts)?
- 3) Does the Department monitor and review the employees' use of sick leave entitlement? Has this procedure changed in the past 12 months?
- 4) What initiatives, if any, has the Department undertaken in the past three years to address absenteeism?

Answer:

Total Sick Leave Days Taken in 2005 (CY)	16,662*
Total Other Unscheduled Leave Days taken in 2005 (CY)	4,836*
Average Number of Days of Sick Leave per FTE in 2005 (CY)	9.26*
Average Number of Days of Other Unscheduled Leave per FTE in 2005 (CY)	2.69*

*Figures provided for CY 2005 are for the former Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) staff transferred to FaCSIA on 4 May 2006.

The FaCS Certified Agreement 2005-08 (FaCS CA) provides for leave for illness or injury as part of a personal leave entitlement. Please refer Sections 9.24 to 9.40 of the Certified Agreement, which may be found on the FaCSIA Internet: Careers in FaCSIA.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

FaCSIA employees on Australian Workplace Agreements are entitled to the same personal leave provisions as those employees covered under the FaCS CA.

The Department does monitor and review sick leave use. Sick leave usage is reported regularly to the FaCSIA Executive and data on sick leave usage is also made available to the Department's line managers. The procedure has not changed in the last 12 months. Departmental initiatives taken over the past three years to address and reduce absenteeism include; removing provision for access to unlimited paid personal leave from the FaCS CA, tightening provisions for medical evidence to support sick leave applications, publishing guidelines for managers and employees on sick leave entitlements and conditions, introducing an early intervention/rehabilitation program to assist ill or injured employees to return to work as soon as possible, regularly reporting sick leave usage to Departmental managers, providing annual influenza vaccinations to employees, publicising the availability of the Department's Employee Assistance Program to support employees with issues that may affect their health, facilitating workplace ergonomic assessments to prevent injury, and subsidising healthy lifestyle programs and activities for employees.

The level of unscheduled leave (including sick leave) has reduced since 2004.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 017

Topic: Coaching and Leadership Training

Hansard Page: CA13 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

The following questions relate to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services by the department/agency, broken down for each of the last four financial years.

Where available, please provide:

1. Total spending on these services.
2. The number of employees offered these services and their salary level.
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their salary level.
4. The names of all service providers engaged.
5. For each service purchased from a provider listed in the answer to the previous question, please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased.
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based.
 - c. The number of employees who received the service.
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees.
 - e. The total amount spent on the service.
 - f. A description of the fees charged (e.g. per hour, complete package).
 - g. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - i. The location used
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part.

Answer:

FaCSIA is committed to ongoing investment in the development of its leaders, and has included specific leadership behaviours as a priority area within its Strategic Framework.

Total expenditure on coaching and leadership services in the financial year 2005/06 in the former FaCS and FaCSIA was \$351,205. A total of 213 staff were offered this training. The traditional target groups for this type of training are the Senior Executive and Executive Level staff groups. Details relating to salary levels of these groups can be found in the departmental Annual Report, or on the departmental website.

Providing the details sought for four years for each of the services would be too resource intensive, including seeking information from a number of other departments whose staff have transferred into and out of FaCSIA. Investing in leadership development in the APS is a priority, and is a continuing process. This is articulated in the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report, and its Integrated Leadership System website.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

**2003 National Roundtable on Indigenous Family Violence and Child Abuse—
Indigenous Attendees**

- Dr Mick Dodson AM -- Chairman of the Australian National University's Institute of Indigenous Australia
- Jackie Huggins AM -- Co Chair of Reconciliation Australia
- Noel Pearson -- Team leader of Cape York Partnerships
- Senator Aden Ridgeway -- Democrat Senator for New South Wales
- The Hon John Ah Kit, MLC (NT) -- Minister for Community Development, Housing, Local Government, Sport and Recreation, Regional Development and assists the Chief Minister on Indigenous Affairs in the Northern Territory Labor Government.
- Commissioner Alison Anderson -- ATSIC Commissioner for Northern Territory Central Zone
- Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE -- Inaugural Chair of ATSIC; Professorial Fellow at Flinders University
- Dr Evelyn Scott -- Chair of the Cairns and District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Women
- Associate Professor Ian Anderson -- Deputy Director, Department of Public Health and Director of the Centre for the Study of Health and Society at the University of Melbourne, and Director of the VicHealth Koori Health Research and Community Development Unit
- Kerry Arabena -- Director, Family Planning Association
- Winsome Matthews -- Chair of the NSW Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee
- Tammy Williams -- Lawyer employed by DPP in Queensland; Member of Senator Vanstone's Indigenous Women's Advisory Group.
- Mary Ann Bin-Sallik -- Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Research and Education, Northern Territory University
- Bonnie Robertson -- Chair of Queensland Government Indigenous Women's Taskforce on Violence
- Muriel Cadd -- Director of the Aboriginal Child Care Agency in Victoria.
- Miriam Rose-Bauman -- Principal, Daly River Primary School

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

WADEYE – FACTS & FIGURES

FINANCES – FaCSIA ADMINISTERED funding in Wadeye (as at 29 May 2006)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	TOTAL 2003-06	Additional funds committed
FaCSIA - Family and Community Assistance	\$473,457	\$568,924	\$268,834	\$1,311,215	\$479,898
FaCSIA - Housing and Infrastructure	\$2,806,823	\$451,975	\$3,517,000	\$6,775,798	\$6,500,000
TOTAL FACCSIA (excl. OIPC)	\$3,280,280	\$1,020,899	\$3,785,834	\$8,087,013	\$6,979,898
AG contribution to joint NT & Aust Govt IHANT program *	\$1,314,170	\$1,854,490	\$3,516,900	\$6,063,803 (\$6,685,560)	\$4,146,713 (\$4,571,900)
TOTAL OTHER AGENCIES (Inc. OIPC) **	\$2,572,275	\$2,398,922	\$6,295,391	\$11,266,588	\$8,303,692
TOTAL	\$7,166,725	\$5,274,311	\$13,598,125	\$25,417,404	\$19,430,303

Other Australian Government Agency Funding in Wadeye (as at 29 May 2006)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	TOTAL 2003-06	Additional allocated funds
DCITA	\$26,596	\$12,740	\$75,000	\$114,336	\$2,000,000
DEH			\$159,267	\$159,267	
DEST			\$626,000	\$626,000	\$417,000
DEWR **	\$809,100	\$770,000	\$846,900	\$2,426,000	
DOH&A	\$657,285	\$1,079,129	\$3,315,483	\$5,051,897	\$5,530,398
DOTARS	\$20,794	\$26,553	\$466,421	\$513,768	\$356,294
OIPC	\$1,058,500	\$510,500	\$306,320	\$1,875,320	
Indigenous Land Corporation			\$500,000	\$500,000	
TOTAL OTHER AGENCIES (Inc. OIPC)	\$2,572,275	\$2,398,922	\$6,295,391	\$11,266,588	\$8,303,692
TOTAL FACCSIA (excl. OIPC)	\$3,280,280	\$1,020,899	\$3,785,834	\$8,087,013	\$6,979,898
AG contribution to joint NT & Aust Govt IHANT program *	\$1,314,170	\$1,854,490	\$3,516,900	\$6,063,803 (\$6,685,560)	\$4,146,713 (\$4,571,900)
TOTAL AUS GOVT	\$7,166,725	\$5,274,311	\$13,598,125	\$25,417,404	\$19,430,303

**Pro-rata Australian Government contribution included in the table (joint total shown in brackets). NT-wide, AG contributed 90.7% and NTG 9.3% to IHANT funding over the 3 years (Wadeye specific figures are not available).*

***Excludes CDEP wages (DEWR has provided \$5.6m over the three years in CDEP wages at Wadeye - \$1.8m in 2003-04; \$1.8m in 04-05; \$1.9m in 05-06)*

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006
OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS POLICY COORDINATION EVALUATION PLAN
FOR WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
2006-09

1. Purpose

This paper provides an overview of the planned evaluation activities to be coordinated over the next three years by the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC). The plan has been prepared in conjunction with other Commonwealth agencies in respect of the Australian Government's whole-of-government approach in Indigenous affairs. It focuses on the activities for the 2006-07 financial year.

2. Background

The changes made from 1 July 2004 to the Australian Government's administration of Indigenous affairs represented a significant shift from previous arrangements. It was clear that the previous arrangements were not working well. New governance and advisory structures were created, together with an increased emphasis on working in a whole-of-government manner and on improving accountability. Greater importance was also placed on governments and Indigenous people working in partnership and sharing responsibility to achieve better outcomes. Sustained progress requires change in the behaviour and mindsets within both government agencies and Indigenous communities. Such changes take considerable time to come to fruition and have their full impact.

The Government is setting the over-arching direction, while progressively reviewing and revising implementation of the new arrangements in Indigenous affairs in the light of experience. Identifying what is working well and any mistakes made provides key lessons important throughout the change process. This evaluation plan is a key element of the process of continuous learning and improvement. The evaluation activities of all government agencies play a vital part in informing policy review and development and in assessing whether changes have led to improved outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Under this plan, mainstream government departments and agencies remain responsible for the evaluation of the programs they administer. This plan aims to avoid any duplication of effort and for the lessons from these agency evaluations to be shared across agencies. OIPC will compile and maintain a running directory of all evaluations of Indigenous specific programs over the past five years. Rather, the plan focuses on those evaluation activities of a whole-of-government nature for which OIPC has particular responsibility.

This plan is therefore only one element of the assessment of the new arrangements in Indigenous affairs. The new arrangements are being assessed through several layers of evaluation and performance management. This whole-of-government evaluation activity complements and will be informed by:

- Evaluations and audits by independent authorities, including the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) in the Department of Finance and

Administration, the Australian National Audit Office, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- Departmental sponsored audits and evaluations of the mainstream and Indigenous-specific programs, including lapsing programs and services each is responsible for;
- Public-sector, academic and independent research activities, including those funded by government departments and those conducted independently by academic institutions;
- Performance monitoring and reporting mechanisms, such as the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report* and the annual *Reports on Government Services*; and
- The *Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs Annual Report*.

3. Foundations of the Evaluation Plan¹

When the Government launched its new arrangements in Indigenous affairs, accountability was one of the five foundation principles. Evaluation is a critical component of this commitment. It is also consistent with two of the six principles established in 2004 under COAG's *National Framework of Principles for Improving Service Delivery to Indigenous Australians*. Those principles are:

Establishing Transparency and Accountability

- Strengthening the accountability of governments for the effectiveness of their programs and services through regular performance review, evaluation and reporting;
- Ensuring the accountability of organisations for the government funds that they administer on behalf of Indigenous people; and
- Tasking the Productivity Commission to continue to measure the effect of the COAG commitment through the jointly-agreed set of indicators.

Developing a Learning Framework

- Sharing information and experience about what is working and what is not; and
- Striving for best practice in the delivery of services to Indigenous people, families and communities.

The key focus of this evaluation framework is to encourage continuous learning and to refine the operation of the Government's new approach to Indigenous affairs. It will

¹ The evaluation plan was not developed to manage the evaluation of OIPC's specific programs, and thus does not include programs administered by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations, and OIPC's Land Services, Reconciliation and Women's Leadership areas. The evaluation of these programs is managed separately within OIPC.

build a strong evidence base for future policy directions and service delivery arrangements.

To give effect to the evaluation framework, OIPC, in consultation with other Commonwealth agencies, has developed a three year rolling plan of evaluations. This

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

plan therefore identifies a set of evaluation activities that span key pillars of the Government's new arrangements in Indigenous affairs – looking at the Australian Government's engagement in Indigenous affairs and considering the whole-of-government issues that cross or go beyond the organisational boundaries of OIPC and other agencies. By evaluating individual elements of the new arrangements, a picture of the Australian Government's whole-of-government performance will emerge over time. The evaluation plan is organised under three broad, overlapping themes:

- *Policy outcomes* – whole-of-government outcomes, coordination and gaps – the way in which policies and programs at the national level join to achieve outcomes for Indigenous people;
- *Place* – local arrangements and partnerships – the way in which governments and their programs work within local communities and how they can be made more responsive to the needs of those communities; and
- *Process* – implementation of the new arrangements – continuously improving the way agencies are implementing the Government's policies and programs.

The rolling plan will be reviewed annually by OIPC in consultation with Australian Government agencies working in Indigenous affairs to ensure that planned evaluation activities are targeting the areas of most need. This annual review process will be informed by the evaluation activities in the preceding year. While the planned evaluation activities for the immediate financial year (2006-07 in this case) are confirmed, the proposed activities in the subsequent years may be changed as the plan is reviewed each year. The plan is not a constraining document, and other evaluative activities may be commissioned during 2006-07 and beyond if the need arises.

4. Evaluative Activity in 2005-06

The plan builds on the whole-of-government evaluative work over the past 12 months, including:

4.1. Red Tape Evaluation

The red tape evaluation will provide a better understanding of the nature and extent of any undue administrative burden on organisations that provide services to Indigenous communities and suggest strategies to minimise that burden while maintaining accountability and risk management objectives. The evaluation involved 22 Indigenous organisations in 16 communities across 6 states and territories. This study will inform the approaches agencies develop to reduce the undue administrative burden on funded community organisations.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

4.2. Formative Evaluation of the eight COAG Trial Sites

The formative evaluation of the eight COAG Trials focused on learning lessons from the trials, and in particular how the Australian Government can improve its engagement with state and territory governments and Indigenous people and communities. The evaluation reports on each trial site cover the history of the trial, the coordination processes used in the trial, interim outcomes and options for further consideration. A 'meta evaluation' drawing together common findings from all the site evaluations will take place in the second half of 2006. More information on the evaluation of the COAG trials is provided in **Attachment A**.

4.3. Review of Individual SRAs

These reviews will commence some 12 months after SRAs are signed or at an appropriate review point. They will be conducted by a panel of 5-10 consultants over a 3 year period. It is anticipated that all but the very low cost SRAs will be reviewed. It is estimated that around 300 SRAs will be reviewed over the next four years. The first group of reviews should be completed by 30 June 2006. More information on the performance management of SRAs is provided in **Attachment B**.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

5. OIPC Evaluation Plan for the financial years 2006-07 through to 2008-09

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and meta-analysis of ‘no school no pool’ projects • Follow-up on the Commonwealth Grants Commission’s 2001 review of Indigenous funding • Review of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Minerals Council of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of new petrol sniffing sites and analysis of whole-of-government petrol sniffing interventions
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation review of Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) • Implementation review of Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of OIPC’s community engagement mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness review of SRA approach
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-analysis of the COAG trial evaluations • Reviews of individual SRAs • Review of a sample of Communities in Crisis projects initiated between 2003 and 2005 • Establishment of baselines in new priority communities and a sample of petrol sniffing sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing reviews of individual SRAs • Continued establishment of baselines in any new priority communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing reviews of individual SRAs • Continued establishment of baselines in any new priority communities • Review of a sample of Regional Partnership Agreements • 2nd year follow-up review of initial priority communities

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

6. Outline of Proposed Evaluations in 2006-07

The list below briefly outlines the proposed evaluations for 2006-07. The details of proposed evaluations in later years will be determined as they are finalised.

6.1. Reviews of Individual SRAs

These reviews are a continuation of the reviews described in paragraph 4.3 and **Attachment B**.

6.2. Implementation Review of Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

The implementation review of ICCs will instigate a cycle of formative evaluation and change management, identifying where blockages may have developed in the implementation of the ICC model, devising remedial strategies and overseeing the implementation of agreed improvements.

6.3. Implementation Review of the SRA Approach

The implementation review would examine the approach taken with SRAs in the first years of the new arrangements, including the use of the flexible funding pool for SRAs. It would recognise that the SRA approach has been maturing and increasingly better understood since the establishment of OIPC in July 2004. It would draw together the lessons learnt from the individual SRA reviews (see paragraph 4.3 above), and make recommendations to improve the SRA process overall.

6.4. Meta-analysis of the COAG Trial Evaluations

The meta-analysis of the COAG trial evaluations will draw together common findings from all the individual site evaluations described in paragraph 4.2.

6.5. Review of the early Communities in Crisis Projects

The review of communities in crisis projects will assess a sample of the projects initiated between 2003 and 2005, looking at whether they had met their objectives and other benefits that may have resulted from the projects. The review will inform the development and implementation of policy and programs and underpin the direction taken with new projects.

6.6. Establish a Baseline in Priority Communities and Petrol Sniffing Sites

OIPC will also be working in partnership with state and territory governments and local communities to establish a number of quantitative and qualitative baseline data points in communities identified as priority communities in 2006 and a sample of communities to be assisted under the Petrol Sniffing 8 Point Plan. The establishment of such baseline data will provide a starting point for the subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the interventions provided to these communities. The establishment of a baseline in priority communities is one element of the Performance Management Framework for Intensive Whole-of-Government Interventions (see **Attachment C** for more information).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

7. Contact details

For more information about this evaluation plan, you can contact:

Bryan Palmer
Assistant Secretary
Performance and Information Planning Branch
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Woden ACT 2606
Website: www.oipc.gov.au
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Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

7

Attachment A

Evaluation Approach for the Eight COAG Trial Sites

In late 2003 the Australian and State and Territory Governments agreed on a monitoring and evaluation framework for the eight COAG Indigenous coordination trials. The eight sites are the ACT, the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands (SA), Cape York (Qld), Northeast Tasmania, Shepparton (Vic), Murdi Paaki (NSW), East Kimberley (WA) and Wadeye (NT). OIPC is coordinating evaluations of the eight COAG trial sites on behalf of the Australian Government, in consultation with the relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory lead agencies in each site.

Formative evaluations of each site commenced in 2005-06. The evaluations are looking at what's working well and what can be improved. They are being undertaken by independent evaluators using a common evaluation framework. They are focusing on how governments can improve their engagement with each other and with Indigenous people and communities. The evaluation reports will cover the history of the trial, the coordination processes used in the trial, interim outcomes and options for further consideration by the trial partners. The evaluations should be largely completed by July 2006.

An overarching report (or meta-evaluation) in the second half of 2006 will draw together the common themes and lessons from the individual COAG Trial site evaluations.

The need for and nature of further evaluation of the COAG Trials will be considered after the meta-evaluation and will be flagged in future evaluation plans as appropriate.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Attachment B

Performance Management Approach for Shared Responsibility Agreements

OIPC has developed a broad framework for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of SRAs. The framework consists of two elements.

The first element relates to the performance of individual SRAs.

- The performance of individual SRAs is being monitored through regular reporting against a small set of relevant quantitative performance indicators in each SRA.
- A panel of 5-10 independent consultants is being constituted to conduct a concise review of individual SRAs at their conclusion or an appropriate review point (typically 12 months after signing). These reviews are expected to commence in May 2006. The table below sets out the estimated number of SRAs to be reviewed in each year.

Year	Estimated number of SRAs to be reviewed
2005 – 2006	20
2006 – 2007	100
2007 – 2008	100
2008 – 2009	75
Total	295

The reviews are intended to be short, and impose minimal burden upon communities and other key stakeholders. The consultant will identify lessons learnt by parties to SRAs, and capture their perceptions of the SRA process, how it worked for them and how it could be improved. The consultant will also investigate the extent to which outcomes were achieved, taking into full account the circumstances in which SRAs were developed.

Indigenous signatories and other relevant partners will be provided with the reviews on an in-confidence basis as they may contain information about individual participants and affect the ongoing implementation of the SRA. Release of a summary of the overall learnings will be considered at an appropriate time.

The second element involves the systemic evaluation of the SRA approach.

It will begin with an implementation review of SRAs in the second half of 2006. The implementation review will synthesise lessons learnt – for instance, whether commitments made were being implemented, whether the agreement-making process had enabled effective community engagement, and whether there is community ownership and a basis for further development of partnerships with the community. The implementation review would recognise that OIPC's

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

approach to SRAs has been maturing and is increasingly better understood since July 2004, and it would cover the use of the flexible funding pool for SRAs.

- OIPC is also planning an effectiveness review of its approach to SRAs in 2008-09.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Attachment C

Performance Management Framework for Intensive Whole-of-Government Interventions

OIPC is developing an approach for evaluating intensive whole-of-government initiatives in Indigenous communities and regions. This evaluation approach would be used for priority region interventions. Elements of this approach would be applied as appropriate to comprehensive SRAs, other SRAs with a substantial investment, and a sample of communities being assisted under the Petrol Sniffing 8 Point Plan.

The proposed approach would see evaluation and monitoring occurring against the following timetable:

Year 0

- Establish a community profile to report on the current status of the community using both quantitative and qualitative measures. Intangible elements such as governance and family violence would be included through the use of qualitative data. This profile would establish the current state of play, and capture the community's view on the perceived trajectory – are things getting better or worse.
- Conduct a diagnostic assessment to identify community strengths and opportunities, determine priority areas for action and inform a community action plan.
- Negotiate a plan of action (for example, through an SRA or RPA) with the community on the basis of the profile and diagnostic assessment. This would include a small set of performance indicators relevant to the planned interventions that would be monitored on a regular basis.
- Begin implementing the agreed action plan with regular reporting against the small set of performance indicators relevant to the agreed interventions.

Year 2-3

- Rerun the community profile to assess progress against the baseline.
- Undertake a formative evaluation to inform fine tuning of the action plan, with a focus on what's not working, what's working well and what could be improved.

Year 6-8

- Rerun the community profile, to further build a picture of progress against the baseline.
- Undertake a summative evaluation to measure and assess the effectiveness of the strategy.

A key element of the evaluation strategy proposed is using the data to help frame and reframe the necessary interventions. As the community is consulted in the compilation of this data, they are directly involved both in agenda setting and the evaluation process. This approach also allows the interventions to evolve over time in response to community needs.

Ensuring a well designed quantitative and qualitative profile that will remain relevant over the life of the planned intervention will be essential to the success of this approach.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

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Family violence and child abuse in
Indigenous communities

Report to the Prime Minister

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

INTRODUCTION

The Prime Minister convened a meeting on 23 July 2003 with a number of Indigenous leaders to discuss family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. This meeting arose from the Prime Minister's recognition that the level of violence and child abuse had reached crisis proportions and that a national response was necessary.

As a result of that meeting, the Prime Minister asked a small working group comprising Indigenous leaders and senior officials to develop a paper that he could consider in preparation for the meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to be held on 29 August 2003. This paper has been prepared by that working group and draws on a number of themes that were discussed at the 23 July meeting, including the need for greater coordination of programme delivery between different levels of government, the importance of enhancing leadership roles for women and recognition that a blanket approach to addressing these problems is not appropriate.

It needs to be acknowledged that the presence of violence in Indigenous communities and among Indigenous people cannot be separated from the history of European settlement. This history has contributed not only to the social and economic disadvantage faced by Indigenous people, but has also affected them physically, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually. However, while the past must be recognised, the future of Indigenous families and their children depends upon tackling the present. Indigenous people, in partnership with all levels of government, are now developing practical community based solutions to overcome the disadvantage experienced by many Indigenous communities. There is a strong desire to move from passive welfare dependency to active participation in all aspects of Australian society.

One of the most disturbing aspects of contemporary Indigenous society is the prevalence of violence and abuse, directed particularly against women and children. While this is also true of the wider Australian community, the incidence is greater in many Indigenous communities. A major recurring theme in examining violence in Indigenous communities is the strong correlation between family violence and substance abuse, particularly alcohol. Alcohol abuse is an exacerbating factor in family violence in Indigenous communities. Excessive consumption of alcohol results in more frequent and more intense episodes of violence. At the same time drug abuse is rising in many communities, with equally tragic consequences.

Of course, alcohol alone does not cause violence. A wide variety of factors have contributed to family violence and sexual abuse, including overcrowded living conditions, unemployment, low income and a lack of life choices and opportunities. The impact of welfare dependency has been detrimental, resulting in the loss of individual and community identity, purpose and self-esteem, and a breakdown of traditional social structures.

How can the cycle of family violence and child abuse be broken? Solutions must be informed by general community experience and driven by local community initiative. They need to be addressed in a holistic manner, including through education, employment, health care, law enforcement, substance misuse services as well as family violence prevention programs. Effective approaches are also likely to include healing and rehabilitation. Leadership needs to be developed within communities.

Indigenous leaders, along with governments and the broader Australian community, are appalled at the violence in some Indigenous communities and seek immediate intervention. An agreed national approach on strategic interventions is required, over and above existing initiatives, to effectively address family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

A framework needs to be developed within which the Australian Government and state and territory governments can enter into bilateral agreements that respond flexibly to local, regional and community-based initiatives.

The working group agreed on a number of key principles to inform and guide efforts in addressing family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities.

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities has never been a part of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture. Acts of family violence and child abuse constitute criminal behaviour. Communities and governments must work together to break the cycle of violence. While acknowledging the influence of the past that has led to the crisis situation, the focus must be on addressing the present for the sake of future generations.

The following principles should apply to interventions to tackle the crisis that has arisen from the increased incidence of family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities:

1. People have a right to be protected from criminal violence and abuse. Governments and Indigenous communities should work in partnership to combat family violence and child abuse.
2. Indigenous people should be assisted in their desire to move from passive welfare dependency, regain control of their lives and have responsibility for their families.
3. Indigenous communities should be supported to develop local solutions, where possible delivered by community based organisations, on the basis of governments and the community agreeing to share responsibility.
4. Government programmes should be flexible, and there must be political and administrative willingness to cut across jurisdictional and bureaucratic boundaries, in delivering services to Indigenous communities
5. Abuse of alcohol and drugs is a major contributor to family violence and child abuse. Community developed strategies to reduce alcohol and drug abuse should be supported by governments.
6. Strong leadership and accountability from within Indigenous communities and governments will be essential to prevent family violence and child abuse.
7. Bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and state and territory governments, based on a national framework, should be developed to implement responses to family violence and child abuse.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

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FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

The prevention of family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities is an Australian Government priority involving partnerships with the states and territories and local communities. State and territory governments have primary responsibility for child protection systems, law enforcement, the justice system and the regulatory environment (for example the capacity to amend liquor-licensing regulations in response to a community identified need).

Shared responsibility between governments and Indigenous communities is essential to addressing family violence and child abuse. Governments have a responsibility to provide support and protection to enable families and communities to rebuild and strengthen and to coordinate resources and services to complement community-based actions. Developing community capacity and leadership will be central to developing effective partnerships to prevent family violence and address the underlying problems of community dysfunction.

The Australian Government, state and territory governments, together with Indigenous leaders, should work together to develop a national framework to address family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. The framework needs to recognise the diversity of circumstances within Indigenous communities. Programmes aimed at addressing family violence may have success in some communities, but in others, they may fail: if there is a lack of community involvement in and ownership of the programmes; where different cultural circumstances make the programme inappropriate; or if there is a lack of community capacity and human resources to develop and implement the programmes.

In short, a national framework must recognise that communities have different needs and capacities, develop different solutions and require different levels of government support to address family violence and child abuse.

Within this framework, the following specific approaches should be considered as a first step to reducing family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities:

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

The Australian Government should commit to review the effectiveness of existing programmes and strategies that contribute to reducing family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities, in particular:

Family Tax Benefit – Family Tax Benefit agreements could be pursued between the Department of Family and Community Services, Centrelink and Indigenous families, so that payments of Family Tax Benefit could be transferred within care groups of extended family members, along the lines of the recent Extended Family Care Pilots.

Community Participation Agreements (CPA's) – These agreements involve Indigenous communities in remote areas identifying practical ways to contribute to their families and communities in return for their income support and also improve their chances of gaining employment over the longer term.

CPA's could be improved by allowing them to be negotiated more flexibly, such that a CPA could be an agreement of the family or community regarding obligations which members are required to undertake, or could be designed for income support recipients such as people on Newstart. CPA's could also cover agreements between the individual and government about obligations that need to be met in return for payment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

A priority should be to seek to incorporate where possible within these agreements measures that reduce family violence and child abuse.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) currently funds 13 Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs) in selected locations.

FVPLSs provide a valuable service in the town they are based. However, many high need communities do not have access to these services for immediate assistance. The number of FVPLSs should be increased and further funds provided to enable existing FVPLSs to expand their geographical coverage and to support victims of sexual assaults, particularly youth and child victims.

Performance data indicate that over a one year period (at the approximate cost of \$300,000 per service) FVPLS services can assist up to 1000 people including victims and their children. They also support the general community through education and information programmes.

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence - Partnerships Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is an Australian Government initiative, supported by states and territories and communities, to prevent domestic violence across Australia. As part of PADV, the National Indigenous Family Violence Programme was established to support practical, grassroots projects to strengthen indigenous community efforts to address family violence.

An interim evaluation report identifying best practice within these projects and recording those practices which present culturally sensitive approaches is due in late August 2003. The findings of this evaluation could be used to inform future policy development and service delivery models.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

The states and territories have primary responsibility for law enforcement and child protection services. A number of states have already taken steps to improve the funding and delivery of these services. However, coverage remains difficult in remote areas and for historical and other reasons, there is sometimes a reluctance to intervene in the Indigenous context.

The Australian Government should commit itself to working constructively with states and territories to expand service provision in these areas with a view to taking advantage of new service delivery opportunities, including:

Regulation of alcohol - Some jurisdictions have already legislated to assist discrete communities to restrict or prevent the consumption or supply of alcohol to curb the level of family violence and child abuse.

State and territory governments should provide all necessary support to Indigenous communities who wish to introduce these measures, recognising that consequential measures may also be necessary to guard against the diversion of abusers to other substances or their shift to other locations.

Awareness, education and counselling services should also be provided to Indigenous communities to assist people understand the relationship between alcohol abuse and family violence, in particular the impact it has on women and children. Training should also be

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

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SOCIAL POLICY DI

006

provided to Indigenous people to provide culturally appropriate counselling services to communities, with a particular emphasis on prevention, diversion and rehabilitation.

Prison transition - The transition of Indigenous men and women from prison to the community is critical in breaking the cycle of violent behaviour which has resulted in their incarceration. The rates of re-offending among Indigenous people is high. Given that research suggests that many Indigenous women do not want to see their partners go to prison, effective programmes must be established to ensure that the transition from prison to the community is successful and provides little chance of re-offending to occur.

The development of Indigenous sensitive sex offender and anti-violence treatment programmes, with a special focus on young offenders, should be provided to target prisoners before release, plus follow-up services post-release.

State and territory governments, in partnership with Indigenous communities, should develop programmes which support this transition including training and appropriate counselling personnel.

Child protection - State and territories have responsibility for child protection and foster care services. While many jurisdictions have increased resources in these areas over recent years, more effort may be required to ensure sufficient service coverage for affected Indigenous families and children. Indigenous children are entitled to no less protection than other children in Australian society.

There is concern among many Indigenous leaders that state and territory child protection systems are failing to meet the needs of Indigenous children and families. A child protection system which is responsive and provides protection and support to Indigenous children and families is essential in addressing family violence and in particular, child abuse.

This should include an emphasis on early intervention in areas such as positive parenting programmes, relationship counselling and education on the vulnerability of children and their development needs.

Communities, particularly in rural and remote areas, are reluctant to report abuse as those who speak up face reprisals at the local level and risk being let down by an inadequate or inappropriate response from child welfare authorities.

The Community Services Ministers Council could establish a partnership between governments, the Secretariat for Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), ATSIS and non-government organisations to oversee implementation of its Indigenous child safety and family wellbeing framework, *Our Children, Our Future, Everyone's Business*.

Specific tasks the Council might undertake include:

- Establish a set of national outcomes for, and a periodic report card on, the welfare of Indigenous children;
- Enhance the current systems of child protection through an increased focus on family support and early intervention;
- Develop minimum national standards for care, protection and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in need of care to apply to government and non-government service providers;
- Address the critical shortage of Indigenous foster carers;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- Coordinating systems for the implementation and monitoring of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle; and
- Overseeing the development of local Indigenous community based family support programmes and services with a focus on primary prevention and early intervention.

Law enforcement and community justice mechanisms – State and territory governments have responsibility for law enforcement and justice mechanisms, greater responsiveness by police (particularly in isolated communities) and improved access to legal services for women and children.

In rural and remote areas the level of such services needs to be improved, including support for community justice initiatives such as night patrols, circle sentencing and appropriate community diversion programmes in partnership with Indigenous communities.

Mandatory reporting of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) among children – While laws relating to the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect exist in all states and territories, their detail varies across the states and territories and they remain under utilised and are not enforceable. The diagnosis of an STI in a child under twelve years would normally be said to constitute suspected abuse. If professionals are not reporting STIs in children, then strategies could be adopted by states and territories to support such reporting at all times, in all geographic areas. This, combined with a broadening of the range of professionals responsible for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect and improving the awareness among health and education care providers of the indicators of suspected child abuse, could significantly increase identification of children subject to violence and sexual abuse.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT/STATE AND TERRITORY JOINT INITIATIVES

Coordination and flexibility of governments - Shared responsibility between governments and Indigenous communities is essential to addressing family violence and child abuse. Indigenous people should be encouraged and supported to take responsibility for the safety of their families and in particular, protecting their children from harm and neglect. Developing community capacity and leadership will be central to developing effective partnerships to overcome family violence and address the underlying problems of community dysfunction.

The way in which governments approach and relate to Indigenous communities can have a critical influence on the effectiveness of any interventions made. Given the respective roles of the Australian Government, state, territory and local agencies in delivering services to Indigenous peoples, the 'governance' of government becomes a critical issue in its own right. More effective formal coordination between agencies is required to respond to Indigenous needs, overcome duplication of effort and ensure best impact from the resources being invested.

Regional plans developed by ATSIC Regional Councils can guide how local services are framed and coordinated between different levels of government, community organisations and leaders within local communities. But effective networks between agency personnel and relevant Indigenous organisations will be critical to ensuring that responses are being 'linked up' in the best way practicable.

Leadership – Leadership may be the single most important thing that can break the current cycle of family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has already committed through the reconciliation framework to fostering Indigenous leadership and improve arrangements between Indigenous communities and

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

governments, to enable greater Indigenous community self-reliance and to strengthen the capacity of communities and governments to address entrenched social and economic disadvantage.

It is important to target individual leadership initiatives to specific groups, such as Indigenous women and young people, which may not otherwise have equal opportunities to participate in decision making structures.

Indigenous women in particular remain under-represented in formal leadership roles in all sectors of society. Programmes which provide support and training for Indigenous women to undertake leadership roles should be actively supported by all levels of government.

When there is only a small pool of community leaders, the pressure on them is immense and diversity of perspective in decision making is constrained. Jurisdictions are assisting Indigenous individuals and communities to identify and encourage representation in decision-making roles as well as through innovative relationships with the non-government and business sectors.

An example of this approach is the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC). The AILC runs the only nationally accredited leadership course in Australia. Developed and managed by Indigenous people, the Centre's programmes are widely regarded as unique in content, design and cultural context. It has been supported to date by significant contributions from the private sector and the Australian Government.

The Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership is also an exciting initiative which aims to build the skills of current and future Indigenous leaders and expose them to a critical reform agenda.

The Foundation for Young Australians also provides leadership opportunities for Indigenous people through the Indigenous Leadership Forum. The Indigenous Leadership Forum is co-directed by Indigenous people and is focused on enhancing leadership skills, including critical thinking, communication and strategy formulation.

The Australian Government provides considerable support to Indigenous leadership programmes. State and territory governments could match existing Australian Government contributions through a variety of community based Indigenous leadership programmes and organisations.

Investment in early childhood development – Supporting children's development in their early years is recognised as critical to providing them with the foundations for a healthy life within which they reach their full potential.

Poor experiences in early childhood can contribute to poor health, school failure, drug addiction, unemployment, violence and criminal activity in later years. This is an opportunity to stop the cycle of violence and contribute to more productive and better functioning families and communities in the future.

The proposed National Agenda for Early Childhood signals that increased support for the early years should be a priority for all governments. The Commonwealth is finalising community consultations around the possible shape of the National Agenda.

The Australian Government could consider expanding its current allocation to child care in Indigenous communities at least to the point of providing access to child care at the same level

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

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SOCIAL POLICY DI

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enjoyed by other Australian children and families. As health services have a critical role in the delivery of early childhood programmes and care, the Australian Government could consider expanding the capacity of primary health care services to address the physical, social and emotional needs of infants, children and their carers. Doing so would position the Australian Government to negotiate with state and territory governments for them to improve access for Indigenous children in areas where they have lead responsibility such as pre-school services and programmes.

Housing - Existing problems are exacerbated by the extent of overcrowding in Indigenous communities, particularly in remote areas. All governments are committed to address this problem. Indigenous community housing organisations also have a critical role to play in terms of effective asset and tenant management which affects the lifespan of individual dwellings and thereby the overall supply.

In the case of public housing, however, most applicants are accommodated through annual vacancies in the existing stock. It is important therefore that Indigenous applicants are not required to choose between Indigenous and mainstream waiting lists. They should remain eligible for mainstream vacancies, especially in urban areas. This in turn will allow Indigenous housing resources to be targeted to remote communities that have no such alternative. ATSI's Home Ownership Programme also has an important role to play, especially in more settled areas.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and the Crisis Accommodation (CAP) are both joint Australian and state government programmes that provide funds to community organisations to assist in the provision of services for people who are homeless, including women escaping domestic violence. Approximately one-third of the budgets of these programmes is directed to support services for women. Indigenous women are over-represented in these services. The programme is reviewed and renegotiated every five years.

Accountability/measuring performance - Because of its nature, there is no reliable national measure of the incidence of family violence or child abuse, for either the Indigenous or non-Indigenous populations. Some such measure is needed, however, if the success of these initiatives is to be assessed.

At this stage the only broad measure available across all jurisdictions is the rate of hospital admissions for women and children resulting from interpersonal violence. Variations in this rate between regions and over time can be measured.

It is therefore proposed that, pending the emergence of more sophisticated indicators, this should be the measure of performance adopted by governments and communities.

WAY FORWARD

The working group believes that in order to address family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities, several steps need to be taken. This paper recommends a number of activities that each level of government, working in partnership with communities, should consider. In particular, the working group believes that, as a matter of priority, the Australian, state and territory governments should:

- subscribe to a statement of principles along the lines proposed;
- together develop a national framework to address family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

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SOCIAL POLICY DI

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- negotiate bilateral agreements with the Australian Government, to reflect a commitment to working together flexibly and co-operatively in addressing family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities; and
- acknowledge the need to support local community-based initiatives in Indigenous communities.

The working group recognises that this will not present an immediate solution to the crisis of family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. Governments, communities and Indigenous leaders will need to continue to work together on this issue. The meeting of the Council of Australian Governments to be held on 29 August 2003 provides an opportunity for a new beginning.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

COAG Framework for Tackling Indigenous Family Violence			
Leadership	Child protection	Substance abuse	Law and justice
<p>COAG acknowledges that family violence and child abuse is unacceptable in Indigenous communities</p> <p>Commonwealth develop Family Violence Strategic Policy Framework</p>	<p>Review of Commonwealth child care programs</p> <p>Investment in early childhood development – National Agenda for Early Childhood</p> <p>Communities to be recognised as a source of advice to Centrelink on the redirection of Family Tax Benefit to the actual carers of children</p> <p>State and territory child protection services to become more available and more responsive to Indigenous needs</p> <p>Mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse be extended to a broad range of care providers - strategies to support this reporting in all cases be developed.</p>	<p>COAG to support Indigenous communities that wish to introduce alcohol regulations to address family violence and child abuse.</p> <p>States and territories agree to implement NT/Queensland-type legislation empowering discrete communities to regulate the supply and consumption of alcohol within the community</p>	<p>Extension of ATSI's Family Violence Prevention Legal Services</p> <p>A public awareness campaign to raise awareness of the legal options available to victims of domestic violence</p> <p>Law enforcement services to become more available and responsive to Indigenous needs, especially in remote areas</p> <p>Provide circle sentencing and Koori court type arrangements to give communities a formal role in the sentencing of offenders</p> <p>Prison to community transition programs</p>
<p>Shared responsibility between governments and Indigenous communities to address family violence and child abuse.</p>	<p>Investment in early childhood development – National Agenda for Early Childhood and strengthening the primary health care service response.</p>		<p>Capacity building</p> <p>Accelerated implementation of Community Participation Agreements in communities wishing to take a lead in addressing family violence and child abuse</p>
Australian Government			
States and territories			
Joint			Expanding the ATSI Home Ownership Programme

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 035

Topic: Wadeye

Hansard Page: CA59 30/05

Senator Evans/Moore asked:

What were the outcomes from meeting with NT Government on policing and other issues in the October 05 meeting? Were there any actions?

Answer:

See response to Question 34.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 053

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

You have \$1.073m estimated for 2006/07 for combating petrol sniffing. Do you have detail on the planned programs for this – what programs will there be, how will they be advertised and applied for? What other government departments will be involved? Who will be eligible – communities or other organisations?

Answer:

Detail on the planned programs is being developed in consultation with stakeholders, including government agencies and Indigenous communities and organisations. The programs and services will include provision of early intervention and prevention services, such as diversionary youth activities, family violence and relationship services, and early learning and child care services. Programs and services will be tailored to the specific needs of each community and using good practices taken from existing models.

The funding is part of a whole of government strategy to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing in remote indigenous communities. All relevant Australian, State and Territory Government agencies, as well as many local governments, will be involved in the strategy.

Details of application and eligibility arrangements for receipt of funding will be developed as part of the implementation planning process.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 077

Topic: Evaluations and Internal Reviews of SRAs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

OIPC also stated that internal reviews of the SRAs performance information and implementation will be provided to the Minister by the end of April 2006.
Have the results of both internal reviews been made available to the Minister?

Answer:

Yes.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 078

Topic: Evaluations and Internal Reviews of SRAs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

What changes have been implemented as a result of the internal reviews?

Answer:

OIPC progressively refines and improves the format and content of SRAs. Revisions implemented to date largely involve improvements to the quality of performance indicators, feedback and monitoring mechanisms and to implementation and risk plans. Any changes arising from the SRA Implementation Review are yet to be settled.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 079

Topic: Evaluations and Internal Reviews of SRAs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Was the principal concern identified as part of the implementation review?

Answer:

The review canvassed a range of issues including: the good level of acceptance of SRAs as a mechanism to facilitate active engagements, the scope to strengthen mutual obligation and to provide additional support through use of expert panels or Multi-Use List consultants, the positive impact of implementation and risk management planning with clear timeframes for activities and milestones, and staged investments where appropriate, the importance of monitoring and feedback mechanisms, and the value in linking to Indigenous Coordination Centre regional action plans.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 080

Topic: Internal Implementation Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Does OIPC now have a record of all SRAs that:

- a. Contain unfulfilled obligations?
- b. Or breached obligations?

How many are there in total (breached and unfulfilled)?

What percentage does this represent of the total no. of SRAs?

Answer:

Our commitment is to work with communities in the implementation and delivery of SRAs and where there is slippage or slower than anticipated meeting of obligations, ICCs work with the community in question to identify and source additional assistance they may require to more effectively meet the purpose of the SRA.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 081

Topic: Internal Implementation Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Does OIPC have a record of all SRAs where Commonwealth agencies haven't met their obligations? How many are there?

Answer:

There has been some instances where there was slippage in the timing of delivery as a result of delays in approval processes or because of delays in the delivery of project milestones being met. These instances have been raised with the agencies concerned and remedial action put in place.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 088

Topic: Representative.

Hansard Page: Written.

Senator Evans asked:

During the February estimates, OIPC stated that two representative arrangements that had been finalised. One was Murdi Paaki, the other was in the Western Desert in WA (Ngaanyatjarra lands).

1. How many representative arrangements do you expect to finalise by the end of this financial year?
2. OIPC set itself the target of establishing 5 Regional Partnership Agreements in 2005-06. Does OIPC still expect to meet this target?
3. What are the key obstacles to progressing the representative arrangements?

Answer:

The Australian Government supports Indigenous people in establishing Regional Indigenous Engagement Arrangements (RIEAs), including via funding. They are the initiative of Indigenous people themselves and no targets are set. No further arrangements were finalised before the end of 2005-06.

There are a number of ongoing negotiations with communities, regions, other governments and non-government and private sector stakeholders to develop Regional Partnership Agreements (RPAs). Their complex nature means that they take time to negotiate and plan for implementation. While some are well advanced, they were not completed by the end of the financial year. Several are expected to be finalised by the end of 2006.

Progress on these arrangements will be at the rate that Indigenous people wish to proceed and having regard to the collaboration required from a range of stakeholders involved in addressing regional priorities in an integrated way.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 089

Topic: Funding to Representative bodies.

Hansard Page: Written.

Senator Evans asked:

In February Estimates, OIPC stated that the focus of Commonwealth money is to be on “enabling processes; assisting people to come together”. But then it also said that the Government would “spend money to facilitate meetings of representatives to engage with government and to deliberate on matters that are of interest to Government.”

1. What “enabling processes” are OIPC prepared to fund?
2. Will it only cover expenses associated with government meetings?

Answer:

The Australian Government’s parameters for supporting Regional Indigenous Engagement Arrangements are posted on OIPC’s website at http://www.oipc.gov.au/documents/RegionalIndigenousEngagementArrangements_Parameters.pdf.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 91

Topic: Shared Responsibility Agreements: Kunbarllanjja Community

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Can you confirm that the Darwin ICC office received a copy of a draft SRA from the Kunbarllanjja Community Government Council in May 2005?
2. What steps have been taken to progress this SRA?
3. The SRA purportedly covers:
 - market garden
 - night patrol (family safety)
 - 40 houses over 5 years
 - 12 apprentices (trained in construction)
 - multi-purpose centre (arts and craft, aged care)

What specific steps have been taken to investigate these proposals?

Answer:

None was received. The standard procedure is for SRA proposals to be drafted by ICCs as part of the negotiations with communities. The Darwin ICC initiated discussions with the Kunbarllanjja Community Government Council about an SRA in May 2005 and in September 2005 commenced discussions with community members on different components of the SRA proposal. Since then the ICC has held several meetings on the community to advance the SRA. Ultimately community members asked that a sustainable long term plan to incorporate all key priorities of the community be looked at in the context of an SRA and OIPC agreed this was the best approach.

The Darwin ICC has consulted with relevant Australian and Territory Government agencies to progress the SRA. It has also been negotiating with the community, families and individuals to obtain their agreement about what things they will do in order to address the community's priorities.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 092

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How much funding is allocated to each panel in 2005-06? And 2006-07?

Answer:

The Panels are lists of experts who may be engaged to undertake projects in support of Indigenous communities or ICCs. Funding is not allocated to each Panel but is instead allocated to specific projects, which may be undertaken by panel members.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 094

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Will every community have access to a panel or an expert? Will they get to select an expert or will one be appointed?

Answer:

Every Indigenous community may not require the assistance of a Panel member. Where additional expert assistance is required by a community, the local ICC will work with that community in identifying and engaging the most suitable Panel member.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 096

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Do you envisage that this will reduce the role and need of ICC staff to engage in field work and work directly with communities?

Answer:

No. Projects that Panel members are engaged in involve more intensive work with communities, which is complementary to the work of ICC staff.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 097

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How do these panels interact with the multi-user list of NGOs (established by OIPC – see attachment) that have established relationships in working with specific communities?

Answer:

The Panels of Experts comprise companies/organisations with expertise and skills in a range of areas such as financial management, risk assessment and management, planning and implementation and whole of government collaboration.

The Multi-Use List (MUL) comprises people with demonstrated experience and established relationships with particular communities/regions; providing facilitator/broker services on an individual level.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 033

Topic: Wadeye

Hansard Page: CA56 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Did Wadeye women request family violence funding from AGs in November 05 or another Commonwealth agency?

Answer:

No. The Thamarrurr Regional Council (TRC) made application to FaCSIA for funding under both the Family Violence Partnership Program and the Family Violence Regional Activities Program late in 2005, but withdrew these applications verbally at the Tri-Partite Steering Committee meeting in February 2006 and later confirmed the withdrawal in writing.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 034

Topic: Safety and Violence raised with Tripartite Steering Committee

Hansard Page: CA57 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

When was the issue of safety and violence raised in the Tri-Partite Steering Committee meeting? Was it on the agenda before April 06 and how was this issue responded to by Government?

Answer:

At the October 2005 Tripartite Steering Committee (TJC) meeting, a delegation of women from Wadeye requested more police to deal with the high levels of gang violence in the community. The representatives also raised these concerns separately with the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Justice.

Senior Australian Government officials subsequently raised the issue with the Northern Territory Government. The NT Police Commissioner visited Wadeye in late November 2005 and gave an undertaking that Wadeye would have seven police and a male Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer, subject to suitable accommodation being available in the community.

Similar issues were again raised at the December 2005 TSC meeting. In early May 2006, the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs raised the need for more police with the NT Chief Minister and the Police Commissioner. In June 2006, the NT Government announced that the police numbers would be increased to eight permanent officers. As at 17 July 2006, we understand there were five permanent officers in Wadeye, with another three awaiting provision of housing.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 037

Topic: Wadeye

Hansard Page: CA61 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Has any thought been given by FaCSIA to using the emergency relief funding for the people of Wadeye?

Answer:

Thamarrurr Regional Council is funded to deliver Emergency Relief in Wadeye.

The Council was initially allocated funds for 2005-06. In late 2005, the Council sought additional funds as it had fully expended the original allocation. The Council's full request was approved and the additional funds provided in January 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 038

Topic: Wadeye

Hansard Page: CA 62-65 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide budget figures for Wadeye?

Answer:

Funding is not provided through the Budget process specifically for Wadeye. Funding has been identified by partners as community issues, priorities and solutions were identified.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 050

Topic: COAG Trial at Wadeye

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (i) In relation to Women's programs, what were the performance indicators for them (planned and actual)? How much was spent on them in 2004 and 2005?
- (ii) How many "whole of government" meetings have been held over the 3 years of the trial?
- (iii) What youth programs have been funded at Wadeye during this COAG trial?

Answer:

OIPC Indigenous Women's Program

No funding was provided in 2003/04 or 2004/05. \$50,000 provided in 2005/2006.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Planned	Actual
1. Number of participants involved in activities and research projects:	Not Specified	8
2. Number of events, workshops and forums:	Not Specified	4
3. Positive contribution by program activities to the enhancement of Indigenous women's leadership, wellbeing and economic status:	<p>A delegation of 5 women visited Canberra to enhance their understanding of government.</p> <p>More women are actively involved in leadership activities particularly through involvement and participation in the social and commercial operations of the Palgnun Wunangat Association which runs the successful food take-away business, Mi Patha in the Wadeye township.</p> <p>The women have workshopped ideas with assistance from consultants and made presentations to the Tripartite Steering Committee, Centrelink and the Police Commissioner in relation to law and justice and other issues of priority within the community.</p>	

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

A total of 17 Tripartite Steering Committee meetings were held over this period. There have also been other forums in relation to identified priority areas such as education.

The Australian Government has provided funding for the YouthLinx Program (formerly the Youth Activity Services and Family Liaison Worker Program).

In addition, a project in Wadeye has been funded under the National Illicit Drug Strategy - Strengthening Families program to support families, including young people, coping with alcohol and substance abuse issues.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 066

Topic: Petrol Sniffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- a. Is the allocation for 2005–06 for ‘Combating Petrol Sniffing’ in the PBS inherited from DIMIA following the transfer of Indigenous affairs to FACS?
- b. If so why does only \$500 000 show up in the FaCSIA allocation, when \$1.5 million was allocated to the measure in the 2005–06 MYEFO?
- c. Why is there only \$1.073 million allocated for 2006–07 when \$2.4 million in petrol sniffing money was allocated to FaCSIA in the budget?
- d. Provide an overview of the ‘provision of family services and community development support’ for combating petrol sniffing to be provided by FaCSIA as part of the budget measure.

Answer:

The \$500,000 for 2005–06 for ‘Combating Petrol Sniffing’ in the FaCSIA Portfolio Budget Statements 2006–07 was directly appropriated to FaCSIA in the 2005–06 Additional Estimates (assented to on 5 April 2006). Indigenous affairs transferred to FaCSIA from 27 January 2006. The funding appeared in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2005–06 Statement (the 2005–06 MYEFO) as an expense against the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. The remainder of the \$1.5 million identified in the 2005–06 MYEFO are funds that have been earmarked for release from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA). The ABA funds are not an administered appropriation and are not reported as such in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

The \$1.073 million is the administered appropriations component of the \$2.4 million allocation.

FaCSIA will contribute to the whole-of government response to petrol sniffing by providing Indigenous families and communities with mechanisms and support to address the circumstances leading to breakdown in social cohesion, anti-social behaviour and substance abuse. This includes youth diversionary activities, family relationship services, family violence programmes and early learning care. All services and programs will be tailored to the specific needs of each community and utilise good practices taken from existing models.

Details of specific initiatives and how they will be implemented are being developed in consultation with stakeholders, including other government agencies and Indigenous communities and organisations.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 082

Topic: Internal Implementation Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

What is being done about these SRAs in particular to enforce performance of obligations?

Answer:

See answer to question 81.

Indigenous Coordination Centres, as part of their monitoring responsibilities and their ongoing relationship with communities, monitor the implementation and progress of SRAs to ensure that all parties to the agreements are meeting their commitments. Mechanisms for two way feedback and the delivery of monitoring reports are negotiated during SRA development and are reflected in the agreed SRA. Where there are any delays on the part of an Australian Government agency, the ICC Manager would raise the issue with that agency for resolution (as it would with an Indigenous partner).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 083

Topic: Internal Performance Information Review on SRAs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked

- (a) How was it determined that performance information in the SRAs was "available, meaningful and reliable"? Can you provide an example?
- (b) What was the principal concern with the performance information?
- (c) Does OIPC have a record of all SRAs that lacked appropriate PI?
- (d) How many SRAs lacked appropriate performance information?
- (e) What percentage of all SRAs does this represent?

Answer:

Good practice requires performance indicators to have a number of features, recognising that improvement is a continuous process. Advice provided to ICC staff suggested that in order to be more effective and measurable, performance indicators should be:

- *available* ie the source of the information to be provided has been identified and has agreed to the provision of the information. For example, clinic attendance figures to be collected and provided by Indigenous health worker in a quarterly report
- *meaningful* ie the indicator is clearly relevant to the SRA priority being addressed and is understood by the community and other partners. For example, if community priority is school attendance, a meaningful performance indicator could be the number of children attending school each school day
- *reliable* ie the information can be sourced at appropriate intervals in an agreed format by a credible source. For example, existing crime figures from local police.

A key concern of the performance information review was to ensure that ICC staff appropriately acted on and documented all of the above best practice requirements. All SRAs had sought to identify appropriate performance information. There were deficiencies against the above good practice/benchmarks ranging from relatively minor to more substantive shortcomings in a range of SRAs. For example, measurable items were identified and agreed with the community but the source and the frequency of data collection was not always specified. For others, baseline data may not yet have been collected or there were too many indicators for the activity about the data item required (eg. if school attendance was to be measured, it was not always clear whether attendance, truancy or enrolment numbers were to be measured). Where performance indicators were found to need improvement, changes have been developed and negotiated with communities and data providers.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 090

Topic: National Indigenous Council - Membership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Has the Minister made a decision as to whether Mr Mundine and the member who was suspended, will be replaced on the NIC? What is that decision?

Answer:

Decisions on the appointment of Council members are at the discretion of the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Government recently announced the appointment of Mr Dean Widders as a Council member.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 093

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How much funding is allocated to each consultant in 2005-06? And 2006-07? How were the consultants selected?

Is it a mandatory requirement that they have expertise and experience in doing business with Indigenous communities?

Answer:

See answer to Question 92. Funding is moulded to projects rather than particular consultants or panels. The consultants were selected for the four Panels of Experts through a procurement process conducted in 2005. (See answer to Question 88 from February 2006 Additional Senate Estimates hearing). Expertise and experience in doing business with Indigenous communities were taken into account in the tender evaluation process but were not mandatory, as technical expertise is the priority consideration.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 095

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Will OIPC pay for the services of the panel expert? Will there be a standard fee? What is the standard fee?

Answer:

In most instances, OIPC funds services purchased from panel members, although other Australian Government agencies are also able to access their services. There is no standard fee. The Panel of Experts have been engaged under a Deed of Standing Offer, which specifies terms and conditions for services including their fees and charges for services. Panel consultants are approached to quote on specified work with the view to obtaining value for money.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 098

Topic: Panel of Experts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How will these panels interact with the corporate governance training programs in the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations and the business development programs within Indigenous Business Australia?

Answer:

The panels and programs each target different areas of technical advice and assistance to Indigenous communities. The corporate governance training programs run by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations target the knowledge and skills required by directors of Indigenous corporations. Indigenous Business Australia's business and development programs are targeted at commercial ventures being contemplated by Indigenous people and ensuring that issues of viability and sound business planning have been adequately considered.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 074

Topic: COAG Evaluations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In a QON Answer from February 2006, we received a list of consultancies that had been appointed as at 9 March 2006 and the respective costs.

- (1) Can you please provide an update of the current list – including consultancies for the trials in Qld, NSW, Tas and NT?
- (2) How many days or hours work is are the quoted consultancy costs intended to cover on average?
- (3) Please provide information on the experience of the following consultancy firms in working with indigenous communities –
 - Urbis Keys Young
 - Quantum Counselling (US based company)
 - Morgan Disney (appears to have some experience).
- (4) i) Do you have a time schedule for the first round of evaluations?
ii) When do they begin?
iii) On what date do you expect the draft report be submitted for each evaluation?
iv) On what date do you expect the final report to be completed?
- (5) Has the Minister decided whether the evaluations will be made public?

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Answer:

The COAG Trial evaluations began in late 2005. Final reports have been submitted for all evaluations with the exception of the Murdi Paaki report as summarised below. It is expected that this report will be available by the end of October 2006.

Trial	C'wealth Lead Agency	Date the evaluation began	Status, consultant and costs
ACT	DEH	October 2005	Final report received March 2006. Consultant: Morgan Disney Cost: \$20,020
SA – Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yakunytjatjara (APY) Lands	DoHA	November 2005	Final report received March 2006. Consultant : Urbis Keys Young Cost: \$43,428
WA – East Kimberley	DoTaRS	November 2005	Final report received September 2006. Consultant: Quantum Consulting Cost: \$53,586
QLD – Cape York	DEWR/OI PC	August 20 05	Final report received October 2006. Consultant: Urbis Keys Young Cost: \$62,187
NSW – Murdi Paaki	DEST	March 200 6	Final report due October 2006. Currently under consideration by the consultant Consultant: Urbis Keys Young Cost: \$36,960
VIC - Shepparton	DEWR/OI PC	July 2005	Final report received September 2006 Consultant: Morgan Disney and Associates Cost: \$42,350
TAS – Northeast Tasmania	FACSA	February 2006	Final report received August 2006. Consultant: Learning Futures Australia Cost: \$32,600
NT - Wadeye	FACSA	March 2006	Final report received May 2006. Consultant: WJG & Associates Cost: \$45,400

The average period of consultancy for the COAG Trial evaluations was approximately 10 days.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Urbis Keys Young has undertaken a number of evaluations which were specific to Indigenous communities for the Attorney-General's Department, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS), Medicare Australia, the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, and the Department of Health and Ageing. Quantum Consulting has undertaken evaluation and consulting services on Indigenous issues for WA Department of Housing and Works and ATSIS, and the NT Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs. Morgan Disney has Indigenous consultants who have worked in Indigenous communities, both urban and remote. At present, they are working on the Building Healthy Communities programme for the Department of Health and Ageing.

On 5 July the Minister agreed in principle to the release of all COAG Trial evaluation reports conditional upon agreement by trial partners. Details of a public release of the evaluations have not yet been finalised.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 076

Topic: Evaluations and Internal Reviews of SRA's

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

During February 2006 estimates it was stated by OIPC in relation to SRA evaluations:

- “if they commence work in late March or early April, I would hope to have early ones certainly within four to eight weeks after that –that is, one or two of them; I am not saying there would be significant numbers but a small number reasonably early.”
- Please provide a list of evaluations that have begun including
 - The date they begun
 - The name of the community involved
 - Expected date of completion

Answer:

All 28 reviews were completed during the period 1 July 2006 – 2 October 2006. The agreement titles and the communities involved are listed below.

Agreement Title	Community	Review Start	Review Completion
Connecting youth to education	Narrandera	02/08/06	26/08/06
Hot Wheels	Muswellbrook	10/07/06	24/08/06
Bila Park Cultural Heritage Project	Tumut	02/08/06	26/08/06
Better facilities for the neighbourhood centre	Barkuma (Kurri Kurri)	12/07/06	31/08/06
Young women go to summer school.	NPY Women's Council	10/07/06	08/09/06
Better food, better living	Bonya	11/07/06	08/09/06
Developing a mud crab business	Kulaluk	10/09/06	28/09/06
Working towards self sufficiency	Emu Point	07/08/06	29/09/06
Building the community	Barrow Creek	21/09/06	29/09/06
Better health and education	Wilora	21/09/06	29/09/06

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Agreement Title	Community	Review Start	Review Completion
A safer community through Elders	Tennant Creek	21/08/06	29/09/06
Building community capacity	Gapuwiyak	17/07/06	08/09/06
Keeping young people healthy and active	Palmerston Indigenous Village	10/09/06	28/09/06
Community centre and internet cafe	Alpurrurulam	21/08/06	29/09/06
New community store	Minjilang	10/09/06	28/09/06
Traditional owners plan for the future	Girringun	09/08/06	18/09/06
Building the community	Doomadgee	20/08/06	18/09/06
The Baddagun Performers	Innisfail	14/08/06	18/09/06
Leadership skills for young people	Aroona	08/08/06	31/08/06
Getting kids back to school	Cooper Pedy	31/07/06	31/08/06
A safer community	Yalata	03/08/06	31/08/06
Building a sense of community	Bayulu	25/09/06	02/10/06
Men's Service	Derby	14/08/06	26/08/06
Strengthening families-family & community safety	Derby	14/08/06	26/08/06
A bush museum	Kooljaman Resort at Cape Leveque	31/07/06	18/08/06
Health and hygiene facilities	Yungngora	25/09/06	02/10/06
Improving sport and recreation	Kupartiya	25/09/06	02/10/06
Sporting activities	Bidyadanga	31/07/06	18/08/06

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

*BREAKDOWN OF INDIGENOUS HOUSING FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN 2005-06			
(as at 30 May 2006)			
Allocation of Australian Government Pooled Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Funding	Housing	Infrastructure	TOTAL
Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (part of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement) (ARHP)	\$19,964,000		\$19,964,000
Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP)	\$22,030,000		\$22,030,000
Total AG Pooled Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Funding	\$41,994,000	\$0	\$41,994,000
Allocation of Australian Government Managed Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Funding	Housing	Infrastructure	TOTAL
**National Aboriginal Health Strategy – Housing (includes AACAP)*	\$17,640,604	\$5,570,716	\$23,211,320
Fixing Houses for Better Health	\$962,300		\$962,300
Community Infrastructure (through E-sub)		\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000
Municipal Services (through E-sub)		\$12,404,288	\$12,404,288
Connecting Neighbours		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Bushlight		\$4,701,739	\$4,701,739
Total AG Managed Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Funding	\$18,602,904	\$38,176,743	\$56,779,647
Total AG Funding Contribution in the NT 2005-06	\$60,596,904	\$38,176,743	\$98,773,647
*This covers the funds provided under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program and Aboriginal Rental Housing Program in 2005-06			
** Split between housing and infrastructure costs is an estimate			

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 018

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: CA5 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

When did the Family Violence Regional Activities Programme start?

Answer:

The Family Violence Regional Activities Programme commenced in July 2004.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 019

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: CA6 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a list of grants given to various groups?

Answer:

The details of the 2005/06 Family Violence Regional Activities Programme projects are as follows:

Funding Recipient	Approved Funding
Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (The Connection)	\$50,000.00
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service	\$37,000.00
Northern Rivers Community Legal Services	\$40,000.00
Anglican Counselling Service	\$92,215.00
Aboriginal Children's Services Ltd	\$54,917.00
Yoorana Gunya Family Violence Healing Centre	\$78,358.00
Bega Women's Refuge Incorporated	\$83,814.00
Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Limited	\$57,193.00
Miyagan Aboriginal Development Association	\$60,960.00
Gabinya CDEP Aboriginal Corporation	\$30,000.00
Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre Inc	\$8,000.00
NPY Women's Council	\$175,000.00
Western Aranda Rel-aka Aboriginal Corporation	\$112,500.00
Naiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council	\$30,000.00
Gurungu Council Aboriginal Corporation Inc	\$81,100.00
Aboriginal Resouce Development Service	\$31,600.00
Lajamanu Community Government Council	\$11,480.00
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc	\$50,000.00
Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council	\$27,253.00
Gumatj Association Incorporated	\$20,048.00
Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation Inc	\$97,550.00
Tangentyere Council Incorporated	\$95,058.00
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	\$60,000.00
Galiwin'ku Incorporated	\$47,000.00
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	\$184,700.00
Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Womens Shelter	\$173,531.00
NT Council of Social Services	\$117,523.00

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Funding Recipient	Approved Funding
Alice Springs Women's Shelter Incorporated	\$32,906.00
Lifeline Community Care Qld	\$44,000.00
Nutcha Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Economic & Community Development	\$136,744.00
Gallang Place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	\$80,000.00
Anglicare Central Queensland Limited	\$24,000.00
Central Queensland Consortium Against Family Violence – Healing Centre	\$15,000.00
Central Queensland Consortium Against Family Violence – Healing Centre	\$130,000.00
Brisbane Northside Natives Rugby League Club	\$20,625.00
Bundaburg and Burnett Region CDEP Aboriginal Corporation	\$25,000.00
Wu Chopperen Health Service Ltd	\$300,000.00
Mimili Community Incorporated	\$52,833.00
Ninti Corporate Services Pty Ltd	\$56,913.00
Neporendi Aboriginal Forum Inc	\$80,371.00
Burrardies Aboriginal Corporation	\$16,300.00
Kalparrin Community Inc	\$109,300.00
Pika Wiya Health Service	\$98,685.00
Kungka Tjutaku Ngura – Aboriginal Women's Centre	\$189,407.00
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc	\$134,180.00
Mildura Aboriginal Corporation	\$15,000.00
Koorie Women Mean Business Incorporated	\$30,000.00
East Gippsland Aboriginal CDEP Co-operative Ltd	\$99,500.00
Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC)	\$7,931.00
South West Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation (SWAMSAC)	\$21,000.00
Geraldton Family Advocacy Service	\$14,000.00
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley	\$175,164.00
Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation (GYAC)	\$6,515.00
Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation	\$71,476.00

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 020

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: CA6 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

What was the nature of the evaluation? Was it done through observations or objectives met?

Answer:

The evaluation was to assess the effectiveness of the Family Violence Regional Activities Program to date and the best means by which any future program might support local communities to address family violence issues in their community.

The Courage Partners Evaluation involved data collection, both quantitative and qualitative, from program participants, workers, service provider organisations, funding decision makers and key stakeholder and informants. The analysis included compiling data from site visits and interviews into a database, which was then used to identify common themes and issues across projects.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 022

Topic: Family Violence Partnership Programme projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

What is the basis of the variation in state and commonwealth contributions to projects and the logic behind the split?

Answer:

The funding contribution for each individual project is determined on a case-by-case basis. The relative funding contributions of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments are based on the project's outcomes and deliverables. The divisions in funding contributions are generally aligned to the respective roles and responsibilities of each government and their priorities at the time that the proposals are being developed. In total, for each state or territory there is an expectation of roughly equivalent financial and in-kind contributions with the Australian Government.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 023

Topic: Family Violence Partnership Programme projects

Hansard Page: CA20 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Does the MOU with the states lapse or is it ongoing?

Answer:

The Memoranda of Understanding for New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia all include an end date of January 2008. The Victoria Memorandum of Understanding does not have an end date but contains a clause stating that each individual project must specify a start date and a completion date.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 024

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a list of what programs are being provided that impact on family violence and abuse? Please provide a broader list of whole of Government Programs that may impact on family violence and abuse?

Answer:

Programs specifically aimed at addressing Indigenous family violence and child abuse include:

- Family Violence Partnerships Programme
- Family Violence Regional Activities Programme
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Programme

Other Indigenous programs, which assist in addressing the impact of family violence through tackling associated problems include:

- Prevention Diversion Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice Program
- Tough on Drugs Indigenous Community Initiative
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Well Being Program
- Indigenous Children Programme
- Aboriginal Legal Services
- Indigenous Women's Development Program
- Communities in Crisis Program

Mainstream programs that assist in addressing the impact of family violence through tackling associated problems include:

- National Illicit Drug Strategy
- COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
- Family Relationships Services Program
- Renewed Stronger Families and Communities Strategy
- Family and Community Networks Initiative
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
- Community Legal Services Program
- National Community Crime Prevention Programme
- National Safe Schools Framework
- National School Drug Education Strategy

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 025

Topic: Indigenous Housing – Returned Funding

Hansard Page: CA28 30/05

Senator Bartlett asked:

Has the Queensland Government returned funding for Indigenous housing? How is the extra money going to be used? Where is it going? How much was it?

Answer:

During 2004-05 or 2005-06, no Indigenous housing funds were returned to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs by the Queensland State Government.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 029

Topic: Indigenous Housing – Housing Design Guideline Manual

Hansard Page: CA35 30/05

Senator Moore asked:

How long has the housing design guideline manual been around and how many reviews have been done?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Housing Guide was published in September 1999. Two reviews have been conducted - in 2001 and in 2005.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 036

Topic: Wadeye - Builders

Hansard Page: CA43 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Does the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government use the same builder for housing construction in Wadeye?

Answer:

Houses built by the Australian Government through the National Aboriginal Health Strategy program and the Northern Territory Government use the same pool of contractors.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 048

Topic: Energy Grants Credit Scheme

Hansard Page: CA98 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Provide the name of the bill, which legislates the Australian Taxation Office extending access to the Energy Grants Credit Scheme.

Answer:

The names of the Bills are the: *Fuel Tax Bill 2006* and *Fuel Tax (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2006*.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 052

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- Page 70 of the PBS says there will be funding for research to support and develop evidence based policy. Page 73 shows there will be \$2.176m in 06/07.
- How will it be allocated – will you call for tenders for the projects as they arise?
- Or is all funding for CAEPR?
- What sort of research do you anticipate?

Answers:

The figures in the PBS include \$2 million to the Cape York Institute (CYI) for a welfare reform project which will undertake research into passive welfare and alternative approaches to welfare in Cape York communities. (Further information on the work of the CYI is provided in the answer to Question 079).

The remaining \$0.176 million is part of a four year funding commitment to CAEPR. This measure commenced in 2003/2004 and an annual research program is agreed with CAEPR. Research to date has been structured around three themes:

- Indigenous Economic and Social Circumstances: Determinants, Diversity and Difference;
- Development Options for Sustainable Indigenous Futures; and
- Education, Governance and Capacity Development: Tools for Strategic Engagement.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 054

Topic: Breakdown Between Housing and Infrastructure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In relation to the Portfolio Budget Statements: The amount indicated for Housing and Infrastructure program rises by about \$4 million from 2005-06 to 2006-07. Do you have a breakdown between housing and infrastructure?

Answer:

The final breakdown of expenditure between housing and infrastructure funding for the financial year 2005-06 will not be available until after the end of the financial year. At this stage we expect that over \$150 million of the 2005-06 Community Housing and Infrastructure Program appropriation will be spent on the provision of housing to Indigenous people with the remainder spent on infrastructure and municipal services.

The estimated breakdown between housing and infrastructure funding for the financial year 2006-07 is not yet available, as this will be determined during the year as funds are allocated to the states and territories and other organisations.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 055

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

According to the figures on page 73 of the PBS the amount for Family Violence Partnership Program falls by over \$4m in 2006/07. Can you explain the reduction?

Answer:

The phasing of expenditure across the four years from 2004 to 2008 reflects the expected profile of expenditure of the \$37.3 million allocated to the program by the Government. Greater expenditure was anticipated in 2005-06, as this was the year in which most projects commenced.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 056

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Page 74 of the PBS shows that under this same output group 1.2, the Departmental Appropriations actually rise by about \$5m. Why this rise?

Answer:

The Final Estimates 2005-06 column only reflects part year figures for some programs due to Machinery of Government changes, whereas the column Budget Estimates 2006-07 covers a full year. In addition, there are a number of new measures including Indigenous Community Leadership, Reducing Substance Abuse and the Expansion of Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 57

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

There is \$34.577 million shown at page 73 for Shared Responsibility Agreement Implementation Assistance. Would I be right in thinking this is FaCSIA share of a total, which is added to by other government departments? Can you please provide a breakdown of how this money will be allocated?

Answer:

The Shared Responsibility Agreements Implementation Assistance Program (SRA IAP) is managed by the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination in the Department. This is separate from the contributions of other Australian Government agencies to Shared Responsibility Agreements.

Given the nature of the negotiation process, it is not possible to identify in detail in advance how money in this program will be allocated in the year ahead. Some \$23.6 million will be available to support the development and implementation of Shared Responsibility and Regional Partnerships Agreements (SRAs and RPAs); community and regional engagement; and Communities in Crisis interventions. Some \$9 million has been re-phased from 2005-06 (response to Question 51). A further \$1.95 million was appropriated in 2006-07 to assist communities negotiate SRAs through engaging external expertise (a component of the Indigenous Community Leadership measure).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 058

Topic: Performance Indicators for Infrastructure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In relation to the PBS: At page 84 you have estimated performance indicators – for the number of communities with new/upgraded infrastructure you have 150. How is this figure arrived at and how many gained in 2005-06?

Answer:

The estimate of the number of communities with new or upgraded infrastructure is based on a combination of historical funding patterns and an assessment of the number of communities that would be targeted for improved infrastructure in the financial year 2005-06. At this time the total number of communities assisted with new and upgraded infrastructure in 2005-06 is not available. Reports from state and territory governments (who are responsible for the delivery of a significant proportion of Community Housing and Infrastructure Program funds) will need to be received before this figure can be determined.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 059

Topic: Number of New Houses Constructed

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In relation to the PBS: For the number of new houses constructed you have estimated approximately 300. How many were built last year?

Answer:

The number of new houses constructed or purchased in 2005-06 is not yet available.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 060

Topic: Number of Upgrades

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In relation to the PBS: For upgrading houses you have an estimated performance of approximately 1,000 – how many were upgraded last year?

Answer:

The number of houses that were upgraded in 2005-06 is not yet available.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 062

Topic: Incorporation of Indigenous Housing in Whole-of-Government Approach

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How is Indigenous housing incorporated into the ‘whole-of-government’ approach to Indigenous Affairs?

Answer:

Indigenous housing has been incorporated into the whole-of-government approach to Indigenous affairs through the following mechanisms.

- **Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs 2005-2010** – these whole-of-government agreements are in the process of being negotiated between the Australian Government and each of the state and territory governments. Priorities contained in these agreements can include housing, health, education, employment and training, and law and justice.
- **Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements 2005-2008** – these have been negotiated between the Australian Government and each of the state and territory governments. The agreements progress the Council of Australian Governments’ objectives of: reducing duplication; harnessing the mainstream; improving accountability; and a ‘one level’ approach to service delivery for joint government investments in Indigenous housing.
- **Housing Ministers Conference** – In October 2005, the Australian Government and each of the State and Territory Government Ministers agreed to jointly progress work on three resolutions: improving Indigenous access to, and outcomes in, mainstream housing and related programs; improving sustainability of Indigenous housing management; and developing a new investment strategy for Indigenous housing.
- **Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs)** – several Indigenous communities have identified housing as a priority in the negotiation of SRAs. Indigenous housing funding is combined with funding provided from other agencies (such as the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations’ Community Development Employment Projects program, the Department of Education, Science and Training’s education and training programs, and the Department of Health and Ageing’s health programs), and state and territory governments, as a ‘whole-of-government’ response to addressing issues under the SRA framework.
- **Multi-Agency Common Funding Process** – a number of Australian Government agencies have been working through a common funding submission process to put in place a whole of government approach to funding facilities and services for Indigenous communities for 2006-07. A proportion of funding under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program is included in this process.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

.....Question No: 067

Topic: La Perouse and Shared Responsibility Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

FaCSIA offered a grant of \$1.45 million in April 2005 for the replacement/repair of approximately five houses in La Perouse. Was this offer in the form of a Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA)? Did it ever become part of an SRA? When did it become part of an SRA?

Who were the parties to this SRA?

When was FaCSIA advised that the administrators of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council objected to a clause within the funding contract that allowed FaCSIA to impose a charge over specific properties?

What was the nature of this clause?

Did FaCSIA seek legal advice in relation to this clause, including (but not limited to) the feasibility of removing it from the agreement? On what date(s) did FaCSIA seek this legal advice?

When did FaCSIA respond to the administrators of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) in relation to their objection? Please provide dates and nature of correspondence.

On what date was or will the SRA be signed off for the housing upgrades?

Can you please provide some information on legal or equitable interests that FaCSIA seeks to secure on houses that it repairs or replaces? Is that common practice?

FaCSIA has said that an Environmental Health Assessment (EHA) was underway and due to be completed by the end of March 2005 in La Perouse. Has the EHA been completed? Will the report be made available to the residents of La Perouse?

What priority sewerage repairs did the EHA identify? How have they been fixed? When were they fixed? Was any contamination risk identified on the site?

Now that the EHA is completed, has FaCSIA determined the amount of funding and repairs that are required? If not, when will FaCSIA make that determination? If so, how much funding and repairs/replacements are required?

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Answer:

The National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) funding of \$1.45 million offered in April 2005 for the replacement/repair of approximately five houses in La Perouse was not part of an SRA. There is no SRA for housing upgrades in La Perouse. However, the NAHS funding is consistent with the Improving Community Development SRA signed by the community with the Australian Government in August 2005, which addresses the wish of the La Perouse Indigenous community to improve the management of their housing. At the time of the NAHS offer, which pre-dates the SRA, it was made clear to the community that rent collection needed to improve, and that renovations would only be undertaken on houses where tenants were paying rent regularly.

FaCSIA was advised on 24 May 2005 that the administrators of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council objected to a clause within the funding contract that allowed FaCSIA to impose a charge over specific properties.

Clause 35.4 and 35.5 of the "2004-2005 General Terms and Conditions for Funding Agreements Relating to Indigenous Programs" indicates that, where a project involves a land acquisition or the value of improvements on land already owned exceeds \$25,000, a Purpose Agreement is required to be signed. The Purpose Agreement allows the Department to register a charge over the property and hold the title deeds to ensure the land cannot be used for a different purpose.

FaCSIA sought legal advice in relation to this clause in August 2005 with final advice being provided to the Department on 10 February 2006.

FaCSIA formally offered an amended Grant to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council on 28 April 2006. The Council accepted the offer and signed the Project Funding Agreement on 15 May 2006.

The Environmental Health Assessment (EHA) in La Perouse has been completed and the final report was received on 26 May 2006. The report will be made available to the residents of La Perouse.

The EHA of the sewerage articulation system was limited to above ground observations. Above ground problems were identified on six properties and remedial works undertaken in December 2005 and January 2006.

The Assessment provided an indicative costing for the required work. FaCSIA is currently considering the costings included in the Assessment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 071

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – ‘Hub and Spoke’ Model

Hansard Page: written

Senator Evans asked:

How advanced is the development of a ‘hub and spoke’ model, where staff based in State and Territory offices of their departments travelled out to ICCs from time to time, rather than being in them fulltime?

Answer:

There is no general move to a ‘hub and spoke’ model for the ICC network. Since July 2004, some agencies have revised their ICC staffing profile and approaches to meet operational and business needs, including being able to place solution brokers into ICCs who have the skill set to broker service contributions from their agency’s Indigenous-specific and mainstream programs. In some cases this has involved moving some program management positions to other offices (eg a primary regional office, state office or national office). This has included use of ‘hub and spoke’ approaches in some cases.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 073

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres – Recruitment of ICC Managers

Hansard Page: written

Senator Evans asked:

An ICC Manager position for the Geraldton ICC was advertised in the Weekend Australian in early April 2006. It was a non-ongoing position. The ad states: “Successful ongoing APS employees will be offered temporary movement up to three years. Successful non-ongoing applicants will be offered a position for a specified term of 18 months with the possibility of a further extension of 18 months.”

- a) What was the reason for this length of tenure?
- b) Are all vacant ICC Manager positions now advertised as non-ongoing positions?

Answer:

Public Service Regulations limit the period of time for which a non-ongoing position can be advertised. ICC Manager positions have always been advertised as non-ongoing positions.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 084

Topic: Energy Charging Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

FaCSIA has said that it has covered the funding gap created by the real cost of powerhouse fuel. What amount of “top-up” funding has been taken from municipal services budget in 2005-06?

Answer:

An additional amount of \$2.7 million was provided out of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program appropriation during 2005-06.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 085

Topic: Electricity Charging Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Are organisations' performance factored into the Department's assessment of their eligibility for a top-up from Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) funds? How is this done?

Answer:

Organisations receive assistance with costs of the powerhouse fuel through the Municipal Services component of CHIP. Organisations must be eligible to receive Municipal Services funding and meet the ongoing conditions and accountability requirements set out in the funding agreement with FaCSIA. From 1 July 2006 in Western Australia, it will be a condition of funding that organisations receiving assistance with powerhouse fuel costs collect user charges in line with the FaCSIA electricity charging guidelines and claim the Energy Grants Credit Scheme Rebate (EGCS) from the Australian Taxation Office. Organisations that meet all accountability requirements and ongoing conditions of funding will be offered additional top-ups where FaCSIA considers it appropriate to cover increases in the cost of diesel fuel.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 086

Topic: Electricity Charging Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Why is FaCSIA not assisting organisations to cover the gap in funding where they are ineligible to obtain an Energy Credit Rebate from the Tax Office?

Answer:

There are three sources of income available to organisations eligible for municipal services funding through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) to assist with operating power generation facilities in Western Australia. These are user charges paid by consumers, the Energy Grants Credit Scheme rebate from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and FaCSIA municipal services funding. The municipal services funding covers the shortfall between the actual cost of power generation and income received by communities from user charges and the ATO rebate.

FaCSIA also covers additional costs incurred through increases in the price of diesel fuel. A priority is placed on maintaining user charges for community members on low incomes at a level commensurate with electricity rates in towns that are on the state utility electricity grid. In most cases the full cost of power consumption for activities or classes of electricity users that are not eligible for the ATO rebate, including community service facilities such as schools, health clinics and police stations, are met by funding from Australian and state government agencies.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

.....Question No: 087

Topic: Electricity Charging Guidelines

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a list of meetings between FaCSIA and other Commonwealth and State Agencies to discuss the issue of factoring in the increased electricity costs into their funding agreements, including:

- a) the date of the meetings, and
- b) parties to the meetings.

Answer:

The FaCSIA Western Australia (WA) State Manager held formal discussions with the Director General of the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs in relation to the electricity charging guidelines in July 2005.

An information session was held on 18 November 2005 to advise of impacts of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) policy changes for Indigenous communities in WA, including the Electricity Charging Guidelines. Attendees included all WA State Managers for Australian Government Agencies, or their representatives and representatives from the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs, as the organisation responsible for coordination of Indigenous affairs across state government departments. Also in attendance at this meeting were representatives from the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination, the Indigenous Land Council, Indigenous Business Australia, the National Native Title Tribunal, and Indigenous Coordination Centre Managers.

The topic was also discussed at a number of fortnightly WA Commonwealth Agency Heads meetings, in addition to a number of informal meetings held with individual agencies throughout a 12 month period from mid 2005.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 099

Topic: Indigenous Children Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Has the merger between the AICCA and the IFPW resulted in any overall change to the funding levels for the previous two programs?

Can the Department provide a breakdown of funding allocations (including over the out-years) to the different components of the Indigenous Children Program?

Answer:

Funding for the two programs in 2005-06 was \$5.565 million.

As identified in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements, the Government has committed \$5.634 million to Indigenous Children Program.

There are no separable components of the Indigenous Children Programme.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 100

Topic: Nhulunbuy Housing money from the ABA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Has the money been released?
2. Who has been contracted to build the houses?
3. Will any local Indigenous people be involved in the construction or labour? How many?
4. At what stage is the construction expected to start and be completed?
5. Why is ABA money being used for housing in this instance?
6. What other ABA money has been earmarked or released for housing in the Northern Territory? Please provide details of how this money is intended to be spent. Please also specify when the money will be/ has been released.
7. Was an SRA initially explored with the Rirratingu people to provide housing money?
8. Is this ABA money being administered via a SRA?
9. Will people pay rent or own their own houses?
10. If renting, which authority will receive the rent?

Answer:

\$933,000 has been released out of a total of \$1.372m has been released. Wildgeese Building and Maintenance Group QLD/NSW Pty Ltd is the builder.

A condition for the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding was a requirement for the builder to provide employment opportunities for local Indigenous people in the construction of the houses. Two (2) local Indigenous people were employed during the civil construction; they continued to be employed by the civil contractor and other trades. One other Indigenous person was employed during house construction. This person is still employed by a sub-contractor.

The civil works part of the construction work has been completed, and the first three houses will be completed in the first week of August; the remainder (some 13 more units) will be completed in the first week of October 2006.

The project is aimed at enhancing Indigenous people's economic well-being and assisting communities develop economic sufficiency in the Northern Territory and funding is consistent with the legislative requirement that ABA be used for the benefit of Indigenous Territorians.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 171

Topic: Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Board meetings

Hansard Page: CA30, 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide the dates of the ABA Board meetings?

Answer:

The ABA Advisory Committee (there is no Board) met on 7-8 December 2005 and 14-15 March 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 200

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Was this use of ABA funds initiated by traditional owners or the Land Councils in the Northern Territory? If not, whose idea was it to use ABA funds for this purpose?

Answer:

This use of ABA was raised with the ABA Advisory Committee at its meeting in March 2006. The Committee, including representatives of Land Councils in the Northern Territory, supported the proposal.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 201

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Which part of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) is the other \$10 million of the Commonwealth's funding coming from?

Had the Alice Springs town camps already been identified as a priority to be funded under CHIP, or was money diverted into this project from elsewhere?

What was the process for deciding to spend the \$10 million in this way?

Answer:

The funding for Connecting Neighbours was from the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) program (which is part of CHIP) and was not diverted from any another project.

Under Connecting Neighbours there were 42 town camps identified where funding will be provided to upgrade water, sewerage and power infrastructure. Eighteen of these town camps were located in Alice Springs. After discussions with the Northern Territory Government it was decided in mid 2005 that Alice Springs and Borroloola, which has four town camps, would be the first areas targeted under Connecting Neighbours.

The upgrade of essential service infrastructure in town camps in the Northern Territory was identified as a priority area for action under the infrastructure component of CHIP. A scope of works was undertaken, which determined that \$10 million would be required to undertake the work required in the Alice Springs Town Camps.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 202

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement – Source of Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Where did the Northern Territory's \$10 million contribution come from? Was it from an existing funding source?

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government has advised that the funding will be provided from existing pooled funding under the *Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreement 2005-08* between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 203

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The original announcement also included a “gift” of buildings from the Woomera detention centre. Is it true, as reported in the media, that no land had actually been secured prior to this announcement on which the building from Woomera could be placed?

Answer:

A number of site options are being considered in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 205

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

On the PM program on 18 May, Minister Brough stated that he was in Alice Springs to try and locate suitable land for the demountables from Woomera. Did he succeed in finding any? If so, where?

Answer:

The Minister viewed a number of possible sites. Sites are being selected in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 208

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What research has been done on the extent of need in the Alice Springs town camps? Has any baseline data been collected that will be able to be used as a basis for evaluating any intervention?

Answer:

The Town Camps strategy is consistent with recommendations of the Alice Springs Town Camps Taskforce which was established in December 2005 by the Northern Territory Government to assess the state of town camps.

The report of the Taskforce provides base information that can be used in part as a basis for evaluating interventions. Both governments are also considering what additional base-line information may need to be collected.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 210

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The Treasurer's media release says that new houses will be built in remote communities 'agreed with state and territory governments as priorities'. How many communities are expected to get new houses as a result of this funding?

Answer:

The number will be determined in consultation with state and territory governments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 211

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Has any decision yet been made about where the new houses will go? If not, what is the process for making this decision?

Answer:

No. The location of new houses will be determined in consultation with state and territory governments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 209

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Source of Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

On 16 May, the Treasurer announced \$6 million of Australian Government funding for the commissioning of up to 40 houses for remote Indigenous communities. Where did this funding come from?

Answer:

The funding was drawn from uncommitted appropriation under Appropriation Act No 1.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 212

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Innovative Construction Options

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The media release says that the funding will involve trials of innovative house construction options. Does this mean that all 40 houses will trial new construction options?

Answer:

All houses involved in the project will trial innovative house construction options.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 213

Topic: Treasurer's Announcement of New Housing for Remote Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

How is the trial of innovative house construction options related to the work that has already been done on such issues – for example, the National Framework for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Indigenous Housing and the National Indigenous Housing Guide?

Answer:

Information relevant to good practice for Indigenous housing, such as the National Indigenous Housing Guide and the National Framework for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Indigenous Housing, are being considered as part of the innovative housing project.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 214

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – State Involvement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Were the states involved in developing this project?

Answer:

Some discussions have occurred with state and territory governments regarding the need to trial innovative cost effective house construction options, however, the Australian Government has largely driven this initiative.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 215

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – House Construction Options

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

How many different house construction options are expected to be trialled?

Answer:

The number of house construction options to be trialled will be determined at the completion of the scoping phase of the project.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 216

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Research

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What research was done to determine that 40 houses would provide a sufficient scale to actually test innovative construction options?

Answer:

The delivery of around 40 houses is considered to be sufficient to test innovative construction options.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 217

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Success Indicators

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

How will the success of each option be determined? Will it be solely on the cost of getting buildings on the ground or will there be a longer-term assessment of their suitability and robustness? How will you measure “cost-effectiveness”?

Answer:

The success of each option will be assessed against a range of criteria, including but not limited to: cost; appropriateness of the building to the environment and community needs; and robustness.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 218

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Provider Selection

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

How will the provider or providers of the housing be selected?

Answer:

The provider(s) will be selected through a tender process.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 219

Topic: New Housing for Remote Communities – Self-Build Kit Homes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

One of the innovative housing options is self-build kit homes. Does the project include funding for training Indigenous community members in the construction and maintenance of such homes?

Answer:

The program aims to involve community residents in the non-technical components of the construction and/or assembly of the houses with appropriate training to be provided.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 220

Topic: Treasurer's announcement of new housing for remote communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

When it is expected that the housing will actually be built?

Answer:

Timing will depend on how quickly negotiations and planning about specific locations can be finalised with state and territory governments and consultations with relevant communities completed.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 001

Topic: Cape York Institute Welfare Reform Project

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Evans asked:

How prescriptive are your arrangements with the Cape York institute in terms of the trials they will run? Provide details of the contracts.

Answer:

The Australian Government has provided funding to the Cape York Institute to assist it develop proposals for welfare reform in remote indigenous communities. The Institute is required to provide a report on these no later than June 2007. No decision or commitment has been made to trial any proposals that may arise from this work.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 026

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA33 30/05

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide a copy of the tender documents relating to the Building a Better Future Review.

Answer:

Please refer to Attachment A.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Attachment A

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT:
REQUEST FOR TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CONTRACT SERVICES TO
UNDERTAKE THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE: INDIGENOUS HOUSING TO 2010

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Project Sponsor

The Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS), on behalf of the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing (SCIH), is seeking proposals from suitably qualified persons to undertake the mid-term review of *Building a Better Future: Indigenous Housing to 2010* (BBF). BBF is a ten year intergovernmental commitment to improve Indigenous housing outcomes between the Australian Government, State and Territory Housing Ministers.

BBF was the outcome of Housing Ministers' resolution in 1997 to form the Commonwealth State Working Group on Indigenous Housing to develop a policy framework to address the devastating impacts of poor housing on Indigenous people's health and well being in a holistic and sustainable way.

1.2 Role of BBF

As a national policy road map, BBF seeks to respond to the importance and the complexity of the task of meeting Indigenous housing need. It recognises the need for:

- a whole of government approach at a policy and planning level;
- an approach which incorporates community engagement, participation, capacity building, effective community governance and economic development;
- A housing systems approach to addressing Indigenous housing need;
- an approach which seeks to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of government's investment in housing, particularly increasing the lifecycle of housing; and
- adequate resourcing and timely responses to unmet current and emerging Indigenous housing need.

BBF contains a vision for addressing Indigenous housing need and outlines principles, objectives, outcome statements and detailed strategies to guide the way forward. BBF objectives are as follows:

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

To identify and address unmet housing needs of Indigenous people.

1. To improve the capacity of Indigenous community housing organisations and involve Indigenous people in planning and service delivery.
2. To achieve safe, healthy and sustainable housing.
3. To coordinate program administration

1.3 BBF Implementation

Whilst BBF implementation is primarily the responsibility of Housing Ministers at a jurisdictional level, SCIH, which reports to Housing Ministers' Advisory Committee (HMAC), supports it at a national level. Policy and program change is implemented by the Australian Government and State and territory agencies, generally under bi-lateral agreements.

1.3.1 Indigenous housing policy context

Since the commencement of BBF, there have been a number of changes in the broader housing policy context:

- The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) was renewed with a re-emphasis of BBF commitments, a focus on access to mainstream housing assistance in urban areas and Indigenous specific assistance to remote areas, increased targeting to people in greatest housing need in the context of declining resources under the CSHA;
- Growing housing assistance expenditure for the total population through the Commonwealth Rent Assistance; and
- Concerns about the potential long term decline in home ownership given escalation in property prices, with an increased policy focus on housing affordability.

Appendix 1 provides a general overview of the issues surrounding affordability, as well as specific information about the Indigenous population and their housing experiences.

1.3.2 Broader Indigenous policy context

The review is timely in the context of a period of significant change in Indigenous policy nationally. This includes the Australian Government's changes to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the integration of ATSIC programs into mainstream agencies and a focus on increased cross-agency coordination at a regional and local community level.

As a national policy document, BBF also needs to be seen in the context of key policy initiatives by the Council of Australian Governments such as the *National Framework of Principles for Delivering Services to Indigenous Australians* and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) framework*. The National Framework highlights commitments to:

- shared responsibility across all levels of government to address Indigenous disadvantage;
- harnessing mainstream effort in a complementary way with Indigenous specific service delivery;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- streamlining service delivery arrangements;
- increased accountability for outcomes;
- developing a learning framework for best practice; and
- focusing on OID priority areas. The OID framework re-emphasises the significance of the health impacts of housing and effective environmental health systems and the importance of an integrated approach to addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

1.4 Purpose of the Review

As part of BBF, Ministers undertook to:

‘...ensure that a full-scale review of the new directions is undertaken in 2005. The review process will provide for consultation with key stakeholders, including the Indigenous community.’

The purpose of the mid-term review is to assist governments and responsible agencies with improvements to the implementation of BBF in its second five years, and to lay the groundwork for the final review through:

- Identifying and documenting areas where significant progress has been made in the implementation of BBF, and understanding how these have been achieved;
- Identifying and documenting areas where significant progress has not been made, and understanding the obstacles and difficulties;
- Analysing the contextual factors that have contributed to BBF implementation and outcomes in particular sites, organisations and jurisdictions to support appropriate generalisation to other situations;
- Providing a record of the development and implementation of BBF to inform future policy development and implementation;
- Affirming and reinforcing the objectives, intended outcomes, vision and principles of BBF.

1.5 Evaluation framework for BBF

To guide the BBF review, SCIH engaged RMIT-NATSEM under the auspices of AHURI, to develop an evaluation framework for use in the mid term review in 2005 and, with appropriate modifications, for the final evaluation due in 2011. While the framework has influenced the approach and research focus that is to be utilised in the mid term review, one of the limiting aspects of the implementation timetable for BBF and the evaluation cycle is the timing around the availability of data. While there are gradual improvements in the quality and quantity of program data there remains a significant reliance on Census and CHINS data to assess outcomes. As these data will not be available until 2007 it is not considered practical to undertake any serious attempt at assessing BBF outcomes for the period 2001-2005 during 2005.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

With this in mind, at its meeting in December 2004, Housing Ministers supported an approach for the overall evaluation of BBF that will incorporate the following elements:

- A 2005 review that will focus on assessing the progress of implementation and in setting the groundwork for the detailed analysis of outcomes during 2007;
- An analysis of the findings of the 2005 review (done by SCIH and HMAC) to be considered by Housing Ministers in 2006 to agree progress and make any changes;
- A detailed analysis of outcomes, based on the 2006 Census and CHINS, will be undertaken during 2007;
- In 2008 Ministers will have the opportunity to build on the findings of the 2005 review and the analysis of outcomes in 2007 to restate or reshape BBF beyond 2010;
- Improvements in administrative data and the likely more streamlined policy and program arrangements should allow for a more regular review of both implementation and outcome from 2008.

1.6 Overview of available data and current reporting arrangements

Information for the review will require the understanding and use of both new and existing data. Data sources include:

- Existing reporting required by HMAC, CSHA, COAG of Australian, State and Territory Governments including the *Report on Government Services*, the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report and the BBF outcomes reports for 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Various annual reports, policy, planning and evaluation documents.

Additional information sources will include the use of jurisdictional surveys and consultation process with stakeholders. An overview of the Indigenous population and current housing need is in Appendix 1. A list of relevant reference material for the review is included in Appendix 2.

1.7 Audience and stakeholders

The key audience for the mid term review are the parties to BBF and Indigenous specific and mainstream program administrators. This audience is represented by HMC, HMAC, PRWG and SCIH. However, the review will also be relevant to other government agencies including central agencies.

Other key stakeholders include Indigenous recipients of housing services, people in need of housing, community housing providers and Indigenous communities and their representatives.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

2 CONTRACT SERVICES/OUTCOMES REQUIRED

2.1 Scope of the Review

The scope of this review will cover:

- the breadth of policy and program delivery encapsulated by BBF, which includes Indigenous specific and mainstream effort;
- changes in Indigenous policy direction since 2001 and how this might impact on BBF;
- the planning, reporting and coordination processes; and
- the views of all stakeholders, covering key agencies, service delivery agencies and service recipients.

2.2 Terms of reference

The mid term review of BBF is to be undertaken as part of the overall evaluation framework and requires:

- a) An assessment of progress in implementing all elements of BBF and recommendations on how to strengthen BBF;
- b) Using available data to identify and summarise key measures of progress; and
- c) Identify and describe case studies that can be used to better understand both the implementation of BBF and to assist in measuring outcomes

The final report will include necessary summary material, an overview of the review process, key findings and recommendations to help guide the next stage of BBF. The final report is required by 23 December 2005.

2.3 Key Questions

The assessment of progress can be made in relation to the performance in delivering against the implementation strategies and how effective the implementation has incorporated the principles, objectives and desired outcomes outlined in BBF. This will require an assessment against each of the implementation strategies, which would include:

- whether the strategy has been fully implemented;
- what have been the issues and impacts that have helped/hindered implementation;
- what are the expected outcomes resulting from the changes and how we can fully measure these changes now and in 2007; and
- whether BBF has the right strategy mix to achieve its objectives.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

2.4 Participation of Stakeholders/Requirement for Consultation

A key factor in the conduct of the review is the participation by stakeholders. Accordingly, a key criterion in the selection of the successful tenderer will be the degree to which this issue is addressed in the tender. Stakeholders include:

- Commonwealth and State/Territory Housing Ministers;
- Policy makers, program managers and service providers both mainstream and Indigenous specific as well as Government and community-based; and
- Indigenous recipients of housing services and those seeking access to such services and other housing supports.

Consultative processes will need to be undertaken at key and strategic points during the review. The method of such consultations will need to be clearly shown in the proposed methodology.

2.5 Products

The consultant will be required to produce a:

- draft report by mid November 2005
- final report that contains both a national overview and summaries for each jurisdiction by 23 December 2005; and
- short (plain English) version of the national report available for public distribution.

2.6 Role of the consultant

The review consultant will be required to:

- meet the evaluation deliverables as described in the Statement of Requirement for the review;
- work closely with the Review Manager, the Chair of the Review Steering Group and all jurisdictions;
- involve stakeholders in the planning, conduct and reporting of results to ensure the review provides the quality of information and advice needed;
- ensure due care for the welfare of those involved in the review as well as those affected by the results, meeting the obligations outlined in:
 - Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies (May 2000) by the Australian institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies;
 - The AHURI Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Indigenous Research; and
 - The Agreement on National Indigenous Housing Information (1999) www.aihw.gov.au.
- provide regular progress reports to the Review Steering Group through the Review Manager.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

3 TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT SERVICES

An indicative timetable for the BBF mid-term review is as follows:

April – June 2005: Tendering

- Short listing
- Selection
- Contracting.

July – December 2005: Conduct of mid-term review

- Information gathering
- Analysis
- Report writing.

At this stage the final report would be provided to the Steering Committee by 23 December 2005. If the preparation for the review proceeds effectively the review itself may be able to begin prior to July.

4 SPECIALIST SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

- Excellence in policy analysis and evaluation
- Knowledge of Indigenous policy issues
- Capacity to work with Indigenous communities

5 APPLICABLE SERVICE LEVELS AND STANDARDS

The selection of a consultant to undertake the review will be conducted using a select tender process. Proposals will be assessed against the criteria listed in Attachment C.

6 RESOURCES/MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT

A package of reference material including the BBF document is provided as background information for this tender.

Tenderers should note that additional materials relevant to the successful conduct of this evaluation will be provided to the consultant and nominated contact officers within jurisdictions during the life of the project. There will be a significant component of in-kind support to be provided by FaCS and jurisdictions. This may require the successful tender to spend some time with agencies gathering information and using available resources.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Tenderers should note that if your tender proposal is short-listed to attend a selection interview, these interviews will be conducted in Melbourne in the week commencing 30 May 2005. Economy class airfares from the tenderer's home city will be arranged for up to two representatives from the tender to attend the selection interview.

6.1 Project Milestones

The milestones for this project, some of which will generate progressive payments subject to the tender, in the opinion of the Review Manager, satisfactorily meeting the requirements of that milestone, will be:

- Milestone 1:* Early August 2005
 Initial scoping completed - Confirm project plan
- Milestone 2:* Mid September 2005
 First Progress Report
- Milestone 3:* Mid October 2005
 Second Progress Report
- Milestone 4:* Mid November 2005
 Draft Review Report
- Milestone 5:* 23 December 2005
 Final Report submitted
- Milestone 6:* January 2006
 Final Report accepted by the Review Steering Group.

7 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Consultancy Management Arrangements

Day to day management and administration of the project will be the responsibility of a Review Manager on behalf of the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing. The role of the Review Manager will be undertaken by FaCS.

The consultant and the Review Manager will report to and be supported by a Review Steering Group. This Group will be chaired by the Chair of SCIH and include representation from two other members of SCIH and a nominee from the PRWG (the national network of senior housing officials responsible for mainstream housing policy).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

7.2 Reporting

The consultant will be required to report to the Steering Committee at key points through the project and to provide progress reports and relevant documentation at each stage.

7.3 Project Deliverables

Reports and discussion papers should be provided both in hard copy format (camera ready copy for printing) and in electronic disc format. The disc should be compatible with FaCS software (not less than Windows 2000).

The Review Steering Group in consultation with the Review Manager and the consultant may determine other documentation requirements.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION

The contact for further information on the requirements of the project brief is:

Robert Letheby
BBF Mid-Term Review Manager
Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Branch
Department of Family and Community Services

Tel: 03 8619 8010

Fax: 03 8619 8001

Email: robert.letheby@facs.gov.au

Postal Address: Level 13, 50 Queen Street, Melbourne Vic 3000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Appendix 1

Current Housing Context

Housing Affordability

The Australian income groups in greatest housing stress continue to be those in the bottom 20 per cent of households on the income scale. However, those in the 20–40 per cent income group, and increasingly in the 40–50 per cent moderate income group and above are now also experiencing persistent affordability-related stress.¹

Historically in Australia there has been an important inter-relationship between home ownership, private rental and public rental - the key elements of the 'housing system'. Over recent years, however, the 'coverage' of each of these market segments has contracted in relation to the population groups whose housing needs they have historically met, so that in some sub-markets both private market options and housing assistance programs are failing to meet the needs of a number of household groups at the lower end of the income scale.

For example, although home ownership rates in Australia remain quite high (70 per cent), the demographic ageing of the population and high rates of home ownership amongst older households are 'inflating' the overall home ownership rate. Young households (25-44) have in fact been less likely to enter home ownership in recent years, and between 1986 and 1996 there was a 10-percentage point fall in the rate of home purchase in metropolitan areas.² An important driver of this trend is the significant increase in house prices.

In 2003 Australian median house prices were approximately nine times greater than average per capita incomes. Until as recently as 2001 median house prices were typically only six times greater than average per capita incomes.³ Using an affordability ratio of house prices to disposable income per worker, Australia (183) compares poorly with the US (114), UK (156) and Canada (156). Furthermore, in 2003 mortgage loans comprised 57% of Australian GDP compared to 20% in 1990.⁴

Meanwhile, despite the availability of Commonwealth Rent Assistance for low income households in the private rental market, climbing rents in many sub-markets have meant increasing numbers of renting households pay more than 30% of their incomes on housing⁵. Over the 1986–96 period there was a significant decline in the absolute numbers of private rental dwellings available at rents affordable for households in the lowest income quintile, and for the period 1996–2001 for households below the median income. Many of the dwellings that are available at lower rents have been occupied by households whose incomes

¹ Chapman P, Draft *Housing Affordability: A Summary of Evidence and Issues in Measurement*, July 2004: xi

² AHURI (2003) *Has home ownership in Australia declined?* Research and Policy Bulletin no. 21 Melbourne.

³ Productivity Commission, *First Home Ownership*, Report no. 28 Melbourne, March 2004.

⁴ International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook: The Global Demographic Transition*, September 2004

⁵ Berry, M and Hall, J (2001) *Policy Options for Stimulating Private Sector Investment in Affordable Housing Across Australia*. Stage 1 Report: Outlining the Need for Action. Report for the Affordable Housing National Research Consortium. Melbourne, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) in Chapman *op cit*: 12.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

indicate they could afford to pay more, leaving a significant shortfall in dwellings available for households on lower incomes.⁶

This reduced responsiveness in the private market has translated into an increased pressure on housing assistance programs. Under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreements of the 1990s and early 2000s, however, there was a decision to target Australia's relatively small supply of social housing more tightly to households with complex needs and on very low incomes - because they were the most vulnerable and least able to meet their needs in the private housing market.

In 1997 State Housing Authority tenants in Australia stood at less than 5.4 per cent of the population⁷, compared with a European Union average for social housing tenancies of 18 per cent and a United Kingdom figure of 24 per cent.⁸ Despite this fact, diminishing funding under the CSHA since the mid 1990's combined with an ageing stock profile, the increasing costs of maintaining and updating stock, the costs of serving more complex tenant needs and lower rental returns from a lower income client group have resulted in a decrease in the number of public rental dwelling units in Australia, from 400,000 in 1997 to 354,000 in 2002, so that the total proportion of public housing stock is now likely to be less than 5 per cent⁹ of housing.

Spatially, affordability problems including barriers to purchase, rental costs and declining availability of private and social low rent housing stocks are greatest in inner cities and areas of high growth. Affordable housing can often be found only in outer urban and regional areas where households may face other costs (i.e. transport) or poor access to jobs and services.¹⁰ Increasing concentrations of disadvantaged households in lower cost areas are a growing phenomenon, compounding disadvantage and leading to the poor performance of those areas across a range of social indicators (source).

Whilst the vast majority of Australians households remain affordably and appropriately housed, the shrinkage of affordable options across the housing system means there are now population segments who struggle to find affordable solutions to meet their needs in a growing number of housing sub-markets. Existing policy settings are failing these groups. Indications are that new interventions will be required to meet the needs of these households, to prevent this problem from becoming more entrenched and impacting more profoundly on wider socio-economic outcomes such as education, employment, health, law and order, and to support socio-spatial equity across Australian communities.

Indigenous population and their housing needs

Based on the 2001 Census, there were 458,520 Indigenous people living in Australia, representing 2.4% of the total Australian population. However, Indigenous people are not spread evenly across Australia. New South Wales and Queensland have 56% of the total

⁶ Yates, J, Wulff, M and Reynolds, M (2004) *Changes in the supply of and need for low rent dwellings in the private rental market*. Final Report. Sydney. AHURI Sydney Research Centre, June.

⁷ ABS, Australian Social Trends Cat 4102.0, 2003

⁸ European Parliament, Housing Policy in EU Member States, Social Affairs Series 14a, Luxembourg, 1997.

⁹ ABS, *ibid*

¹⁰ Yates, J, Berry, M, Burke, T, Jacobs, K, Randolph, B and Milligan, V (2004) *Collaborative Research Venture 3: Housing Affordability for Lower-Income Australians*. Full CRV Plan. Melbourne, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Indigenous population representing 2.1% and 3.5% respectively of each State's total population. In comparison, the Northern Territory has 12% of the total Indigenous population representing 29% of the total Territorian population.

Table 1: Number of Indigenous people and proportion of the population by State and Territory, 30 June 2001

State or Territory	No. Indigenous people	Indigenous population as % of total population	Percent of Indigenous population
New South Wales	134,888	2.1	29
Victoria	27,846	0.6	6
Queensland	125,910	3.5	27
Western Australia	65,931	3.5	14
South Australia	25,544	1.7	6
Tasmania	17,384	3.7	4
Australian Capital Territory	3,909	1.2	1
Northern Territory	56,875	28.8	12
Total	458,520	2.4	100

Source: ABS, Population by Age and Sex (Cat. No. 3201.0); Experimental Estimates Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (Cat. No. 3238.0).

It is also important for housing provision to note that 30% of Indigenous households live in major cities, 20% in inner regional areas, 23% in outer regional areas, 9% in remote areas and 18% in very remote areas.

In terms of living conditions the key determinant is usually income or family wealth. As Indigenous people have not been able to share equitably in this wealth, they have markedly different housing experiences to the non-Indigenous population. In 2001, 32% of Indigenous households owned or were purchasing their home, compared to 71% of non-Indigenous households. Although home ownership rates are lower in all locations for Indigenous people, there are also variations in Indigenous home ownership rates between States and Territories. As shown in Table 2, Indigenous home ownership rates were highest in Tasmania (57%) and lowest in the Northern Territory (14%). Further, and particularly in remote locations, a significant number of Indigenous people do not experience the same quality of infrastructure and essential services as other Australians.

A large proportion of Indigenous households (29%) in Australia also depend on private rental accommodation. This compares to a national average for non-Indigenous households of 21%. In all States and Territories except the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia, there are higher proportions of Indigenous households in private rental than social or government provided housing. The highest rate of private rental is in Queensland (37%)

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

followed by New South Wales (31%). The lowest level of private rental is in the Northern Territory (14%) (Census, 2001).

At the time of the 2001 Census, one third (34%) of Indigenous households in Australia lived in social or government funded housing. The reliance on social housing was highest in the Northern Territory (62%) and lowest in Tasmania (17%). Table 2 below outlines the significant variation between States and Territories in the reliance on social housing and other tenures by Indigenous Australians. In sharp contrast, less than 5% of non-Indigenous households reside in social housing nationally. The over-representation of Indigenous households in social housing is unsurprising given the high levels of disadvantage in the Indigenous population and the high levels of Indigenous housing need.

Table 2: Tenure status of Indigenous Australians by State and Territory, 6 August 2001

State or Territory	Homeowners/ Purchasers	Private renters	Social housing tenants	Other tenure
New South Wales	35.9	30.9	29.2	4.0
Victoria	42.4	29.3	23.3	5.0
Queensland	28.4	36.8	30.0	4.8
Western Australia	26.5	23.1	44.8	5.6
South Australia	29.0	23.3	43.4	4.3
Tasmania	56.8	23.8	16.7	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	41.0	29.8	26.2	3.0
Northern Territory	13.7	14.1	61.5	10.7
Total	32.0	29.2	33.8	5.0

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2001

Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing status are also highlighted on a range of housing need indicators. Census 2001 data indicate, for example, that Indigenous people are four times more likely to be homeless and six times more likely to live in overcrowded accommodation than non-Indigenous Australians.

Overcrowding is experienced by Indigenous households in all locations but is more severe in remote and very remote areas. At the 2001 Census, 11,417 Indigenous households were overcrowded. This represents 10.2% of all Indigenous households in overcrowded conditions. In the Northern Territory, the proportion is 34.7%. As acknowledged in the BBF and in the recent *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report to COAG, overcrowding is a significant contributor to poor health, family violence and poor educational outcomes.

In addition, there were 15,013 low-income Indigenous households paying more than 25% of their income in rent as at the time of the 2001 Census. An estimated 43% of all Indigenous

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

rental households¹¹ pay more than 25% of their income in rent. In the Australian Capital Territory the rate was 58% of Indigenous rental households. Whilst Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have rates of 53%, 48% and 47% respectively.

The poor living conditions faced by Indigenous people are also highlighted by:

- the estimate that over one quarter (26%) of all Indigenous community housing organisation (ICHO) housing stock needs major repairs or replacement;
- the estimated 1,882 temporary dwellings on discrete Indigenous communities, with 86% of these dwellings located in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland; and
- the reliability of water supply and sewerage disposal is still a matter of concern in some discrete Indigenous communities. A small proportion of Indigenous communities are not connected to water, sewerage or electricity services.

Social housing assistance to Indigenous people needs to be understood against institutional and service delivery arrangements:

- Whether it is managed by the community or government;
- Whether funding is Indigenous specific or comes from resources allocated to housing programs targeted to all Australians (mainstream); or
- Whether funding is provided by the Australian Government through agencies such as the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS), Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Health and Ageing (DHA), by a range of State and Territory government housing agencies or until recently the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS).

Government owned and managed Indigenous specific housing is referred to as SOMIH – State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing. There is no SOMIH in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory. The Indigenous managed community housing sector is frequently referred to in the report as Indigenous Community Housing Organisations or ICHOs.

Table 3 summarises current housing funding programs by mode of service delivery. Information on Indigenous housing outcomes in these programs is reflected in the *BBF Outcomes Report 2002-03*. Whilst many of the programs are directed to ICHOs, programs such as the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) are directed in some jurisdictions to both community and government managed Indigenous specific housing.

¹¹ Rental householders include both social and private renters.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Table 3: Summary of funding programs for Indigenous specific and mainstream social housing

	Community Managed		Government Managed
Indigenous specific	ICHO sector: Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) a tied program under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) State and Territory funds Community Housing and Infrastructure Program National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) Fixing Houses for Better Health program (FHFBH) Army Community Assistance Program (ACAP)	FaCS FaCS FaCS FaCS DoD, DHA, FaCS	SOMIH: Aboriginal Rental Housing Program Other untied and tied generic CSHA funds
Mainstream	Other untied and tied generic CSHA funds	FaCS	Other untied and tied generic CSHA funds

Whilst not strictly comparable, Table 4 provides an overview of the size and nature of the Indigenous specific social housing sector and the level of access of Indigenous households to mainstream (non-Indigenous specific) public and community housing programs.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Table 4: Indigenous households and reliance on social housing sector

State or Territory	SOMIH h'holds 30 June 2003¹	Indigenous h'holds in mainstream public/ community housing 30 June 2003²	ICHO dwellings 2001³
New South Wales	3,890	9,371	4,079
Victoria	1,175	1,006 ⁴	416
Queensland	2,643	3,003	5,673
Western Australia	2,216	2,525	3,273
South Australia	1,719	1,178	1,004
Tasmania	320	453 ⁵	118
Australian Capital Territory	..	196	9
Northern Territory	..	1,451 ⁴	6,715
Total	11,963	19,183	21,287

Notes:

- 1 AIHW SOMIH data, 2002-03.
2. AIHW Public and community housing, 2002-03.
3. CHINS 2001.
4. Data for community housing not available.
- 5 Data collection issues may have resulted in an undercount of Indigenous households, particularly in the community sector.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Appendix 2

Reference Material for BBF Mid Term Review

Publicly available:

Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing

Building a Better Future: Indigenous Housing to 2010. (2001)

http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/community-indig_housing_2010.htm

Australian Government Productivity Commission

Report on Government Services 2004

<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/compendium2004/index.html>

Australian Government Productivity Commission

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003

<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2003/index.html>

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Indigenous Research

<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/attachments/Ethical2004.pdf>

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Indigenous Access to Mainstream Public and Community Housing

Mr Paul Flatau, Murdoch University *et al*

<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/general/document>

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2000)

Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corp/docs/EthicsGuideA4.pdf>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare publications

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/find/Indigenous%20housing>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Agreement on National Indigenous Housing Information (1999)

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/hou/anihi/anihi.pdf>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

National Reporting Framework for Indigenous Housing

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/committees/nihic/index.cfm>

Northern Territory Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs

Indigenous Housing 2004/05 and Beyond: Northern Territory Government Position Paper.

(2004)

http://www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/IH_Publications

Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing

Multi Measure Modelling of Indigenous Housing Need (2003)

Note: Although this report is based on publicly available data, the findings in the report have not themselves been previously published and may not be consistent with the needs-based approach adopted by all jurisdictions.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing

BBF Outcomes Report 2003-04

Note: This document is not yet finalised. It is anticipated to be available mid 2005.

Released on request:

Note: Documents provided by FaCS that are listed in this section are not to be made available by the recipient, in part or whole, to any other parties without prior approval of the Department.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Commonwealth State Working Group on Indigenous Housing <i>Report to Commonwealth, State and Territory Housing Ministers on Implementation of Housing Ministers' Resolutions for Indigenous Housing. (2001)</i>
Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing <i>BBF Outcomes Report 2002-03 (2003)</i>
Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing <i>Terms of Reference and Operating Protocols (November 2003)</i>

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 027

Topic: Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) Review

Hansard Page: CA31 and CA33 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Are the tender documents for the review of CHIP public documents? If so, please provide a copy.

Answer:

Yes the tender documents for the review are public documents. The Tender documentation was advertised on Austender. The following link will take you to the documentation:

https://www.tenders.gov.au/federal/shared/rftdetail.cfm?p_id=3661&p_criteria=FaCS%2F06%2FT494&p_advert=0

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 028

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA34 30/05

Senator Adams asked:

Is there a clause in the Indigenous Housing tender documents that Indigenous people must be employed? Are the states complying?

Answer:

The Australian Government provides funding to states and territory governments under *Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements 2005-08*. Employment of Indigenous people is implicit in the clauses of the Agreements referring to the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) policy. One of the outcomes to be achieved under the agreement is the sustainable employment of Indigenous people in the administration, planning and delivery and maintenance of Indigenous housing and infrastructure.

The CHIP policy identifies the requirement for all construction contract tenderers to indicate how they intend to provide meaningful employment and training opportunities for Indigenous people. Under the agreement state and territory governments are required to ensure that their tender documents are consistent with the CHIP policy. In addition, annual Operational Plans proposed by state and territory governments and provided to the Australian Government identify policies and activities planned to improve the employment of Indigenous people in housing construction.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 030

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: CA35 30/05

Senator Adams asked:

Please provide clear wording on the number of Indigenous people who need to be employed in building Indigenous housing.

Answer:

Please refer to answer provided to Question on Notice 028.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 031

Topic: Wadeye - Housing

Hansard Page: CA42 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the new houses to be built in this calendar year what stage was the planning up to prior to the violence breaking out in Wadeye? Have you let the contracts to the builders?

Answer:

The inception meeting for this project was held on 30 March 2006 with the ending of the wet season. The National Aboriginal Health Strategy Contracted Program manager, ARUP, reached agreement with the Thamarrurr Regional Council to appoint a project manager, Quantec McWilliams.

The Minister visited Wadeye in early May 2006 at the height of the violence and announced that further building would not occur until law and order was restored in the community. Contracts have not been let to the builders.

The Minister also reached agreement with the different families across the community to contribute their labour to cleaning up, repairing and painting some 39 houses, including 28 houses damaged in the violence last Wet Season. The Australian Government has contributed \$330,000 for paint and supervision and significant progress has already been made in restoring these houses.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 039

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

The social worker produced a report about the models for supporting family wellbeing in the region. Can you advise what came out of the project/ report?

Answer:

Following receipt of the report in October 2004 by the Australian and Northern Territory governments, further consultations were held with community members. An Aboriginal Community Resource Worker was employed through Northern Territory Government funding to lead this work.

Following the establishment of the Women and Families Working Group (part of the governance arrangements for the trial that supports the Tripartite Steering Committee), a number of meetings were held to identify priorities.

Subsequently, the Thamarrurr Regional Council decided to develop an application to the Attorney General's Department's National Crime Prevention Program for funds to support the development of a structured law and justice strategy that would tackle a range of issues impacting on family functioning within the community.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 040

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Was the community patrol one of the recommendations of the social work project?

Answer:

No.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 042

Topic: Yumba Meta E-Sub Application

Hansard Page: CA75 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

Can you advise the committee of the success or otherwise of Yumba Meta's application once the Minister has decided?

Answer:

In principle approval has been given for \$650,000 for this project, subject to the balance of the required funds being provided by the Queensland Government. These funds will be directed through the Queensland Department of Housing rather than through Yumba Meta.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 046

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) Staffing - Bourke

Hansard Page: CA94 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Did you have 15 staff in the Bourke ICC?

Answer:

There were 15 staff in the Bourke ICC, including staff supporting the Murdi Paaki Regional Council, when the machinery of government changes took effect from 1 July 2004. Since then, there have been changes to staffing arrangements resulting, among other things, from the termination of Regional Councils and the establishment of a new ICC office in Dubbo to assist in supporting the central and western regions of New South Wales.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 047

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) Network Staffing Profile

Hansard Page: CA95 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Provide a table of staffing for all ICCs. This profile table needs to include Indigenous or not, the level and what agency they are from including whether they are federal or state.

Answer:

Each agency is responsible for their own staffing profiles to meet operational and business needs. OIPC does not maintain ongoing data to report on the location and classification levels of staff from other agencies, including Indigenous staffing. Data on the indigenous background of Australian Public Service staff is collated by the Australian Public Service Commission in its annual State of the Service Report.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 049

Topic: Council of Australian Governments Trial at Wadeye

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

What performance indicators has your department had for housing in 2004, 2005? What was the actual performance?

How much has been spent on:

- a) new housing and how many houses/bedrooms, and
- b) house renovations for each of the last three years?

Answer:

The provision of housing for Indigenous people, including in Wadeye, was provided in 2004 and 2005, to the Northern Territory Government through the Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreement.

On 25 July 2005 the former Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator the Hon Kay Patterson, approved funding of \$9.5 million under the National Aboriginal Health Strategy to provide additional houses and essential infrastructure work for the Wadeye community.

This Department has not directly funded any major house renovations at Wadeye over the last three years, although in 2003-04, the Department funded the Thamarrurr Regional Council to conduct a Fixing Houses for Better Health project at a total value of \$818,487. This project assessed and repaired critical health hardware and safety systems (such as plumbing and power) in Indigenous housing while training and supporting local people to maintain their own houses in the long term.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 051

Topic: Services for Indigenous Australians

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

On PBS page 56 it is stated that \$9.0 million will be moved from 2005-06 to 2006-07 for SRA Implementation Assistance to complete planning for SRAs and ensure community engagement in the process. What exactly is this SRA Implementation Assistance and how will the \$9 million be used to complete SRA planning and ensure community engagement?

Answer:

The Shared Responsibility Agreements Implementation Assistance Program provides resources to support the development and implementation of Shared Responsibility and Regional Partnerships Agreements (SRAs and RPAs); community and regional engagement; and communities-in-crisis interventions. It was announced in the 2004-05 Budget, with \$85.9 million over four years from 2005-06.

The \$9 million from 2005-06 is being re-phased into 2006-07, particularly to meet existing commitments made with State Governments. Further planning and development on the ground are essential to ensure full community engagement and effective implementation.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 063

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the reviews currently being undertaken of both the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) and Building a Better Future (BBF) include an evaluation of how the programs have improved capacity of community housing organisations as per requirements of BBF?

Answer:

The CHIP Review will report against eight Terms of Reference. Request for Tender information for the CHIP Review (including the Terms of Reference) has been provided in the response to Question on Notice 027.

The BBF statement is a high-level *policy* document on Indigenous housing endorsed by all Australian Housing Ministers in May 2001. Request for Tender information for the BBF Mid-term Review has been provided in the response to Question on Notice 026.

The purpose and scope of the BBF Review and the evaluation framework for the review are set out in the Request for Tender document.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 064

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) How does FaCSIA work across government to ensure that the whole-of-government outcomes relating to the coordination, planning and delivery of Indigenous housing (under the Building a Better Future: Indigenous Housing to 2010 agreement) are delivered?
- b) In particular: Education, training & employment programs?; CDEP?; and Primary & environmental health programs?
- c) What progress has been made against the National Skills Development Strategy for Indigenous Community Housing Management?
- d) What progress has been made against the National Framework for the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Indigenous Housing?

Answer:

The Ministerial statement *Building a Better Future: Indigenous Housing to 2010* (BBF) is a ten year policy statement by Housing Ministers of new directions for Indigenous housing. Implementation of the BBF is primarily a responsibility of Housing Ministers at a jurisdictional level.

For more details on how the Department is ensuring a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous housing and ensuring outcomes are achieved, refer to the response provided to Question on Notice 062.

The National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) is one of the strategies under the BBF to “improve the capacity of Indigenous community housing organisations and involve Indigenous people in planning and service delivery” (Objective 2, *Building a Better Future: Indigenous Housing to 2010*). The Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the NSDS. Each state/territory is responsible for implementing the NSDS in their respective jurisdictions.

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has provided detailed information on the National Reporting Framework and its outcomes in the *Housing Assistance Act 1996 Annual Report 2003-04* and in the *Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report 2004-2005*.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 068

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How many ICC staff in total (from Commonwealth Government agencies) are currently located in;

- a) Bourke
- b) Dubbo
- c) Alice Springs
- d) Kimberley
- e) Katherine

Answer:

Each agency is responsible for its own staffing profiles. OIPC does not maintain ongoing data to report on the location of staff from other agencies.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 069

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – Department of Health & Ageing staff

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

How many staff from the Department of Health are currently located in ICCs? Which ICCs are they located in?

Answer:

Each agency is responsible for its own staffing profiles. OIPC does not maintain ongoing data to report on the location of staff from other agencies

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 070

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) – Unfilled or Vacant ICC Staff positions

Hansard Page: written

Senator Evans asked:

How many unfilled or vacant ICC staff positions currently exist across the board?

Answer:

Staffing levels are dynamic in any agency, given organisational changes, the movement of staff and delays in recruitment or replacements. Each agency is responsible for their own staffing profiles to meet operational and business needs. The actual number of vacancies is a matter for each agency with staff in ICCs.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 072

Topic: Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) – Solution Brokers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to solution brokers:

- a) What do they do?
- b) How many are there currently?
- c) Are they located in every ICC? How many ICC offices have them?
- d) Do they deal with all Government agency programs and policy areas?

Answer:

Solution brokers work to link the range of both mainstream and Indigenous-specific programmes and services in their agency and to suggest how they might need to be adapted to better respond to community circumstances and to deliver better outcomes. They also work collaboratively to dovetail the programmes of their agency with those of other agencies to support flexible solutions to issues identified by communities. As such, they support ICC Managers in the whole-of-government approaches being implemented by ICCs.

OIPC does not maintain ongoing data to report on the numbers of specific staff roles maintained by individual agencies, some of which operate from ICCs while others operate from an agency's main offices.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 204

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What checking was done on the feasibility of this proposal before the Minister made his announcement?

Answer:

The urgent need for short-term visitor accommodation to support the work of the alcohol management plan was identified through the work of the Alice Springs Town Camp Strategy Taskforce. The Woomera demountables presented an opportunity to use existing surplus assets in an area of high need.

A chronology of the events leading to the decision is outlined in the attached media release.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



The Hon Mal Brough MP
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Alice Springs Town Camps and Itinerant Populations – NT and Local Politicians Can't Walk Away From Solutions

Recent media reporting about the Alice Springs Town Camps Strategy, including the use of relocatable buildings, suggests that some politicians in the Northern Territory wish to disassociate themselves from the difficult decisions to address the town camp problem.

The confusion about the strategy created by erroneous public comment and media speculation requires some clarification of the town camp plan and the Australian Government's role.

The problems associated with town camps have been a concern for Alice Springs residents for a long time. Making permanent provision for people who have become permanent residents is, and always has been, a Territory Government and Local Government responsibility.

The Mayor of Alice Springs, amongst others, has also complained about health and violence issues associated with itinerant populations in the town camps and public spaces.

These are serious concerns and deserve urgent action in response.

To its credit, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) set up a taskforce to develop plans to tackle these problems. Earlier this year, the Chief Minister asked me to assist her with the town camp issue. Similarly the Mayor has requested help both in the media and by letter.

Even though this longstanding issue is a NTG and Alice Springs Council responsibility, I agreed to assist and personally visited Alice Springs to consult with stakeholders. The result was a joint commitment on 5 May to tackle this problem. The Australian Government agreed to provide \$20 million and the NTG agreed to put in a further \$10 million - which later turned out to be Commonwealth Housing and Infrastructure Program funding, money provided by the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory Government.

Concurrently, the Australian Government announced its willingness to refurbish and redirect unused relocatable buildings from Woomera to Alice Springs and other communities.

The announced town camp plan involves:

Upgrading current town camps to mainstream suburbs just like other suburbs in Alice Springs.

Establishment of accommodation for temporary residents in camp sites and hostel style accommodation to relieve problems associated with overcrowding on the town camps and to provide local authorities with an alternative to deal with illegal camping.

Specialist rehabilitation facilities to support Northern Territory Government alcohol management plans.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

The new sites for temporary accommodation are envisaged to look similar to the infrastructure of a formalised caravan and camping park. The sites will be supervised, have well constructed permanent hygiene and other amenities and will be alcohol free. Residents will be required to pay rent as they are to be run on a commercial basis.

There are some 40 demountable buildings being refurbished in Alice Springs. They are not 'dongas' as some media reports suggest. They are substantial, well constructed relocatable buildings. Most are earmarked for remote communities.

However, some relocatable buildings will be available for the infrastructure for temporary residents. These buildings are not and were never intended to be used for permanent accommodation for town camp residents. Whilst intended for itinerant infrastructure, these buildings are better than many current residences in Town Camps and are certainly better than illegal camping in public spaces. Contrary to some public comments, relocatable buildings do already exist in Alice Springs, not the least in some Caravan Parks.

The proposal to use relocatable buildings was well known to the NTG and the Town Council. It was discussed in meetings with both authorities, was publicly announced, including in a [joint release with Clare Martin](#), and is referred to in some correspondence.

The NTG, being responsible for land planning, engaged a consultant to identify suitable sites. An initial report has now been provided to officials and the NTG will further discuss these options with my department next week.

This very process confirms the NTG's responsibility for identifying sites. The NTG will undertake appropriate consultations on the selection of sites and ensure that normal land planning requirements are met.

Fixing the problems and moving to more permanent arrangements is to the benefit of the entire Alice Springs community whose concern about the current arrangements is very clear.

Keeping in mind that these are not issues the Australian Government normally has responsibility for, it would be easy for the Australian Government to respond to lukewarm comment by the NTG, Town Council and others by redirecting the entire \$30 million Australian Government commitment and the relocatable buildings to other needy communities. In that case, the local authorities would have to fix the Alice Springs problem – something they have been unwilling or unable to do for many years.

However, we have made a joint commitment in the interest of the indigenous population and the community as a whole. I remain determined to do my part on behalf of the Australian Government. My discussions with the NTG suggest they are also committed to the process.

To that end, I reaffirm the Australian Governments commitment to work with the Territory Government and the Town Council to turn the town camp strategy from words into action. I ask those bodies to do likewise.

25 August 2006

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 207

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camp Announcements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

On Saturday, *The Age* reported that the NT Government may have to pay up to \$20 million in compensation to the community groups that currently hold a 99 year lease on the land if it takes over the town camps. Can FACSIA provide any advice on the accuracy of this report?

Answer:

No.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 231

Topic: North Queensland Regional Housing Corporation – funding submission

Hansard Page: CA77 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

Could you please provide details of the application for North Queensland Regional Housing Corporation's submission for funding – whether stage 1 of Innes estate project is included.

Answer:

The proposal is for the construction of 15-17 two-bedroom senior units which, on completion, will see the removal of older Indigenous people from three and four bedroom houses into the units at Innes Estate in Townsville. The vacant houses will then be available to offer to families.

In-principle approval has been given for \$650,000 to enable this project to proceed contingent on the state government providing the remaining funds.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 075

Topic: Cape York Institute Welfare Reform Project

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

The 2006-07 budget provides for \$1 million in 2005-06 and \$2 million in 2006-07 for the Cape York Institute Welfare Reform Project

1. This allocation "provides funding for the initial phase of policy design and community consultation". Does this mean that the funds are not intended to pay for the implementation and reporting of the trial? What does it specifically cover?
2. Can you please provide a list of all funding allocations that have been made from OIPC to the Cape York Institute since 2004-05 to the forward estimates, including the date of the allocation and purpose?

Answer:

The Cape York Institute (CYI) Welfare Reform Project will: provide the groundwork and detail for possible proposals for changes to payments and obligations, including involvement of community leaders in their design; inform and solicit feedback from the four communities on the concepts and rationale of the changes; and identify the resources required to build enabling structures to support any change at the community level. CYI will provide regular progress reports. A formal interim report will be provided by March next year, with a final report by September 2007.

Funding provided or committed to Griffith University on behalf of CYI for the period 2004-05 for the forward estimates period is:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
FIM 'smartcard' feasibility study	\$65,000		
Flightpath – higher education exposure for Cape York students	\$130,000		
Assessment of Economic Viability of Remote Communities in Cape York		\$212,920	
Cape York Leadership Education		\$312,000 (\$70,650 to be expended in 06/07)	
Youth Vision Camps		\$40,000	
CYI Welfare Reform Project		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 206

Topic: Alice Springs Town Camps Announcement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Clare Martin said in a media statement after her meeting with Mr Brough last week that the two governments have ‘agreed to finalise a timetable to see real change in Alice Springs town camps by the end of June.’ Can you clarify this – is the commitment that a timetable will be in place by the end of June or that real change will be achieved by the end of June? When can real change be expected?

Answer:

We do not comment on media statements issued by other governments. The question is best directed to the Chief Minister for the Northern Territory.

A copy of the joint media release issued by Minister Brough and Chief Minister Martin on 5 May 2006 is attached. See response to Question 204 for a media release updating the situation.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 021

Topic: Family Violence Partnership Programme projects

Hansard Page: CA12/13

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide a list of what has been funded to each state and territory program including dates with the different stages of progress?

Answer:

See attached document for approved Family Violence Partnership Programme projects with project funding agreements.

Consistent with the approach advised at the Budget Estimates hearing, due to the intensive resourcing involved, the Minister has directed the Department to refer to published sources when answering questions on notice. The Minister is not prepared to divert Departmental resources to answer this question more than once per year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Approved Family Violence Partnership Program (FVPP) projects with project funding agreements.

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
ACT	Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health (WNAH) Family Violence Program (ACT)	Consolidation of the current programs being delivered through the social health team, via the employment of a Social Health Services Coordinator.	- Social Health Coordinator employed. - Calendar of programs developed. - Family Violence workshops being run as part of the Women's Gatherings.	28-Feb-06	\$86,000	\$0	\$86,000
NSW	Kup-Poon-Dee Community Outreach Project (Raymond Terrace and wider Port Stephens area)	Provide counselling and referrals to perpetrators of family violence on an individual case management basis.	- Counselling and referral services, to provide support to perpetrators and victims of family violence, commenced.	06-Apr-06	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
NSW	Cumeragunja (Community in far western NSW)	Conduct around 12 community camps in the Cumeragunja community in far western New South Wales.	- Approved, but subsequently withdrawn by NSW Government. No funding released.	N/A			
NSW	Rekindling the Spirit (Lismore)	Provide capital funding to purchase and renovate a building in which to run a number of culturally appropriate services to address the causal factors of family violence and child abuse.	- Scoping study approved in-principle on 22 May 2006. - Capital Works Deed signed. - Service currently provided in leased building	26-Jul-05	\$500,000	\$1,903,600	\$2,403,600
NSW	Ancestral Trek (NSW south coast)	The Ancestral Trek project will work with Indigenous offenders living on the South Coast of New South Wales. The project will take offenders on a five day, 15km trek between two campsites along the coastal edge. The trek will provide a 'time out' service for offenders to consider and discuss issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and sexual health.	- First progress report due November 2006.	27-Jul-06	\$171,600	\$66,100	\$237,700
NSW	Conflict Awareness Training (in Aboriginal Communities to be selected)	To develop and deliver community conflict awareness and management training to twelve NSW communities selected by the Justice Advisory Group. The project uses experienced Aboriginal mediators and combines traditional and mainstream conflict management techniques.	- Over 60 people have attended workshops. Surveys have been done in two pilot communities (Yamba and Wagga Wagga) to determine training needs.	7-Jun-06	\$263,000	\$494,000	\$757,000
NSW	Legal Workshops for Aboriginal Women (Batemans Bay, Bourke, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Dubbo,	A lack of understanding of legal language and jargon is considered a barrier to the effective participation of victims of family violence in the criminal justice process. To overcome this barrier a series of workshops will be held with Indigenous victims to provide them with a	- First progress report due November 2006.	15-Jun-06	\$480,000	\$192,000	\$672,000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
	Kempsey, Moree, Mt Druitt, Penrith, Northern Rivers, Taree, Wagga Wagga and Central West Region)	better understanding of legal jargon and to familiarise them with the court process.					
NSW	Promoting Leadership with Aboriginal Youth Around Healthy Relationships (Nowra, Dubbo, Brewarrina, Wagga Wagga and New England)	The project will work with young Aboriginal people over a three year period to develop leadership skills and strengthen pride in their Aboriginal identity and discuss family violence issues.	- First progress report due November 2006.	15-Jun-06	\$760,000	\$250,000	\$1,010,000
NSW	Strong Women Training Program (Bega, Griffith, Toronto, Tamworth, Wentworthville, Parramatta and Wilcannia)	Establishes Aboriginal women's advisory groups using local strong women who already play an informal advocate role. Women within the groups receive training from NSW Violence Against Women Specialist Unit. Groups liaise with mainstream services relevant to family violence issues and break down barriers to facilitate access to services by Indigenous families.	- Advisory groups terms of reference agreed. - First milestone report due January 2007.	15-Jun-06	\$330,000	\$180,000	\$510,000
NSW	Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre (Coleambally in western NSW)	Tirkandi Inaburra will house up to 16 Aboriginal boys between the ages of 12 and 15 who will stay at Tirkandi Inaburra on a voluntary basis for between 3 and 6 months. Tirkandi Inaburra programs are targeted to Aboriginal boys who show signs of being at risk of contact with the criminal justice system. Participants will come from communities located between the Lachlan and the Murray, and between Balranald and the western side of the Blue Mountains.	- First progress report due November 2006.	7-Jun-06	\$388,000	\$8,440,000	\$8,828,000
NT	Empowering Indigenous Communities to Identify, Address and Monitor Family Violence Issues (Tiwi Islands and Nyirringalung Region)	Piloting a staged implementation of the Empowering Indigenous Communities model of identifying and monitoring family violence. Community members will be trained in the use of this tool.	- Tool has been developed and trialled in a number of communities by the Safe Families Team. - Training in the use of this tool delivered to Certificate 3 students (FV Prevention & Early Intervention).	7-Jun-05	\$51,818	\$99,091	\$150,909

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
NT	Stop It Before It Starts (All of NT – school counsellors' training kit)	Provides training for school counsellors across the NT to deliver the "Stop it Before It Starts" kit to the target group (12 to 15yo children) helping school counsellors to identify and avoid family violence.	- The Stop It Before It Starts Kit was developed through the Partnerships against Domestic Violence Program. - NT Government recruiting Project Officer within the Dept of Employment, Education and Training (NT) to drive the project.	2-Feb-05	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
NT	Interventions for Children Who Have Been Exposed to Family Violence (Katherine)	Phase 1 identifies appropriate therapeutic models and interventions for children who have been exposed to family violence that are culturally appropriate and deliverable in remote areas. Phase 2 trials the therapeutic interventions in a shelter with a substantial number of Indigenous children. A kit will also be developed, tested and refined. Phase 3 trials the kit while training staff in shelters, school staff and community workers who come into contact with children at risk. Phase 4 extends coverage to additional remote communities. Phase 5 evaluates the sustainability of the therapeutic interventions developed throughout the project.	- Phase 1 nearing completion. - Research undertaken and completed. - Development of appropriate intervention processes for children returning to their homes from spending time in a Women's Refuge. - Development and production of kit to be used with children when they return back to their communities. - Development of Shelter Story – computer based interactive graphical program.	7-Jun-05	\$214,923	\$105,353	\$320,276
NT	Community Patrols (Mutitjulu, Belyuen, Aputula, East Arnhem)	Consultation, planning, training and implementation of volunteer and part-funded community patrols in up to 4 Indigenous communities each year, designed to support Indigenous families who are experiencing violence.	- Remote Area Night Patrol (RANP) Tangentyere Council contracted to provide support, training and capacity building. - Night patrols established in two communities.	2-Feb-05	\$327,273	\$455,454	\$782,727
NT	Indigenous Family Violence Offender Program (Tiwi, Yuendumu, Oenpelli, Ntaria and 12 other communities)	Train and support Indigenous facilitators to work in remote communities and teach people how to change violent behaviour using a structured 50-hour program.	- Training progressing for Tiwi Islands facilitators. - Training course delivered for new facilitators. - Course delivered at Daly River to perpetrators. - Refresher training course delivered to facilitators in Garden Point.	13-Feb-06	\$467,500	\$542,500	\$1,010,000
NT	Safe Families (Alice Springs)	Prevent family breakdown as a result of family violence. The project is based in Alice Springs and has three components: Family Workers, Family House and a Kids' House.	- Family House residence operational. - Providing housing for children in need of short-term accommodation and support due to family violence. - Providing comprehensive support and case management for children.	13-Feb-06	\$915,694	\$996,858	\$1,912,552

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
NT	Jidan Gudbalawei – Peace at Home (Katherine, Borroloola)	Develop and deliver therapeutic interventions for children exposed to family violence and train shelter workers, schoolteachers and other service providers to assist these clients.	- Establishment and fit out of joint office for Police and NT Child Protection workers in Katherine, allowing for a more integrated service for child protection and family violence. - Case Management Team working with children at risk. - Undertaking Scoping Study in Borroloola to review service delivery.	07-Jun-05	\$946,028	\$1,554,355	\$2,500,383
NT	Maningrida Youth and Family Wellbeing Services SRA (Maningrida, Arnhem Land)	This project is established under an SRA and receives funding from other Australian Govt agencies as well as the NT govt. A centre is being built that will house family and youth programs including family violence, substance misuse, sex education, and youth suicide prevention, with an emphasis on culture and self-esteem.	- The SRA was signed in a ceremony on 23 June 2006. Malabam Health Board has been appointed to oversee the project. - Some delays because of severe cyclone damage necessitating urgent repairs to housing and community buildings.	23-Jun-06	\$1,080,000	\$319,000	\$1,399,000
NT	Mutijulu Multi Purpose Centre (Mutijulu, Central Australia)	Part of a whole-of-govt response to a Communities-in-Crisis initiative, the establishment of a police post in Mutijulu.	- Construction is underway.	17-Jun-05	\$1,000,000	\$420,000	\$1,420,000
NT	Indigenous Women's Leadership, Governance and Networking Project (Yirrkala)	This project will provide care, nurturing and safety for women, children and older people experiencing or affected by family violence. The focus will be on breaking the cycle of family violence in the community through an intervention and counselling approach.	- First progress report due November 2006.	6-Jun-06	\$83,000	\$0	\$83,000
NT	Remote Community Education Project (Central Australian Communities of Nitaria, Litwentye Apurte, Tijikala, Areyounga, Walungurru, Yuelamu, Watiyawanu and Yuendumu)	This project will enable workers from Alice Springs Women's Shelter to travel to at least eight remote communities within twelve months. The Shelter workers will aim to involve the communities in developing effective strategies to reduce the levels of family violence.	- First progress report due November 2006.	8-Jun-06	\$53,000	\$0	\$53,000
NT	Marthakal's Family Violence Prevention Project (North East Arnhem Land)	This project will increase Yolngu control over and capacity to address concerns about family violence and its causes (including substance misuse) as well as other social, financial, legal and broader health / wellbeing issues. An education and management programme will	- First progress report due November 2006.	6-Jun-06	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
		also be conducted.					
NT	Yapakurlangu Men's Program (Barkly Region)	The Anyinginyi Health Men's Committee will look at the health and wellbeing of men in the region in a holistic way. The services provided will include self-esteem building, addressing family violence issues, mentoring for young men, family planning and employment.	- First progress report due November 2006.	6-Jun-06	\$81,000	\$0	\$81,000
Qld	Safe Havens: Feeling Safe, Belonging Place (Cherbourg, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Coen)	Facilities in the Cherbourg, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Coen communities will be built to provide: a meal, bed, referral, outreach and a drop-in centre. The facilities will provide children and young people with safe refuge while family members, community workers and child safety officers evaluate the capacity of the extended family to safely support the child in the future.	- Consultation completed within the 4 participating communities. - Each location has a Safe Havens Project Reference Group Established. - Scoping studies completed.	26-Jul-05	\$7,500,000	\$10,380,000	\$17,880,000
SA	Indigenous Women's Stories and Languages Project (Adelaide)	Promote discussion and community understanding of family violence through the use of language and story telling. Participants will also have an opportunity to record their stories, poems, songs or anecdotes and make these available to other women.	- Appointed creative writer. - First progress report due November 2006.	2-Feb-06	\$27,000	\$0	\$27,000
SA	Aboriginal Family Wellbeing: Addressing underlying factors that contribute to family violence (Gilles Plains, Angle Park, Port Adelaide)	Equip Indigenous people with communication and conflict resolution skills that will address causes of family violence. It is an education and counselling program using Aboriginal workers in the community.	- Family well being model and data collection process developed. - Education and counselling services are being delivered.	31-May-05	\$1,321,923	\$375,000	\$1,696,923
SA	Yalata Multi Purpose Community Centre (Ceduna)	Construction of a multi purpose community learning and cultural centre and pool for the Yalata Aboriginal Community, located 200km west of Ceduna. The project will focus on reducing violence and substance abuse in the community. 1) To provide family violence counselling and education equipping participants with the skills for	- Scoping study completed. - Preliminary work for the construction is going ahead.	31-May-05	\$1,500,000	\$1,636,364	\$3,136,364
SA	Rekindling Indigenous Family Relationships in		- Technical Reference Group established and operating.	16-Jun-05	\$709,732	\$555,311	\$1,265,043

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
	the Riverland of South Australia (Riverland, SA)	effective communication and conflict resolution. 2) To increase community awareness and understanding of family violence issues; providing support services to individuals and families including information, counselling, case management; identifying barriers to utilising existing services and ways to overcome barriers.	- Community workers recruited and services being delivered.				
SA	Sturt Street Supported Tenancy Project (Adelaide)	The project will provide intensive intervention and assistance to Indigenous women caught in the cycle of violence and homelessness. The project will target women who have been frequent users of Aboriginal emergency housing services who experience repeated homelessness in response to fleeing violent situations.	- First progress report due November 2006.	8-Jun-06	\$1,303,076	\$159,376	\$1,462,452
SA NT WA	Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Programs for the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands of Central Australia (NPY Lands of SA, NT and WA)	This is a joint project from correctional service agencies in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. It will reduce the incidence of physical and psychological harm in Aboriginal communities of Central Australia by developing and delivering culturally and linguistically appropriate programs to address issues of family violence, anger management and substance misuse. The project is targeted at perpetrators of family violence and will play an important role in early intervention.	- First progress report due November 2006.	13-Jun-06	\$1,370,728	\$474,182	\$1,844,910
Tas	Aboriginal Family Violence Rehabilitation Program (Tasmania)	Strengthen the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community through developing and implementing strategies to break the cycle of substance abuse and family violence.	- Data collection and analysis for the program model has commenced. - Discussion paper currently being prepared for stakeholder consultation.	30-Sep-05	\$59,830	\$20,200	\$80,030
Tas	Cape Barrren Island SRA (Fumeaux Island group, NE Tas)	Address the acute problem of family violence on the Island focussing on developing education and support that promote stronger family relationships and the provision of a professional support network and video conferencing facilities.	- Relationships Australia has developed a program to address family violence. - Negotiations on implementation underway with the community.	02-Jun-05	\$140,000	\$9,715	\$149,715
Tas	Tasmanian Indigenous Family Wellbeing Course (Tasmania)	The project aims to reduce and prevent family violence within Aboriginal communities in Tasmania through the training of Aboriginal participants in a nationally	- First progress report due November 2006.	7-Jun-06	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$31,000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

State	Project Title (Location)	Project Description	Progress as at 31 July 2006	Date Agreement Signed	Aust Govt Contribution	State/Territory Contribution	Total Project Funding
		accredited Aboriginal Family Wellbeing course.					
Vic	Time Out Centres (Locations to be selected)	Provide capital funding for two men's time-out services to help prevent Indigenous family violence by providing a safe, culturally appropriate place for Indigenous men to go and calm down so that they do not commit a violent act.	- Service locations selected and announced. - Capital works project control group established. - Service models and plans have been completed. - Draft capital works scoping studies have been submitted and being assessed.	27-Jun-05	\$800,000	\$470,000	\$1,270,000
Vic	Holistic Family Healing Centres (East Gippsland, Loddon Mallee South)	Provide capital funding to establish two holistic family healing centres to help prevent, reduce and respond to Indigenous family violence by providing a venue for culturally appropriate family violence programmes and services.	- Service locations selected and announced. - Capital works project control group established. - Draft capital works scoping studies have been submitted and being assessed.	27-Jun-05	\$2,000,000	\$1,550,000	\$3,550,000
WA	Supporting the Kullarri Indigenous Women's Aboriginal Corporation in relation to Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. (5 language groups around: Broome, Bityadanga, Beagle Bay, Lombadina/ Djarindjin, One Arm Point and out stations).	Support the Kullarri Indigenous Women's Aboriginal Corporation deliver a range of family violence services in WA via employment and training of two women in each location. This project will provide the link between women and children experiencing abuse and government workers.	- Acceptance of performance indicators by WA Government. - Project commenced in April 2006.	28-Oct-05	\$572,000	\$132,000	\$704,000
WA	Western Australian Indigenous Family Healing Project (Perth, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah, Geraldton, South Hedland, and Bunbury)	Provide outreach or single service delivery point support, including individual counselling and group healing, for Indigenous adults and children.	- Acceptance of performance indicators by State government. - All 5 regional sites have an Indigenous project officer employed. - Project Manager and Project Research Officer will be employed within 4 weeks.	23-Sep-05	\$2,664,000	\$1,100,000	\$3,764,000
WA	Yorgum Family Violence Community Development Project (Perth)	Provide workshops and other community development initiatives such as camps and gatherings to be held to discuss family violence.	- Men's Healing Art Group - completed. - 'Survivors of sexual abuse' - women attending twice a week. - 'Child Sexual Abuse Forum' (in conjunction with Oxfam) held on 20 and 21 July.	27-Feb-06	\$52,000	\$0	\$52,000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 061

Topic: Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Could you explain the figures for output group 1.3 (Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations)? Figures at page 74 of the PBS show that this output has only Departmental Appropriations of just over \$4 million but I cannot find any Administered funding for programs. So why this funding if there is nothing to administer? What does FaCSIA do in this area?

Answer:

Output Group 1.3 – Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations is delivered by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations (ORAC).

ORAC is established to assist the Registrar, an independent statutory office holder, to administer the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976* (the Act) and to support and regulate corporations for Indigenous peoples throughout Australia. ORAC also provides an avenue for new incorporations, trains board members and key staff of Indigenous Corporations in good corporate governance practices, monitors corporations' compliance with the Act and other requirements and intervenes when needed. ORAC is hosted by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

The 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements (page 74) shows \$4 million in departmental appropriations for 2005-06 for Output Group 1.3 (\$5.8 million for 2006-07). This is part of ORAC's allocation to enable the Registrar to meet statutory obligations. ORAC does not receive administered funds as all expenditure is within FaCSIA's control and directly contributes to FaCSIA outputs.

Further information on ORAC's role is set out on the Departmental website.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 065

Topic: Petford Training Farm (Aboriginal Corporation)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

1. Can the department provide the actual date of the liquidation of Petford, and on what basis was it put into liquidation?
2. Was any liquidator's report prepared, and if so who was it commissioned by, under what act or regulation, by whom, when was it presented and to which agency and officer was it presented?
3. Can a copy of the report be provided please?
4. Does the liquidator's report consist solely of an 11-page document entitled EXAD Project?

Answer:

Official liquidators, Mr William Buckby and Mr Richard Dennis were appointed as liquidators of Petford Training Farm (Aboriginal Corporation) on 23 August 1999 by order of the Supreme Court of Queensland. The winding up of the Corporation was finalised on 5 February 2003, and the Corporation was subsequently deregistered on 16 May 2003. The Corporation was wound up on the basis that funding to the corporation had ceased and if it continued to trade it would be unable to pay its debts.

A report by the Official Liquidators was prepared in accordance with section 533 of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Liquidators must prepare such reports of their own motion. A copy of this report was sent to the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations by the Liquidators on 18 November 2002. The Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations received this report because section 67 of the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976* applies the winding up provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*, and therefore a reference to ASIC (the Australian Securities and Investments Commission) is read as a reference to the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations. The Liquidator's report is not a public document and the Registrar does not propose to release it.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 102

Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme

Hansard Page: CA111 30/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Of applicants where discretion is applied how many were successful?

Answer:

Centrelink has advised that during the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2006, late registrations for the Pension Bonus Scheme were accepted from 4,948 customers.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 103

Topic: Superannuation

Hansard Page: CA111-112 30/05

Senator Evans asked:

Was FaCSIA involved or consulted in the development of the Government document “A Plan to Simplify and Streamline Superannuation”?

Answer:

FaCSIA was not consulted in the drafting of this document. FaCSIA and Treasury have held previous discussions on a number of the policy areas that the document relates to.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

2005-06 MERGERS (to 30 April 2006)
- caused the number of DEA outlets to reduce from 392 as at 30 June 2005 to 377

STO	Org Name	Outlet Name	New Outlet Name	Reason
NSW	Challenge Disability Services (FCR)	Challenge Contract Services	Challenge Contract Services	MERGER: Financial issues for this organisation (has just completed an FCR). Merger to create administrative efficiencies but no outlets closed.
NSW	Challenge Disability Services (FCR)	Challenge Mobile Workcrew		
NSW	Challenge Disability Services (FCR)	Challenge TASC Group		
NSW	Cypress Centre Narrandera Inc	Cypress Centre Crewcuts		To create administrative efficiencies
NSW	Cypress Centre Narrandera Inc	Cypress Centre Ironing Basket	Cypress Centre Narrandera Inc	
NSW	Cypress Centre Narrandera Inc	Cypress Centre Linen Service		
NSW	St George Area Intellectual Disability Services	South Haven Support Services	CLOSED	No longer viable
		Brighton Supported Jobs	Minda Supported Services	To create administrative efficiencies
		Work Crews	Minda Commercial Services	
		Norfolk Industries		
		Horizon Industries		
		Craigburn		
		Trak Furniture		
SA	Minda Inc			
TAS	Ability Employment	Ability Employment	CLOSED	Places transferred to DEWR
TAS	Ability Employment	Ability Employment Circular Head	CLOSED	Places transferred to DEWR
WA	Autism Association of Western Australia (Inc)	AIM Employment Service - BS	CLOSED	Places transferred to DEWR
VIC	Yooralla Society of Victoria	Ability Press	Dual Ware - Footscray	Merger places transferred from Ability Press to Dual Ware - Footscray
VIC	Yooralla Society of Victoria	Dual Ware - Footscray		
SA	SA Group Enterprises Inc.	OptCom	Inprint Computing	Merger for financial reason OptCom was not a going concern.
SA	SA Group Enterprises Inc.	Inprint Computing		

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

NSW	Murrumbidgee Enterprises Inc	Eloueras TT Café	CLOSED	
SA	Diocesan Association for the Intellectually Disabled Incorporation	Community Vocational Support	CLOSED	Organisation no longer wanted to continue with DEA and asked to move Business Service places from CVS to Bedford Industries.
VIC	Kyeema Centre Inc	Windward	Kyeema Business Service	Two outlets merged
VIC	Kyeema Centre Inc	Kyeema Business Service	CLOSED	Re-auspiced and cases transferred to Orana
SA	Melaleuca Centre Inc	Melaleuca Centre		

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 118

Topic: Australian Health Care Associates Survey

Hansard Page: CA118 30/05

Senator McLucas asked:

When is the survey that the Australian Health Care Associates are doing proposed to be completed?

Answer:

The Australian Health Care Associates completed the survey in May 2006. Analysis of the outcomes of the survey is now being undertaken.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.3

Question No: 119

Topic: Assistance for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What actions has the Department taken to implement Recommendation 1 of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry Report on the Family assistance, social security and veterans' affairs legislation amendment (2005 budget and other measures) Bill 2006?

Recommendation 1 – The Committee recommends the development and implementation of a comprehensive education campaign aimed at medical practitioners and others charged with assessing the care needs of individuals in order to improve awareness of, and the dissemination of information about, the availability of assistance for carers. This campaign should emphasise the existence of the Carer's Allowance entitlement and the correct application of the Centrelink care assessment criteria.

Answer:

A communication plan has been developed and is being implemented.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.3

Question No: 232

Topic: Carer Payment (child)

Hansard Page: CA115 30/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Please provide a copy of the proposed form to be filled in by GPs.

Answer:

The revised Medical Report form is currently being finalised by Centrelink.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 120

Topic: National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

How do prospective applicants find out about NIYLG so that they can apply?

Answer:

The call for nominations for NIYLG is widely promoted to attract a high calibre of applications. In 2005-06 the call for nominations was advertised through:

- newspaper advertisements in national publications including The Australian, The Koori Mail, The National Indigenous Times and the Torres Times;
- a media release which was picked up by regional and community radio and newspapers. Letters were also sent to Members of Parliament to promote NIYLG in their electorates;
- a national mail-out to appropriate government networks including Indigenous Education Programme Officers (Department of Education, Science and Training) and Indigenous Coordination Centres (Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination);
- a national mail out to business and community organisations;
- the Australian Government's youth website *the source*; and
- e-mail networks including Youth.Comm, previous NIYLG members and FaCSIA National Office Indigenous Networks.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 121

Topic: Youth Affairs- Departmental Outputs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Why do the Administered Appropriations for Support for Youth require large Departmental Appropriations?
- (b) Why are these programs – especially the Roundtable at over \$400,000 not Administered Appropriations?
- (c) Why have the Departmental Appropriations increased by a large amount, especially given the reduction in program costs?
- (d) There has been a decrease of 66 percent in the number of expected pieces of correspondence to the Minister from the Youth Bureau in the Portfolio Budget Statement from 2005–06 to 2006–07. Please explain the decrease.

Answer:

A significant component of the departmental appropriations used for youth are the result of allocating corporate costs.

Since its inception in 1991 the National Youth Round Table has been funded under the banner of Youth Initiatives funded through Departmental appropriations.

The department's aggregate appropriations increased as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders changes in January 2006. In 2005-06 this was only for a part year. In 2006-07 a full year of costs are available to be allocated. Our costs reflect these additional appropriations.

The machinery of government changes that took effect in December 2004 included the transfer of responsibility for some youth related payments and programmes to other portfolios. The transfer of these responsibilities has led to a substantial decrease in Ministerial correspondence dealt with by the Youth Bureau.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 122

Topic: Mentor Marketplace Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

(a) Why has the appropriated funds increased, while the number of people assisted decreased?

(b) Has FaCSIA adopted all the recommendations of the Urbis Keys Young evaluation? Particularly FPMR's 3,4,5,8,11. If not, why not?

Answer:

The appropriated funds have increased because the pilot was extended and new providers were only contracted from 1 January 2006. 2006-07 reflects the first full year of funding for 26 service providers.

A different mix of individual and group mentoring models has been provided through the selection of new service providers under phase II, resulting in a slight decrease in the total number of estimated mentoring matches for 2006-07.

All the recommendations of the Urbis Keys Young pilot programme evaluation have either been adopted or are under consideration as part of a Performance Management Framework for FaCSIA youth programmes.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 123

Topic: YouthLinx

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Why has the YouthLinx program's funding reduced to \$7.0m when in the final estimates of 05-06 it was \$9.8m?
- (b) If there was a demand for the program, why hasn't the funding increased?
- (c) Please provide the funding increase, due to indexation for the 2005-06 financial year.

Answer:

Funding for YouthLinx has not been reduced. In 2005-06 the YouthLinx appropriation included funding for three one-off initiatives:

- \$200,000 for Huon Valley Police and Citizens Youth Club. These funds contributed to building a youth centre;
- \$600,000 to expand the Duke of Edinburgh Awards in Australia; and
- \$2 million for Scouts Australia for the roll out of the National Indigenous Scouting Programme.

As part of the budget process, the government considers the funding allocations for all programmes in the context of government priorities.

The funding increase between 2005/06 and 2006/07 is \$16,000.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 124

Topic: Newly Arrived Youth Support Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Please provide the FACSIA output group which funds this program.
- (b) Please outline the final and budget estimates for this program for the next 5 years?
- (c) Can the department please provide the figures of young people assisted by the program and then in a breakdown by location and by ethnicity?
 - 1. How many staff are required at each location/for the total program?
 - 2. How is the program's success measured: outcomes based? Client survey? Please provide a copy of any evaluations.
 - 3. Why have newly arrived refugees not been incorporated into the government's International Humanitarian Settlement Services (IHSS) program?

Answer:

2.4 - Support for Youth. The Newly Arrived Youth Support Service (NAYSS) initiative is funded under the Reconnect appropriation.

Announced funding, including the forward estimates, for NAYSS is set out in the 2004/05

Portfolio Budget Statement. (p46).

The program has been operating for less than one year and information is not yet available about the young people assisted by the program.

The program's success will be assessed against an outcomes based framework that will not include details of staffing numbers. No evaluations have been conducted on the program due to the fact that it has been in operation for less than one year. The program is focussed on youth and complements the Government's IHSS program.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 125

Topic: National Youth Roundtable

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Please provide final and budget estimates for the 2005 and 2006 Roundtables.
- (b) The current Roundtable is the first to run with only 30 members. The figure for this years estimated costs should be considerably lower than for the previous Roundtables. Please explain this.
- (c) Please provide the number of applicants for the NYR in 2006.
- (d) The Roundtable has now been running since 1999 and has not been evaluated. Will the Department be evaluating the Roundtable this year, if not why not?

Answer:

The National Youth Roundtable 2005-06 current YTD (mid June 2006) actual expenditure is \$246,640.

The National Youth Roundtable 2004-05 final actual expenditure was \$189,911.

The National Youth Roundtable 2005-06 is the first to run with only 30 members, however, there has been an increase in meetings held within the financial year. This resulted in a higher expenditure in 2005-06 than in 2004-05.

There were 450 applications for NYR 2005/06.

The delivery of the programme is assessed on a continuing basis and the Roundtable is constantly evolving in response to feedback from participants and to ensure relevance of the voice of youth in relation to policies on which the government seeks consultation.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 126

Topic: National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group (NIYLG)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Please provide the number of young people who applied for the NIYLG in 2006-2007?

Answer:

Nominations for 2006-07 have not yet been sought, as the term of the current group does not conclude until November 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 127

Topic: National Youth Week

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

1. I understand that Horizon, NYW's former PR company, were paid \$383 900 in 2005. That amount was up from \$219 600 in 2004. Please explain what the additional \$160 000 spent on?
2. Please indicate the total expenditure for the 2006 NYW and provide line items of expenditure.
3. The Federal government is responsible for the coordination of marketing and there has been suggestions raised by service providers that they could produce their own marketing materials at a lower cost using the same logo. Why have these recommendations in evaluations by service providers not been adopted?
4. Why does the national youth week program guidelines exclude young people who are not Australian citizens from receiving funding for projects during national youth week?
5. Has the Department evaluated the success of the NYW program?
6. Has the Department of FACSIA considered working with other departments so that more specific campaigns can be run during NYW?

Answer:

In 2005 an additional \$160,000 was paid to Horizon Communications because they were required to undertake additional communications work such as event management, sponsorship and media support.

The total expenditure for the NYW 2005/2006 as at June 2006 was \$546,402.

Broken down by line item expenditure for the NYW 2005/2006 was: Travel related expenses \$4,520; contractors \$135,842; Training \$3,682; publishing and printing \$111,962; Administration \$269,512; communications expense \$3,376; other expenses \$17,508.

The Australian Government is responsible for managing the promotional materials for NYW and follows best value for money practices specified in the Australian Government Procurement Guidelines.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

The department administers funding to state and territory governments for NYW activities through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU does not prevent states from providing funding to young people who are not Australian citizens.

An evaluation of NYW is currently being conducted by Morgan Disney and Associates on behalf of the Ministerial Committee on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) Youth Taskforce.

The department is currently working with state and territory government departments to promote NYW and is looking to cross promote future events with other Australian Government Departments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 128

Topic: Funding for programs within Outcome 2.4 - Departmental Appropriations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Does Outcome 2.4 Departmental Appropriations fund any other programs including sponsorships aside from:
 The National Youth Roundtable,
 The National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group,
 The Source,
 The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme
 The Australian Forum of Youth Organisations
 The Youth Consultative and Advisory Forum
 National Youth Week
- (b) Please provide budget figures for each of these programs for 04-05, 05-06 and 06-07.
- (c) Please provide a break down of which services are funded through these Programs.
- (d) Please provide a list of every program that is overseen by those who work in 'Youth Development – Sponsorship

Answer:

Outcome 2.4 also includes expenditure for Ship for World Youth and Youth Research projects, including the Australian National Clearinghouse and Australian Research Council Link Grant Project.

Expenditure	2004/05	2005/06 YTD
The National Youth Roundtable	\$189,911	\$246,836
The National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group	\$103,953	\$171,957
The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme	\$109,090	\$120,083
The Australian Forum of Youth Organisations	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Youth Consultative and Advisory Forum	\$10,391	\$0.00
Ship for World Youth	\$12,145	\$42,242
Australian National Clearinghouse	\$214,490	\$300,000
Australian Research Council Link Grant Project	\$350,500	\$374,100
National Youth Week – not funded through output 2.4	\$804,200	\$546,415
The Source - not funded through output 2.4	\$120,000	\$31,545

No expenditure for 2006/07 has occurred.

No services are funded.

The Youth Development and Sponsorship subsection manages the Youth Sponsorship program. Details of Youth Sponsorship are covered in Question No. 129.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 129

Topic: Other youth initiatives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Does the department fund a grants program called the Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP) or any other sponsorship program to fund organisations and events in relation to young people? If not, how does it fund the Rock Eisteddfod, Cool Schools etc.
- (b) Please provide a final and budget estimate for this sponsorship program.
- (c) Please provide a list of organisations, which have received funding from this program in 04-05, 05-06 and 06-07.
- (d) Please provide guidelines and application processes for the program. If not, why not?
- (e) Who is responsible for deciding who receives these sponsorships?
- (f) Why is there no advertising of these initiatives?
- (g) Why does the department refuse to disclose who is funded through these schemes or in fact if these schemes even exist and their guidelines?
- (h) Is there any evaluation of these schemes?

Answer:

A small programme called the Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP) is funded from departmental appropriations to fund organisations and events in relation to young people.

The YSP 2006-07 departmental allocation will not be known until the department has reviewed priorities against available budget for the coming year. The 2005-06 allocation was \$715,750.

The attached table provides the details of organisations which received funding in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The selection process and funding allocation for 2006-07 has not been finalised.

The YSP 2006-07 Funding Round Guidelines and YSP 2006-07 Application Form are attached to this document. We write to organisations that have either been previously funded or organisations that have expressed an interest in receiving funding, as it is more cost effective and better targeted.

As the YSP is funded by departmental allocation, the delegate for the YSP is the Branch Manager of the Youth Bureau. A panel, made up of FaCSIA staff, assesses YSP applications against the selection criteria.

The Department has not refused to disclose the scheme or the organisations sponsored by it. The department assesses whether the sponsored activity contributes to the overall objectives of the YSP.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Table One – Re Question C

Organisation	Year Provided
Rostrum Voice of Youth	2004-05
Desert Ed Productions	2004-05
Scouts Australia (ACT)	2004-05
National Awards for Local Government (DoTARS)	2004-05 2005-06
Wakakirri	2004-05 2005-06
Kool Skools	2004-05 2005-06
Step to the Future Leadership Forum	2004-05 2005-06
Rock Eisteddfod Challenge Foundation	2004-05 2005-06
ABC Heywire Initiative (DAFF)	2005-06
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Australia	2005-06

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



Australian Government

**Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

**Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP)
2006-07 Funding Round**

Guidelines

Contents

Important Information.....2

Section One – Overview of the Youth Sponsorship Programme.....3

Section Two – Statement of Requirement.....3

Section Three – Selection Criteria and Funding Round.....5

Section Four – Terms and Conditions of Application.....10

Glossary.....12

UPDATED ON:	3 March 2006
TO BE REVIEWED BY:	2 March 2007
CREATED BY:	Youth Consultation Section, Youth Bureau
CLEARED BY:	Youth Bureau Branch Manager

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Important Information

Key Dates

Under Australian Government financial practices, the Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP) is tied to financial years that run from 1 July to 30 June. The timetable outlined below details the 2006-07 Funding Round.

By Friday 10 March 2006	Application package sent to potential Applicants.
By Friday 21 April 2006	Proposals for Sponsorship under the Youth Sponsorship Programme for 2006-07 financial year should be submitted to FaCSIA.
Through late April and May	The assessment process will take place.
By 15 June 2006	All Applicants will be notified of the funding decision for 2006-07 financial year. Please note that funding decisions are made dependent upon the department receiving funds from 1 July and the number and strength of other proposals for sponsorship.
By 14 July 2006	FaCSIA aims to have all funding agreements in place with successful Applicants.

How To Find Out More

Please note that to ensure consistency of information to all Applicants, the Department is using a central point of contact for all communications in relation to the YSP 2006-07 Funding Round. Please do not contact the Department's national office or state and territory offices for information about the Funding Round.

You can find out more information by contacting the FaCSIA officer referred to in the letter you received accompanying this Application Package.

That person will be either:

Sarah Braybon Ph: (02) 6212 9455 sarah.braybon@facs.gov.au	Larissa Woolfield Ph: (02) 6212 9269 larissa.woolfield@facs.gov.au
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You can contact Sarah or Larissa between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Organisations with special needs may contact the Department on TTY 1800 260 402.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section One – Overview of the Youth Sponsorship Programme

Aim

The aim of the Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP) is to support the achievement of FaCSIA's outcomes for young people. This support is provided through sponsorship of organisations or individuals that provide positive development opportunities for young people – with the intention of building resilience and self-reliance, promoting positive images and messages and/or celebrating the achievements of young people.

Outcomes

The outcomes FaCSIA pursues for young people are that:

- Young people are assisted to achieve their potential;
- Young people are supported to engage with their families and communities;
- Positive perception of young people are promoted in the community; and
- Young people are assisted in the context of their families.

Target Group

The YSP focuses on providing positive development opportunities for young people throughout adolescence and early adulthood.

Section Two – Statement of Requirement

Eligible YSP Activities

For the 2006-07 Funding Round the focus of the YSP will be **Youth Participation**. FaCSIA will support events or activities that provide young people with opportunities for meaningful and worthwhile engagement with, and participation in, the wider community.

Some examples may include:

- Young people participating in the decision making process of organising an event;
- A Project/Activity which through their participation provides young people with life enriching experiences, skills and attributes that build self confidence and team work;
- Make events/activities available to all young people including those who are disadvantaged and may not otherwise have an opportunity to participate or gain access to enriching experiences, which promote the development of skills and attributes including self confidence and team work;
- Young people demonstrating their entrepreneurial skills and initiative to promote the well-being of their communities.

Reporting Requirements

Organisations funded under the YSP **may** be required to provide the following reports:

- An annual work plan that includes an annual budget for FaCSIA funding, project or programme delivery plan and performance indicators;
- An interim performance report provided part way through the financial year;
- A final performance report provided at the end of the financial year; and
- An audited end of year financial statement.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Reporting arrangements will be negotiated as part of a Funding Agreement, upon completion of the 2006-07 Funding Round.

If you are successful in the YSP 2006-07 Funding Round your organisation will be subject to the terms and conditions of the FaCSIA Funding Agreement. The FaCSIA Funding Agreement has been revised as of January 2006 so please ensure you are familiar with the contents. In particular, note Section P1.1 that refers to Police Checks for personnel that work with young people under the age of 18.

Performance Management

The Department intends to introduce a number of performance indicators in the YSP in the coming years, as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of the YSP as a whole. Successful organisations will be kept informed of any developments in this area, however it is not expected that these will come into effect during the 2006-07 Funding Agreement period.

Uses of YSP funding

YSP funding can be used for and activities that relate directly to the young people participating in the funded programme. These include (but are not limited to):

- Contributing to salaries for staff positions that relate directly to the provision of the funded Project/Activity;
- Materials and equipment directly related to the provision of services to participants; and
- Project outputs as identified in each Applicant funding proposal.

YSP funding cannot be used for the following activities:

- Staff training and on-costs;
- Accommodation for the organisation;
- Operating expenses such as office materials, utilities, insurances, vehicle leases, telephones, travel, bookkeeping, audit; and
- Covering any current or past shortfalls in funding, sponsorship, income, tickets sales or other forms of revenue.

Funding Agreement Period

The Department aims to finalise Funding Agreements with YSP funding recipients by mid-July 2006. These will continue until the end of the 2006-07 financial year. Successful Applicants will be offered Funding Agreements for only one year. The FaCSIA Long Form Funding Agreement, containing standard terms and conditions, will be used for all YSP recipients. The Application Form will form part of the agreement. In managing the YSP funds, the successful organisations must comply with all the requirements of the Funding Agreement.

Principles and Standards of Good Governance

In accepting YSP funding, a successful organisation must comply with the following principles and standards of good governance:

- Act honestly, fairly and ethically;
- Achieve results for the public good;
- Establish workplace relations that value communication, consultation, cooperation and input from employees;
- Promote equity in employment;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- Deliver services fairly, effectively, impartially and courteously;
- Be sensitive to the diversity of the Australian public;
- Spend the funding in a transparent, fair, accountable, efficient and effective way;
- Achieve value for money when procuring any goods or services in relation to the funding;
- Be responsive, open, transparent and accountable in relation to any government or public inquiries relating to the use of the Funding; and
- Comply with all Australian Government policy relating to government contractors.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section Three – Selection Criteria and Funding Round

Please note that funding decisions are dependent upon the Department receiving funds from 1 July and the number and strength of other proposals for sponsorship.

The selection criteria have been designed to take into account the objectives of the YSP, the Australian Government and the skills and capacities of the Applicant Organisations.

The over-riding selection principle for the YSP 2006-07 Funding Round is **value in social service delivery**. This constitutes the optimum combination of quality of services and cost with minimal risk to the Australian Government. The Department seeks best value in social service delivery. In making decisions Departmental staff should ensure that the funding arrangement represents best value. Best value does not mean monetary value alone or lowest cost. A funding proposal that represents best value in social service delivery will: meet the needs of young people; meet the departments' objectives; and meet the YSP aims.

The Department will assess the relative merits of each Application and the extent to which each Application demonstrates the capacity of the organisation to meet the selection criteria.

Mandatory Selection Criteria (equally weighted)

- 1. Demonstrate how your request for sponsorship fits within the aims of the Youth Sponsorship Programme and demonstrate how it is a Project/Activity considered eligible under the YSP Guidelines.**
- 2. Describe the Project/Activity that you are proposing to deliver using YSP funds.** Your response to this criterion should cover, but not be limited to:
 - a. A description of the Project/Activity you are proposing to deliver including such things as: service focus, geographic coverage and delivery strategies;
 - b. A description of the outcomes/benefits you expect to achieve for young people through your proposed Project/Activity.
- 3. Demonstrate your capacity to deliver a high performing Project/Activity.**
 - a. Outline appropriate experience and skills relevant to the request for sponsorship (where appropriate these skills and experience need to be verifiable by the Departmental officers responsible for assessing the request for sponsorship);
 - b. Describe your organisations governance and management structure, networks, past compliance with agreements etc.
- 4. Demonstrate your capacity to manage your proposed YSP funding effectively.**
 - a. Provide information on other sources of funding available to your organisation. Departmental officers will need to be satisfied that that the request for sponsorship demonstrates a need for funding and that the Applicant is not receiving funding from another source to undertake the same or similar activity;
 - b. The budget table in the Application Form should clearly indicate how funds would be used;
 - c. Demonstrate that your organisation is willing, and has the capacity to, comply with the funding agreement terms and conditions. The Youth Bureau must also be satisfied with the performance of the Applicant in any previous YSP funding agreements;
 - d. The sponsorship proposal must not contain benefits to the individuals/organisations making the request for sponsorship (i.e. financial profit) or cross subsidisation of any activities not covered by your proposal.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Non-Mandatory Selection Criteria

- 5. Provide linkages between your request for sponsorship and one or more of the following outcomes: demonstrated need, community support, community capacity building.**
- 6. Demonstrate that your funding proposal is a flexible, creative and/or innovative approach to youth issues.**

Note: If you are a current YSP recipient, you still need to respond fully to the mandatory selection criteria.

Completing and Lodging Applications

Application Details	Application Requirements
Submission format	Application must be submitted in hard copy using the Application Form provided. Responses must be in English.
Submission address	Youth Sponsorship Programme Attn: Youth Consultation Team Level 3, Juliana House Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs PO Box 7788 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610
Submission due date and time	By 5.00pm EST Friday 21 April 2006
Number of copies	Applicants must complete the Application Form, and must submit the original Application, plus one copy. The original document must be identified as the original (using the check box on the covering page) and the copy similarly identified. Please also provide a copy on computer disk or CD (if possible)
Selection Criteria	Applicants must provide responses to all the mandatory Selection Criteria. Note: the Department may not consider Applications that do not include a response to one or any part of a Selection Criteria in their Application.
Sending (lodging) your Application	Applicants must mail, courier or personally deliver the Application and one copy (plus a copy on computer disk or CD if possible) to the submission address. The Application must arrive at the submission address prior to the due date and time.

Note: The Department will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an Applicant to comply with the requirements in the Guidelines and Application Form, or arising from any ambiguity contained in the Applicants' response.

Submitting Supporting Material

Any Supporting Material must be submitted by the due date and time and should be submitted with their Application.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Alterations, amendments or illegibility

Alterations, amendments to the Application Form should be legible and initialled by the Applicant. Applications with alterations or amendments that have not been initialled and that contain illegible information may be excluded from further consideration.

Copies

If there is a discrepancy between the original and the copy, the original takes precedence.

Packaging and labelling of Applications

Applications must be enclosed in a sealed envelope or other sealed container. The envelope or container must be clearly marked with the submission address. Faxes, emails, electronic Applications and Applications provided *only* on computer disk or CD will not be accepted.

Checks of Applicants

As part of the Funding Round, the Department may undertake further checks of Applicants. The Department may also conduct checks for non-disclosure of relevant information.

In addition, any debts to the Department or other Australian Government agencies may be taken into account when making a decision to offer funding.

The Department reserves the right to use information from:

- The Departments databases;
- Other Australian Government agencies, such as the Australian Taxation Office and Australian Securities and Investments Commission;
- State or Territory agencies;
- Law enforcement agencies;
- Credit reference agencies;
- Courts or tribunals; or
- Any other appropriate organisation or person reasonably required as part of these checks.

Information obtained from checks on Applicants described in this section, may be taken into account during the assessment of Applications or in making the final decision to offer funding.

Applicant Responsibilities

Applicants are considered to have:

- Examined the Guidelines;
- Examined any written information about the Funding Round that has been made available by the Department;
- Satisfied themselves that their Applications are complete and correct.

If you have any doubts about the meaning of any part of the Application Guidelines or Application Form, you can contact your Departmental contact as identified in the letter accompanying the Application package.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Acknowledging receipt of Applications

The Department will send confirmation of receipt of Applications in the week commencing **Monday 24 April**. This will be via email. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 10 working days of the above date, you should send an email to your Departmental contact as identified in the letter accompanying the Application package.

Ownership of Applications for Funding

Once lodged, all Applications become the property of the Department. The Department may copy any of this material if it is needed for assessments.

Correspondence during the Funding Round

The Department will not accept or respond to any Applicant's requests for information or correspondence about the status and progress of their Applications. At the end of the Funding Round the Department will write to all Applicants about the outcome of their Applications.

Responding to questions from the Department

If the Department asks the contact person a specific question about the Application during the Funding Round, the contact person must respond in writing within **five** working days.

The Department will only ask the contact person for information that clarifies the existing information. If the contact persons' response is different from the information in the Application, the Department may decide not to use it as part of the Funding Round.

When the contact person does not provide answers to particular questions within the specified five working days, the Department will base its assessment on the information already provided in the Application.

Notwithstanding this, the Department is not responsible for ensuring that the Application is complete and does not promise to contact the Applicant if an Application is incomplete. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their Applications are complete and up to date.

Debriefs for successful and unsuccessful Applicants

The Department will provide debriefs to all successful and unsuccessful Applicants on request. You can arrange this by contacting your Departmental contact as identified in the letter accompanying this Application package.

Late Applications

The Department may reject any Application or Supporting Material lodged at the submission address after the closing date. Any decision by the Department to accept or not accept a late Application will be final. The Department has no obligation to accept a late Application.

Costs of preparing Applications

Applicants are responsible for all costs of preparing and lodging their Application and for the costs of answering any of the Department's requests for more information or clarification.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Non-compliant Applications

The Department may accept or reject an Application that does not comply with the requirements of the Guidelines and Application Form.

How the Applications will be assessed

Following the application closing date the department will conduct an assessment of applications.

To enable a comprehensive and accurate assessment of applications against the selection criteria, Applicants must provide the information required in the format and to the extent specified in the application guidelines and application form.

Applications who are current sponsorship recipients will still need to respond fully to the selection criteria and attach it to their application form.

Decisions on the parameters and methodology for assessment will be final.

The department will assess applications for sponsorship funding primarily on the basis of the information provided in the application form. FaCSIA may also use information about an applicant organisation that is known to FaCSIA in the course of FaCSIA's business and publicly available information.

Stages in the assessment process

Assessments will be undertaken by the Department in accordance with the following stages:

- **Stage One – Receipt of Applications and initial screening for compliance.**

Following the receipt of applications, there will be an initial screening of applications to ensure:

- Applications comply with the terms and conditions of the Application Guidelines; and
- Complete information has been provided in the application form to enable an assessment to be made.

- **Stage Two – Assessment of Applications against the selection criteria**

Members of the Youth Consultation team will undertake assessments. Each application will be assessed by a team of three officers. The assessment team will consider the applicant's response to each selection criteria against an 11-point scale (see Table 1 below).

At a minimum an application will need to rate as good quality (6-7) against all of the mandatory selection criteria for consideration for sponsorship funding. Applications that do not meet this minimum standard will not be considered further.

Assessment teams will assess applications primarily on the information provided in the application form. However, they may also use information that is known in the course of its business and publicly available information.

Rating	Score
Excellent quality – excellent claims against the selection criteria, exceeds expectations.	10
Very good quality – very good claims against the criteria, meets all expectations to a high standard.	8 to 9

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Good quality – good claims against the selection criteria, meets all expectations.	6 to 7
Satisfactory quality – adequate claims against the selection criteria, mostly meets expectations, but may be lacking detail.	4 to 5
Marginal or poor quality – poor claims against the selection criteria, does not meet expectations.	2 to 3
Does not meet criteria at all.	0 to 1

The department reserves the right to determine which applications proceed to Stage 3 based on the rating determined in Stage 2.

- **Stage Three – Selection of preferred applicant(s).**

At Stage 3 of the assessment process, and following assessment against the selection criteria, the department will rank applications that have been assessed as good quality or above against all criteria, and to decide on the allocation of funding.

The allocation of funding will require sign-off by the delegate. The delegate is the Branch Manager of the Youth Bureau.

The Minister for Community Services will be advised of the outcomes of the Funding Round.

The department's decision relating to the Funding Round methodology will be final.

The Funding Round will be finalised when all successful applicants have entered into funding agreements with the department. The funding agreement will contain the entire agreement between the parties. There is no binding agreement on any parties until the funding agreement is agreed to and signed by the departmental delegate.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section Four – Terms and Conditions of Application

Disclaimer

The Department and its officers, employees, agents and advisors:

- are not, and will not be, responsible or liable for the accuracy or completeness of any information in or provided in connection with the Guidelines and Application Forms;
- make no express or implied representation or warranty that any statement as to future matters will prove correct;
- disclaim any and all liability arising from any information provided to the Applicant, including, without limitation, errors in, or omissions contained in, that information;
- except so far as liability under any statute cannot be excluded, accept no responsibility arising in any way from errors or omissions contained in any information in the Application Guidelines and Forms; and
- accept no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of that person, or any other person, placing reliance on the contents of the Application Guidelines and Application Forms, or any other information provided by the Department.

Conflicts of Interest

An Application will not be considered if, in its preparation, any person misuses any positions of knowledge or opportunity they have (or have had) which relate to any other dealings with the Department or any other Australian Government agency.

Applicants need to make sure that they don't have any conflicts of interest that would prevent their organisation from proceeding with an Application or in performing the duties of the Funding Agreement.

The Applicant must immediately notify the Department if any actual or potential conflict of interest arises during the Funding Round. If this happens, the Department may:

- enter into discussions to try and resolve the conflict of interest;
- disregard the Application; or
- take any other action that it considers is appropriate.

Acknowledgment by the Applicant

By submitting an Application and signing the declaration, the Department assumes that the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that they:

- have not relied on any sources of information other than in the Application Guidelines and from the nominated contact staff for YSP in the Department;
- did not, and cannot, use the improper assistance of any Department employee or ex-employee or information unlawfully obtained from the Department in the Funding Round; and
- comply, and will comply, with all conditions set out in the Guidelines.

Liability Issues

The Department is not liable to the Applicant in relation to the Funding Round, including without limitation, when the Department:

- varies or terminates all or any part of the Funding Round or any negotiations with the Applicant;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- decides not to acquire any or all of the services sought through the Funding Round;
- varies the Funding Round; or
- exercises or fails to exercise any of its other rights under or in relation to the Guidelines.

The Application Guidelines and Application Form are not an Agreement or Contract

Nothing in the Application Guidelines and/or Application Form create a contract between the Department and the Applicant.

Confidentiality and Freedom of Information

Applicants need to make sure that all information relating to the Application is treated as “Commercial-In-Confidence”. As well, Applicants must not provide information to other people or organisations about the acceptance or progress of their Application. If they do, the Application may be excluded from the Funding Round.

Information provided by Applicants will be used only for the purposes of the Funding Round, contract management and monitoring of *YSP* funds recipients. If any of the information in an Application is confidential, Applicants must clearly mark this as “Commercial-In-Confidence”. Information will only be treated as Commercial-In-Confidence if it is clearly marked as confidential. If an Applicant marks their entire Application as Commercial-In-Confidence, the Department may not be able to verify claims in the Application, and the Application may suffer as a result. The Department will treat Commercial-In-Confidence material as confidential.

Please note: the Department may be required to disclose documents and information relating to the Funding Round to Parliament.

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) applies to the Department.

The FOI Act gives the public rights of access to documents held by the Australian Government and its agencies. These documents may include documents relating to Applicants in the *YSP* Funding Round and to *YSP* funding recipients.

Access is limited by exceptions and exemptions necessary for the protection of the public interest and the private and business affairs of people for whom information is collected and held by Departments and public authorities.

If a request were made under the FOI Act for access to an Application that may contain sensitive business information or confidential material, a decision by the Department to grant or refuse access would normally be made only after consultation with the Applicant concerned. However, this consultation would not prejudice any decision to release the information, which would be determined by the requirements of the FOI Act.

If an Applicant is also seeking funds from other Departmental programmes, the Applicant’s financial viability details in their Application may be supplied to the areas of the Department that administer the other programmes.

The Department’s rights

Subject to the Department’s obligation to conduct an accountable and transparent process, the Department reserves the right at any time to:

- cease to proceed with the Funding Round;
- require and/or accept additional information from one or more Applicant(s) or anyone else, or provide additional information or clarification;
- change the structure, timing, approach, contents or requirements of the Funding Round;

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- vary or extend any time or date in this Funding Round for all or any Applicants or other persons, at any time and for such period as the Department considers appropriate;
- suspend or vary the Funding Round or any part of it;
- conduct another Funding Round;
- consider and accept or reject any Application that does not comply with the Guidelines and Application Forms;
- terminate further participation in the Funding Round by any Applicant for any reason, whether or not the Application conforms with the Application Guidelines and Application Forms requirements;
- add to, alter, delete or exclude any part of the Funding Agreement;
- terminate any negotiations being conducted at any time with an Applicant for any reason;
- negotiate with any person who is not an Applicant for selection as an *YSP* funding recipient and enter a contract with them on such terms as the Department accepts without prior notice to any Applicant;
- negotiate with any one or more Applicant(s) and allow any Applicants to change their Application; and
- call for new Applications.

The Department's responsibilities

FaCSIA amongst other things, is responsible for:

- providing support and assistance to successful funding recipients under the YSP;
- ensuring that services provided under YSP are accountable to government; and
- administering the operation of YSP in a timely, accountable and efficient manner.

Administration of the programme will be the responsibility of the Youth Consultation Team in the Youth Bureau, FaCSIA National Office in Canberra.

Glossary

Applicant Organisation - Means an organisation that submits an Application. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Application - Means the Application for YSP funding submitted by an Applicant. It must be filled out in accordance with the requirements in the Guidelines and Application Form and submitted by the closing date.

Application Form - Means the Application Form available to Applicants submitting an Application for funding under the YSP. The Application must be submitted using the Application Form

Commercial in Confidence - Means information in the Application Form that the Applicant clearly identifies as confidential and is not information that is:

- a) in the public domain; or
- b) already known to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs other than through an obligation of confidence.

Department (the) - Means the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

Project/Activity - The Project/Activity or Programme that is the subject of the Application.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Selection Criteria - Means the Selection Criteria for assessing Applications as outlined in the YSP guidelines.

Funding Round - Means the process for the selection of YSP funding recipients outlined in the Application Guidelines and Application Form.

Supporting Material - Means additional material provided by the Applicant with the Application that clarifies the Application, but which does not alter the Application in any material sense. This is optional.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



Australian Government

**Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

**Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP)
2006-07 Funding Round**

Please indicate whether
this is the original of this
Form or Copy 1.

Original

Copy 1

Application Form

**Closing date for Applications is 5.00pm EST on Friday 21
April 2006.**

Please return your completed Application to:

Youth Sponsorship Programme
Attn: Youth Consultation Team
Level 3, Juliana House
Department of Family, Community Services and
Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 7788 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610

**The Application Form for the Youth Sponsorship Programme
consists of:**

- Important Information for Applicants
- **Section 1** – Applicant Details
- **Section 2** – Budget for the Funding Proposal
- **Section 3** – Applicant Declaration
- **Section 4** – Responses to the Selection Criteria

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

The following pages contain important information to assist you in completing your Application for 2006-07 sponsorship funding. It is important that you read it prior to completing your Application.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Before completing this Form, please ensure you have read the *Youth Sponsorship Programme (YSP) Guidelines* and that you are familiar with the purpose of the programme and the mandatory Selection Criteria.

2006-07 Funding is available for any suitable activities your organisation is undertaking between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007. Applications will be assessed against the Selection Criteria outlined in the YSP Guidelines.

Privacy

You have been asked to provide personal information about contact persons at the organisation for the purpose of being contacted about this Application.

The individuals whose information is provided should be aware of the provision of their information to FaCSIA. The Department may give that personal information to someone else in special circumstances (e.g. to the Police, Parliament or Parliamentary Committees), where Commonwealth legislation allows or requires or where the person gives permission.

The names of successful Applicants may be published on the FaCSIA website or included in media announcements by FaCSIA or the Australian Government.

Disclosure obligations

Applicants should ensure that they fully and completely disclose all relevant information when completing this Application. Obtaining the assistance of an accountant or consultant does not remove the Applicant's responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information given.

Please note: Applications are required to be completed in the format provided. Applications received in any other format will not be accepted.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section 1 Applicant details

1 What is the legal name of the organisation?

2 What is the short name or trading name of the organisation (if applicable)?

3 What is the Australian Business Number (ABN) of the organisation?

4 Type of organisation?

Non-profit organisation

Other (please specify) ▶

5 Is the organisation GST registered?

No

Yes

6 What is the postal address of the organisation?

PO Box

Number and street name

Suburb/Town/Locality

State/Territory

Postcode

7 What is the physical address of the organisation?

Number and street name

Suburb/Town/Locality

City

State/Territory

Postcode

8 Nominated contact person for the Application?

This is the person who will be contacted if funding is approved or further information is required.

Full name

Position in organisation

Phone number

Fax number

Email address

Mobile phone number

9 What is the organisation's Website address?

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

- 10 Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance – Attach copies (if available)**
- Yes**
- No**

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section 2 Budget for the Funding Proposal

- 1 Total amount of YSP Funding sought from FaCSIA: \$ (GST exclusiv
- 2 Total cost of Project/Activity: \$ (GST exclusiv
- 3 Please complete the attached Project costings table:

EXPENDITURE of FaCSIA's FUNDING		2006-07 (GST Excl)
1	Salaries (required for direct delivery of services)	
2	Total administration costs	
3	Total materials and equipment costs (required for direct delivery of services)	
4	Evaluation costs	
5	Transport, Hospitality, Venue Hire etc.	
6	Other costs: <i>Please provide details</i>	
7	Grand Total of Items 1-6 (Should equal question 1 above)	
INCOME		
8	Total proposed funding (from FaCSIA)	
9	Total donations/other funding*	
10	Total contribution by Project Organisation (financial or in-kind)*	
11	Total other income*	
	* Please complete the following table at 4 if you have inserted amounts against questions 10, 11 or 12).	
12	Grand Total of Items 9 - 11 (Should equal question 2 above)	

- 4 Does your organisation also receive funds for this project/activity from any of the following sources?

Funding/Income Source Type	Funding/Income Source	Amount per Annum or Period of Contract	Name of Source
Third Party Funding Support	Other Australian Govt. Dept.		
	State/Territory Govt.		
	Other Sources (e.g. Companies; non-Govt organisations; Foundations).		
Contribution from Project Organisation	E.g. labour in-kind; rent; materials et		
Funding from other FaCSIA programmes	E.g. Reconnect, YouthLinx, SAAP.		
Other	Any other income source.		

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section 3 Applicant Declaration

Please ensure that the information you have provided is correct and you are authorised to enter into agreements on behalf of this organisation.

(Signature of person completing this Application)

On

(Day/month)

(Year)

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section 4 Selection Criteria

Criteria One

Demonstrate how your request for sponsorship fits within the aims of the Youth Sponsorship Programme and demonstrate how it is a Project/Activity considered eligible under the YSP Guidelines.

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Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Criteria Two

Describe the Project/Activity that you are proposing to deliver using YSP funds. Your response to this criterion should cover, but not be limited to:

- a. A description of the Project/Activity you are proposing to deliver including such things as: service focus, geographic coverage and delivery strategies;*
- b. A description of the outcomes/benefits you expect to achieve for young people through your proposed Project/Activity.*

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Criteria Three

Demonstrate your capacity to deliver a high performing Project/Activity.

- a) Outline appropriate experience and skills relevant to the request for sponsorship (where appropriate these skills and experience need to be verifiable by the Departmental officers responsible for assessing the request for sponsorship;*
- b) Describe your organisations governance and management structure, networks, past compliance with agreements etc*

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Criteria Four

Demonstrate your capacity to manage your proposed YSP funding effectively.

- a) *Provide information on other sources of funding available to your organisation. Departmental officers will need to be satisfied that the request for sponsorship demonstrates a need for funding and that the Applicant is not receiving funding from another source to undertake the same or similar activity;*
- b) *The budget table in the Application Form should clearly indicate how funds would be used;*
- c) *Demonstrate that your organisation is willing, and has the capacity to, comply with the funding agreement terms and conditions. The Youth Bureau must also be satisfied with the performance of the Applicant in any previous YSP funding agreements;*
- d) *The sponsorship proposal must not contain benefits to the individuals/organisations making the request for sponsorship (i.e. financial profit) or cross subsidisation of any activities not covered by your proposal.*

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Criteria Five (non-mandatory)

Provide linkages between your request for sponsorship and one or more of the following outcomes: demonstrated need, community support, community capacity building.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Criteria Six (non-mandatory)

Demonstrate that your funding proposal is a flexible, creative and/or innovative approach to youth issues.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Section 5 Checklist

Section 1	All questions have been answered.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Copy of the Certificates of Currency for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability insurance attached (if available).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 2	All questions have been answered.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 3	Declaration has been signed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 4	All Selection Criteria have been answered.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attachments	Supporting documentation has been attached (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
General	The following original and one copy of the Application Form have been completed and are attached:	
	ORIGINAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COPY 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	and a copy on computer disk or CD (if possible)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 130

Topic: Other youth initiatives

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) In the 06-07 Budget, DEST and Dep. Health and Ageing were appropriated \$16.1.m to run 'Community Festivals for Health Promotion' which include the Rock Eisteddfod. Why has this been transferred out of FaCSIA and does this mean that the funding for the Youth Sponsorship Program will be open for other organisations to apply for?
- (b) If there are no other programs or few other sponsorships, where does the \$28.3m in departmental appropriations go?

Answer:

By transferring the programme to one agency, funding arrangements will be made more efficient through centralisation of contributions through a single agency.

Previously a small portion of funding for Rock Eisteddfod Challenge was provided through the FaCSIA Youth Sponsorships Programme. The Youth Sponsorships Programme is still administered by the Department of Families and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Please refer to QON 129.

The departmental appropriations include the allocation of corporate costs (such as rent, insurance premiums, and corporate area costs) to the Support for Youth Output. Direct Departmental costs for 05-06 for the Youth Bureau were \$7.71M.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 131

Topic: Role and Purpose of the Youth Bureau

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) What role does Youth Affairs, or the Bureau for Youth play in the Department?
- (b) What is its purpose?
- (c) How does it fit in with the Department?

Answer:

FaCSIA is considered as the lead agency for Australian Government policy relating to young people, with other Australian Government agencies having responsibility in portfolio specific areas.

The Youth Bureau has responsibility for youth policy, research and Australian Government programmes targeted specifically to young people. It works to raise the profile and positive image of young people in the community; facilitate and undertake research on families and young people to inform policy and programme development; and liaise with stakeholders to improve services for young people on a range of issues affecting them including mental health, education and work.

The Youth Bureau is part of FaCSIA's Women and Youth Group.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 132

Topic: Staffing of the Youth Bureau

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) How many staff is allocated within the Bureau, or to coordinate output group 2.4?
- (b) How many staff is allocated to run Mentor Market Place?
- (c) How many staff is allocated to run Reconnect?
- (d) How many staff is allocated to run the Transition to Independent Living Allowance?
- (e) How many staff is allocated to run the Youth Initiatives?
- (f) Have these programs had a high success rate according to the Department?

Answer:

There are 46.64 full-time equivalent staff allocated within Youth Bureau to run the various youth programmes funded through Departmental Appropriations. The workload for each programme may vary considerably throughout the year and as such resources across the branch are allocated accordingly. Furthermore staff may share the responsibilities of more than one programme as a means of being efficient.

Yes these programs have had a high success rate.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 133

Topic: Removal of ministerial (or equivalent representative) for Youth Affairs in latest Howard Government Reshuffle, 24 January 2006

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Can the Department indicate any concerns in relation to there no longer being a ministerial or parliamentary secretary for youth affairs?

Was the Department provided with a reason as to why this position was removed in the latest ministerial reshuffle?

Answer:

Attention to youth issues now has the attention of two Ministers.

Youth Affairs falls within the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio. The Minister for Community Services, the Hon John Cobb MP, has responsibility for youth affairs as well as disability and housing issues.

The Hon Mal Brough MP as the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs also manages any Cabinet issues regarding youth.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 234

Topic: National Youth Roundtable 2006 - List of recent projects; list of applicants

Hansard Page: CA130 30/05

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide a list of recent projects and a list of applicants for the National Youth Roundtable 2006.

Answer:

The current National Youth Roundtable is referred to as National Youth Roundtable 2005-06 as it runs within the financial year.

Below is an outline of the projects from the National Youth Roundtable 2005-06.

Also below is a list of successful applicants for the National Youth Roundtable 2005-06 that are currently still involved in the National Youth Roundtable.

PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION TEAM

Youth, the media and fair representation

The “(re)presenting young people in the media” project is developing a national resource for media professionals on how they can better represent and relate to young people.

Crank it Up!

“Supporting Youth Participation and Communication with Government, Crank it Up!” is a suite of initiatives designed to enable, manage and support a whole of government approach to youth participation and communication.

National Youth Roundtable Alumni Program

Since the commencement in 1999 of the National Youth Roundtable (NYR), the Australian Government has engaged numerous talented and active young leaders from around Australia. The NYR Alumni program provides a mechanism to retain the knowledge and expertise of these young people.

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY DIVERSITY TEAM

Unique yet united

Responding to physical and social barriers, which separate indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, “Unique Yet United” project has developed a national set of principles and a program to which Australian communities can join and be recognised for positive local initiatives that celebrate difference and promote unity.

Schooling and Sexuality

Recognising a need to bring greater continuity to sexuality training for teachers, a National Standard is being developed for the training of all teachers in sexuality issues.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Young Indigenous Enterprise

Complementing the increasing range of youth enterprise competitions and programs, “Indigenous Enterprise” project involves the establishment of a national young indigenous enterprise competition to help more young Australians achieve their dreams.

Strong Culture Strong Future –

Supporting the remote Indigenous community of Numbulwar (in the Northern Territory), the “Strong Culture Strong Future” initiative is developing and implementing strategies that improve the capacity of government to further support opportunities for young indigenous people in remote communities.

TALKING ENTERPRISE TEAM

1800 two-way

The '1800-two-way' initiative is a free and user-friendly voicemail service, which would allow homeless and transient customers to contact Centrelink without having to find the money or resources to visit a Centrelink office (with capacity to expand to other government departments, if relevant).

The Talking Enterprise Roadshow

The “Talking Enterprise Roadshow” is providing a forum to develop innovative strategies to encourage youth enterprise development in rural and regional areas and contribute to creating vibrant economies and supportive communities.

HEALTH, CONNECTIONS AND WELLBEING TEAM

Young Carers

Researching current government responses to the needs of young carers, the Young Carers initiative is raising awareness of current resources, gaps and opportunities in relation to meeting the needs of young carers and young people living with someone with a serious illness or disability.

Colour the Blues

The “Colour the Blues” project is raising awareness about the additional challenges that culturally and linguistically diverse young people face when accessing help for their mental health.

Six Degrees

The “Six Degrees” is a youth mental health and drug and alcohol initiative that offers the skills and experiences of a youth consultant to the youth mental health/co-morbidity policy arena. The initiative will also produce a Six Degrees Collection of Narratives around four thematic areas: connection to family, connection to community, barriers to services and successful treatment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Successful National Youth Roundtable 2005 members

Gemmie Alliston
Ryan Barrett
Danielle Begg
Jamie Byron
Eve Campbell
Brad Chapman
Alistair Coe
Matthew Crossley
Aidan Devitt
Dane Garrood
Sarah Goodwin
Susan Harch
Nos Hosseini
Tania Huynh
Lauren Jew
Sarah Joy
Serena Kent
Anna Kroehn
Mathew Lawton
Naomi Lim
Violeta Matijevic
Simon Moss

Duwayne Murrungun

James Orchiston
Ogy Simic
Kate Wheldrake
Sarsha Woolnough

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 134

Topic: Women's Secretariats

Hansard Page: CA125 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Can you list the 66 womens secretariats?

Answer:

This information is available on the web at www.ofw.facsia.gov.au.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 135

Topic: Women's Safety Agenda

Hansard Page: CA126 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide a breakdown of expenditure of each element of the Women's Safety Agenda.

Answer:

Program element	Expenditure 2005-06
Campaign/Helpline	\$12.0 m
Training Initiatives	\$0.12 m
Research and Information	\$3.5 m
Community Projects	\$1.1 m

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 136

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' Campaign

Hansard Page: CA127 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Were any posters sent to indigenous communities and what indigenous magazines were ads published in?

Answer:

Following the campaign launch in 2004, over 30,000 brochures and 17,000 posters were distributed to around 6000 stakeholders nationally including:

- Indigenous radio and print media;
- CDEP (Community Development Employment Projects) organisations;
- ASSPA (Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Programme) Committees;
- Indigenous communities and local Government;
- Aboriginal Liaison Officers in correctional centres;
- Indigenous sport and recreation bodies, centres and corporations;
- Centrelink offices;
- Aboriginal community health centres and medical services;
- Aboriginal hostels and refuges;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services;
- Sexual assault and domestic violence coordinators in crisis centres and hospitals; and
- Aboriginal Liaison Officers in Universities and TAFEs.

The culturally adapted print advertisements are placed in Indigenous media such as Deadly Vibe, Koori Mail, Arafura Times, Jabiru Rag and the National Indigenous Times.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 137

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No.' National Helpline

Hansard Page: CA128 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Provide the number of calls to the Helpline by state and territory?

Answer:

Calls to the Helpline by state and territory for the period July 2005 to March 2006: -

State/Territory	Number of Calls
New South Wales	5221
Victoria	2868
Queensland	2871
South Australia	1130
Western Australia	1116
Tasmania	809
Australian Capitol Territory	492
Northern Territory	458
Unknown*	5207

* These figures can only be considered indicative, as callers are not required to state their location.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 141

Topic: Women's Safety Agenda

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

1. Please provide a broad overview of the projects and programs funded through the WSA.
2. Please provide a final estimates breakdown, by line item, of the WSA's expenditure since implementation.
3. Please provide a final and budget expenditure estimates, by line item, for financial years, 04-05, 05-06, 06-07, 07-08, 08-09.
4. Will the Department continue to fund the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault throughout the remaining years of the WSA? Will the Department fund these two organisation after the WSA?
5. Please provide, by line item, the research projects on domestic violence and sexual assault that have been completed and are ongoing through the WSA.
6. Please explain the "Training for nurses in regional and rural areas" initiative; what it hopes to achieve and solid examples of its achievements. How does it specifically help doctors and nurses identify and respond to domestic violence? Via education scholarships, state funding etc??
7. Please explain the "Training for the criminal justice sector on sexual assault" initiative; what it hopes to achieve and solid examples of its achievements. How does it specifically help people in the legal sector identify and respond to domestic violence?
8. Please explain the "Dedicated resource at the Australian Institute of Criminology" initiative; what it hopes to achieve and examples of its achievements.
9. Please explain the "Mensline" initiative; what it hopes to achieve and provide examples of its achievements.
10. Please explain how the Office for Women has ensured that the WSA does not replicate services and programs in the states and territories.

Answer:

The elements of the Women's Safety Agenda (WSA) are as follows:

Continuing the successful national *Violence Against Women. Australia Says No* campaign

This national multimedia campaign is a continuation of the campaign to increase community awareness of the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Training Initiatives:

Training for nurses in regional and rural areas

Practice nurses in regional and rural areas will receive training to assist them to identify and respond to domestic violence, and doctors will receive assistance to release the nurses for this training. This will give people in regional areas access to a personal and confidential referral service.

Training for the criminal justice sector on sexual assault

The development of training for the legal sector to ensure that it is attuned to the sensitivities that accompany women's experiences of sexual assault. Research has highlighted the important role of the criminal justice sector in determining whether a victim of sexual assault proceeds through the legal system.

Mensline

This funding recognises the demand on Mensline's services that will be generated through the re-running of the *Violence Against Women. Australia Says No* campaign and will provide counsellors at Mensline with training and materials on domestic violence.

Continued funding for the *Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse* and the *Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault*

These national resource centres continue to provide central points for the collection and dissemination of Australian domestic and family violence and sexual assault policy, practice and research.

Dedicated resource at the Australian Institute of Criminology

This will continue the valuable research programme on various aspects of sexual assault.

Research projects on domestic violence and sexual assault

This element funds projects concerning domestic violence and sexual assault in the Australian community and the Personal Safety Survey to build on the data collected during the 1996 Womens Safety Survey.

For a breakdown of the final estimates for the WSA please refer to answer to Question on Notice number 135.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

The Women's Safety Agenda was announced in the Budget May 2005, funding commenced on 1 July 2005. The forward estimates for the Women's Safety Agenda within Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is as follows:

Women's Safety Agenda (WSA)	2005-06 (\$m)	2006-07 (\$m)	2007-08 (\$m)	2008-09 (\$m)
TOTAL	16.826 16.8	15.454 15.5	14.985 15.0	15.085 15.1

The current contracts for both the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault run from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007. Both contracts contain an option for extension, following an evaluation in late 2007.

Other research projects on domestic violence and sexual assault that are ongoing through the WSA:

Organisation name	Project name
Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault Ringwood East VIC	Partnership Project with mental health practitioners to develop through community based research new approaches to working with women who are survivors of sexual assault.
Incest Survivors Association Inc	Community based research to develop best practice models for survivors of sexual abuse.
Pat Thomas Memorial Community House	Partnership with WA Police to evaluate new domestic violence legislation and develop responses.
Wilma Women's Health Centre	Develop research paper to explore accessibility to support groups of Womens survivors of sexual assault (NSW)
International Social Service, Australian Branch	Learning from the links between Domestic Violence and International parental Child Abduction

Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers in rural and remote areas of Australia will be given access to training to assist them to identify and respond to family violence. It will provide people living in regional and remote areas access to a personal and confidential referral service and improve the coordination of care for family violence victims. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Health and Ageing and the Office for Women, Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Under the Justice Practitioners' Training Programme, a professional development package is being developed for the criminal justice sector with the aim of raising awareness of women's experiences of sexual assault. The aim of this project is to provide training to judges, magistrates, police, crown prosecutors and other court lawyers to raise awareness of the sensitivities that accompany women's experiences of sexual assault. The project will work towards achieving more sensitive and gender equitable responses by the criminal justice sector to victims of sexual assault who pursue legal redress through the courts, thereby increasing access to the legal system.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is commissioned by the Office for Women to conduct research into criminal justice responses to adult sexual assault. The overarching aim of the project was originally to inform the evidence base and ensure sound policy for the Australian Government's National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault. The initial funding has been extended to continue the research. The current MOU includes undertaking research into Sexual Violence in Diverse Communities, Trafficking in Women for Sexual Purposes and Recidivism of Sex Offenders.

The 'Mensline' initiative aims to provide training and resources for counsellors who work with men who use violence.

Please refer to answer to question on notice 142 (5).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 145

Topic: Women's Safety Survey

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (1) Please provide an update on the Women's Safety Survey?
- (2) How did the survey go?
- (3) Was the collection successful?
- (4) Please provide a copy of the questions that were asked?
- (5) Please provide a list of which questions were the same to those asked in 1996?
- (6) Please provide a list of which questions were different to those asked in 1996?
- (7) When and where will the results be available publicly?
- (8) Will the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister launch the results?
- (9) When will the next survey be collected? 5, 10, 20 years?
- (10) Former FaCS minister, Senator Kay Patterson, agreed that men would not be interviewed in the survey, and the focus would remain on women. Were men interviewed or just women, such as in 1996?

Answer:

The Personal Safety Survey is expected to be completed in the next 2 months.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has responsibility for conduct of the survey. Details regarding the questions asked in this and the Women's Safety Survey of 1996 can be obtained from the ABS.

Details of the release of the survey are still to be determined.

There are no plans at this stage for a further survey.

Both men and women were interviewed as part of the Personal Safety Survey.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 138

Topic: 'Violence Against Women.Australia Says No.' Helpline

Hansard Page: CA129 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

How much has Lifeline Australia been paid each year to run the Helpline?

Answer:

Lifeline Australia has been paid the following to run the 'Violence Against Women.Australia Says No.' Helpline:

- \$832,000 (ex GST) for the 2003-2004 financial year
- \$2.9 mill (ex GST) for the 2004-2005 financial year
- \$2.7 mill (ex GST) for the 2005-2006 financial year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 139

Topic: Support for victims of trafficking

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

1. Please provide an analysis of this programme and if it is being successful in its aims.
2. The programme was allocated \$755,000 for the next financial year, will this be sufficient?
3. Was this amount sufficient for the 2005-06 financial year?

Answer:

- 1 & 2 The Support for Victims of People Trafficking Programme aims to provide appropriate support and assistance to trafficked persons who are prepared to assist with the investigation or prosecution of perpetrators. The comprehensive program has two phases. In the initial 30 day period (Phase 1), victims are provided with support that includes secure accommodation, a living and food allowance, access to the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes, access to legal services and a one off amount of \$300 for the purchase of essentials such as clothing and toiletries. Phase 2 provides support services such as Special Benefits and Rent Assistance through Centrelink, assistance with securing longer term accommodation, a one off amount of up to \$700 for the purchase of essential furniture, access to the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes, and legal, employment and training services and vocational guidance.
- 3 Yes

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 140

Topic: Women's Leadership and Development Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Please provide an analysis of the Women's Leadership and Development Programme and if it is successful in its aims.
- (b) Please provide some practical examples of what the programme does.
- (c) The programme was allocated \$3 808 000 for the next financial year, \$581 000 less than this year, will this be sufficient?
- (d) Why has this amount decreased for next financial year?

Answer:

- (a) The Women's Leadership and Development Programme aims to encourage and support women to take on greater leadership roles, strengthen women's voices and enhance the capacity of women's organisations.
- (b) Some of the practical examples of initiatives covered by the programme are available on the Web at www.ofw.facsia.gov.au.
- (c) The allocated amount of \$3 808 000 will be sufficient to fund all elements of the Women's Leadership and Development Programme in 2006-07.
- (d) The decrease in the funding allocation is due to the Women's Active Living Kits initiative being a 12-month pilot programme.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 142

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' Campaign

Hansard Page: CA127 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

1. When are the advertisements planned for screening on television and cinema again?
2. How many fortnight blocks have been screened since the campaign's implementation?
3. How long will the posters remain in pub and cinema toilets etc.? Please outline what other venues are they displayed in?
4. Will the campaign be run for the remainder of the Women's Safety Agenda? If not, when will it conclude.
5. Please explain the Office for Women's relationship with its state and territory counterparts.
6. Please explain how the Office for Women Helpline works in conjunction with the relevant state and territory including their, domestic violence, sexual assault and counselling crisis lines.

Answer:

1. The 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' campaign television advertising will screen in two weeks in August 2006, a week in September 2006 and three weeks in November 2006.
2. The 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' campaign cinema advertising will screen in August, September, November and December 2006.

The 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' campaign advertising is usually booked in three week advertising bursts. In 2006 the advertising was screened in March and April.

3. Posters will appear in cinemas, Westfield Shopping Centres, TAFE colleges, Universities and football stadium washrooms nationally in three four week segments in March, August and November 2006.
4. The intention is a community awareness component of the Women's Safety Agenda will continue over the forward estimates period.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

5. There is an Office for Women supported by each State and Territory Government. Under the Ministerial Council of Women's Ministers there is a Safety Task Force, whose members are the officials of these State and Territory women's policy units, working together to combat domestic violence and sexual assault.

6. Lifeline Australia operates the "Just Look" database which is an Internet database of community agencies and services across Australia. The Just Look database lists the contact details of state and territory domestic violence and sexual assault agencies. Domestic violence and sexual assault agencies are able to access the Just Look database to ensure their information is correct.

Lifeline Australia reports that the Helpline counsellors transfer crisis calls to the relevant state and territories crisis lines to ensure caller's needs are appropriately met.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 143

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No.' Helpline

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (1) What were the results of the Helpline evaluation? Please provide a copy, or at least a summary of this evaluation.
- (2) Was there a public tendering process for the new contract?
- (3) When will this organisation take over from Lifeline?
- (4) Please indicate the duration of Lifeline's tender.
- (5) Please provide the total amount paid to Lifeline regarding this campaign to date. Please provide this amount detailing the services they provided and in which year.
- (6) What qualifications will be required of the phone staff under the new contract? Will they have similar, if not minimum to that of equivalent state and territory services, such as in NSW?
- (7) What procedure is in place for people to complain about the campaign and/or the Helpline. Please explain how people's concerns are dealt with?
- (8) Please provide the number of complaints that have been received to this date; what month and year they were received; and, what issue they regarded.
- (9) What is the Office for Women's general view of the Helpline since implementation. Has it improved?
- (10) How many calls have been made to the Helpline:
 - (10a) In total since implementation;
 - (10b) Each month since implementation;
 - (10c) For each year to date;
 - (10d) For each financial year to date;
- (11) Please provide an average of the sex and age of the callers, the reason and from which state they called.
- (12) Have the calls increased over time? Why do you think this is?

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Answer:

(1) The evaluation of the Helpline service will not be available until the campaign 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No' has been completed.

(2) Yes.

(3 & 4) The new Helpline contract with Lifeline commenced 1 July 2006 through to 30 June 2007.

(5) Refer to answer to Question on Notice 138.

(6) Current Helpline telephone counsellors must have completed the Lifeline Australia's telephone counselling training and specific training in counselling on domestic violence and sexual assault. The Request for Tender called for Tenderers to develop and maintain a comprehensive Training and Development Plan for telephone counsellors and other staff. The Training and Development Plan must include a component on specialist training in the areas of domestic violence and **sexual assault**.

(7) Helpline telephone counsellors respond immediately to complaints and callers are encouraged to provide a formal complaint if they are dissatisfied and/or would like to see improvements to Helpline service. Callers are informed that they can submit their complaint either by email, fax or calling the Office for Women. Complaints received by the Office for Women are taken by experienced staff and can be escalated if necessary to the Branch Manager or Group Manager. All complaints are subject to the normal FaCSIA corporate complaints handling procedures including recording the complaint and filing the response provided. Any complaints that raise concerns about the Helpline are raised with Lifeline through normal contract management meetings and appropriate strategies are put in place on a case by case basis (for example reviewing policies and procedures).

(8) 20 complaints about the Helpline have been received since June 2004, covering a range of issues.

(9) The reaction to the campaign has been overwhelmingly positive, and this is particularly evident through the 65,183 calls the Helpline has received since commencing operation in June 2004. More than half the callers sought advice about domestic violence and nearly one in four of the callers were referred on to specialist services and counseling.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

(10) The following is a break down of calls per month from June 2004 to March 2006.

MONTH	2004	2005	2006
January	Program not commenced	1,481	1,434
February	Program not commenced	1,232	1,450
March	Program not commenced	1,260	1,863
April	Program not commenced	1,007	
May	Program not commenced	755	
June	16,110*	607	
July	8,599 [#]	1,895	
August	4,437 [#]	4,063 [#]	
September	3,091	1,701	
October	2,720	1,499	
November	2,112	3,837 [#]	
December	1,600	2,430	
Total	38,669	21,767	4,747

For each year to date there were:

- 38,669 calls from June 2004 to December 2004;
- 21,767 calls from January 2005 to December 2005; and
- 4,747 calls from January 2006 to March 2006.

For each financial year there were:

- 16, 110 calls from July 2003 to June 2004;
- 28,901 calls from July 2004 to June 2005; and
- 20,172 calls from July 2005 to March 2006.

(11) Callers are not required to state their gender or age. About 70 per cent of calls were Domestic Violence, about 20 per cent were Sexual Assault and about 10 per cent were Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Lifeline Australia data on the number of calls to the Helpline by state and territory was ascertainable for the period July 2005 to March 2006. Not all calls have a location recorded against them, the majority of calls were made from New South Wales (28 per cent) followed by Victoria (15 per cent) and Queensland (15 per cent). The remainder were South Australia

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

and Western Australia at 6 per cent, Tasmania at 4 per cent, the Australian Capital Territory at 3 per cent and Northern Territory at 2 per cent.

* Note the figure is unusually high as this was the first time the campaign was run and in addition the campaign booklet was distributed to every household in Australia.

(12) Table 1 above shows that since the campaign was launched in June 2004, with a mailout of a booklet to all Australian households, call levels increased with media campaign activity. Campaign activity occurred in June and July 2004, July, August and November 2005 and March and April 2006. [#]

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 144

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No.' Campaign

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

1. Has the Office for Women conducted any research into the effects of the campaign?
2. Is the Office for Women aware that reports of violence and abuse have increased since the campaign's implementation?
3. If not, has the Office for Women called the Women's Services Network (WESNET – national domestic violence refuge peak body) or the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV – peak sexual assault body) to see if they have noticed an increase in demand due to the campaign? Why not?
4. Is the Department of the Office for Women aware of any people who have called the Australia Says No Helpline in crisis, who are urgently in need of safe accommodation and they have not been able to be referred to a service that could meet their needs? How many people have been in this situation? What was the department's response?
5. What measures is the Department taking to make sure that services are increased to meet additional demand? Has additional funding been granted? Why not?
6. Has the Office for Women or the Department asked the Minister for additional funding? Why not?
7. What are the Department's views about the SAAP viability? Are current funding levels adequate?

Answer:

1. Yes

2. No

4,5 & 6

The Office for Women does not have evidence to support a claim that callers urgently in need of accommodation were not referred to a service that could meet their needs.

Funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services is the responsibility of the State and Territory governments.

The Women's Safety Agenda funding of \$75.7 million over four years was announced in the 2005 Budget and funding is a decision for Government.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

7. Over the life of the previous SAAP Agreement, the Australian Government provided \$833 million, an increase of 18 per cent (equivalent to \$115 million.) Under the new SAAP V Agreement, the Australian Government will provide \$932 million, an increase of a further \$100 million. As a condition of that agreement, the Australian Government required the States and Territories to increase their funding to match that of the Commonwealth. This will mean total extra funding of \$350 million in the new Agreement.

A new feature of the SAAP V Agreement is the jointly-funded Innovation and Investment Fund. \$120 million will be distributed to services over the 5 years of the agreement to drive the strategic reform needed to ensure sustainable outcomes for clients to reduce churn and to drive efficient best practice through the sector.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 146

Topic: Industrial Relations and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

- (a) Please explain the Office for Women and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency's relationship.
- (b) Please provide examples of how and what information is shared.
- (c) Please provide examples of policy outcomes that have resulted from this relationship which aims to assist women in the labour market.
- (d) Has the Office for Women done any research or analysis into how the new Workplace Relations Act will affect women? Why not?

Answer:

- (a) Officers of the two agencies share and exchange information on a regular basis.
- (b), (c), (d) The Office for Women provides the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues with policy advice on a wide range of issues which impact upon women, including workplace relations. The Hon Kevin Andrews, MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations is the Minister responsible for the workplace relations reforms.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 233

Topic: 'Violence Against Women. Australia Says No.' Helpline

Hansard Page: CA 128 30/05

Senator Crossin asked:

Please provide the details of the new contractor for the Helpline when arrangements are finalised.

Answer:

As a result of the open Request for Tender advertised by the Office for Women on 11 March 2006, Lifeline Australia has been contracted to provide the national Helpline services required to support the *Violence Against Women. Australia Says NO.* campaign.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 002

Topic: Modelling of Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: CA12 29/05

Senator Chris Evans asked:

What sort of modelling would occur for the family payments changes?

Answer:

FaCSIA would model financial and customer impacts of measures such as the increase to the Family Tax Benefit threshold and extension of the Large Family Supplement using administrative data on customers.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 147

Topic: Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: CA30 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

Have the existing premises been inspected by the department to see that they are suitable as temporary accommodation for the FRCs to open on 3 July?

Answer:

Yes, the premises have been inspected.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 149

Topic: Business Partnership Agreement between FaCSIA and Attorney-Generals
Departments

Hansard Page: CA33/39 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

Provide the business partnership agreement between FACSIA and AG's.

Answer:

See attached document.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
**Department of Family and
Community Services**

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

for the

**FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
SERVICES PROGRAM**

2004 - 2006

*A strategic partnership investing in healthy family
relationships for a stronger Australia*

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

INTRODUCTION

The Family Relationships Services Program plays a critical role in promoting the value of strong, healthy Australian family relationships. To support parents in their parenting role it also provides support to families experiencing separation, helping them to resolve conflict and reach agreement, where possible outside the courts, and to maintain or re-establish contact with their children.

The Department of Family and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department share responsibility for the Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP). We also share responsibility for chairing the Family Pathways Taskforce or its successor and for implementing Government responses to the Family Law Pathways Report and the report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation. This Business Partnership Agreement provides a framework for the interaction between the Departments in fulfilling our shared responsibilities. It reflects the collaborative working relationship between the two Departments and the sense of partnership that has developed through working together. We look forward to continuing our partnership over the coming years.

Tony Carmichael
Assistant Secretary
Family Relationships and Child Support
Policy Branch
Department of Family and Community
Services

Sue Pidgeon
Assistant Secretary
Family Pathways Branch
Family Law and Legal Assistance
Division
Attorney General's Department

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

VISION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

A quality alliance to help and support Australian families

PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Family relationships policy and programs that are effective and managed seamlessly

GOALS OF THE AGREEMENT

To underpin the Departments' shared commitment to a collaborative partnership

To ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities

THE SPIRIT OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- The nature of the Business Partnership Agreement is one of co-operation and collaboration.
- The Department of Family and Community Services and Attorney-General's Department will work closely on cross-portfolio issues that may have implications for both Departments. Each Department will take responsibility for advising the other of issues that may affect them as soon as they become aware of them.
- The Business Partnership Agreement reflects the evolving relationship between the two Departments and emerging areas of policy, such as the Family Law Pathways Advisory Group report in July 2001, the report on the Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation in December 2003 and the reports on the review and future directions of the Family Relationships Services Program in April 2004.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH DEPARTMENT

The Department of Family and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department share responsibility for policy development and funding of programs under the Family Relationships Services Program and for implementing new initiatives. We also share responsibility for advising the Government on the future direction of the Program.

We share responsibility for the implementation of the Government's responses to the Pathways Report and the report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.

Both Departments are responsible for consulting and maintaining effective relationships with industry representative bodies, service providers and other stakeholders. Other shared responsibilities include research, evaluations, program development, public information, community education and social marketing.

The Department of Family and Community Services has responsibility for the day to day administration of the Family Relationships Services Program but the two Departments work as partners in the development and evaluation of the program and in decisions on policy issues affecting program management.

Both Departments are responsible for obtaining ministerial approval for organisations under the Family Law Act but the Department of Family and Community Services maintains the list of approved organisations.

Each Department will need to engage the expertise of the other in the development of policy and program management, and to understand the political and community context in which each operates. The following are the key responsibilities of each portfolio:

Attorney-General's portfolio:

- Final decisions relating to sub-programs funded by the Attorney-General
- Development of initiatives, including Budget proposals, related to family law policy and services for separating families and their children
- Secretariat support for the Pathways Taskforce or its successor body
- Administration of the Family Law Act

Family and Community Services' portfolio:

- Final decisions relating to sub-programs funded by Family and Community Services
- Development of initiatives, including Budget proposals, related to family relationship services
- Program administration including
 - contracts with service providers
 - service provider support
 - performance information and monitoring
 - assessment of performance against approval requirements
 - statistical and financial information
 - reporting
 - complaints handling
- Publication of list of approved organisations

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Lead roles

On many matters one Department will take a lead role. Where a Department has a lead role, it will take primary responsibility for policy development and funding allocation. However that responsibility will be exercised in collaboration with the other Department.

The responsibilities will overlap but generally speaking the Department of Family and Community Services takes the lead role in developing initiatives, including Budget proposals, relating to intact families. The Attorney-General's Department generally takes the lead role in developing initiatives, including Budget proposals, relating to separating families. Both Departments have responsibilities for developing initiatives in relation to children. For clarity, the lead roles identified for each Department are at **Attachment A**. These may be updated from time to time as the Program develops.

COMMUNICATION

Communication has been identified as a critical element of the Business Partnership. Open and regular communication is essential for the success of this Agreement.

The Department of Family and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department will share information about the Program as needed by each Department. Each Department will respond promptly to requests for information but the requesting Department will also recognise that time frames cannot always be met.

The Attorney-General's Department is dependent on the Department of Family and Community Services for information about services funded by the Attorney-General. Information to be provided to the Attorney-General's Department is at **Attachment B**.

Public information and media releases are the responsibility of the lead agency. Web-based information provided on Australian Law Online is the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department and the Family Relationship Services Program website is the responsibility of the Department of Family and Community Services.

Relationship with funded organisations

Industry Representative Bodies

The Department of Family and Community Services funds Catholic Welfare Australia, Family Services Australia and Relationships Australia to provide program support as Industry Representative Bodies for the FRSP.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Acknowledging that the Industry Representative Bodies are important sources of information about service and policy issues in relation to the program, the Attorney-General's Department will be involved jointly in consultations and regular meetings with these agencies.

Service providers

To maintain open communication with service providers and stakeholders both Departments will exchange information about planned service visits and encourage opportunities for joint visits and contacts with services and community networks with an interest in the FRSP. These contacts will increasingly need to involve representatives from the Department of Family and Community Services' STO network.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

TWO DEPARTMENTS – ONE PROGRAM

Relationships are the fundamental building blocks upon which our society functions. Healthy family relationships have far reaching impacts on social, physical, emotional and mental well-being of their members, particularly children. Healthy family relationships also provide a vital foundation for developing and sustaining the broader range of relationships, such as those with neighbours, colleagues and friends. It is from these broader social relationships that individuals benefit from the great assets and strengths inherent in strong communities.

Through the Family Relationships Services Program, the Department of Family and Community Services focuses on the development of integrated policy and program partnerships to strengthen families through supporting family relationships, enhancing the quality of parenting and providing early intervention programs to help reduce child abuse and neglect.

The focus of the Attorney-General's Department is on developing and promoting services that assist separating families to resolve issues in a way that minimises conflict and keep families out of court where possible. It is working to achieve an integrated family law system that is flexible, child-focused and provides non-adversarial options for families.

Both Departments are working together to build individual and community capacity to achieve the best possible outcomes for families.

The Business Partnership Agreement between the Department of Family and Community Services and the Attorney-General's Department facilitates the provision of services that contribute to the respective portfolio outcomes of stronger families/building family capacity and an equitable and accessible system of federal civil justice,

For further information please contact:

<p>Director Family Services Section Family Relationships and Child Support Policy Branch Department of Family and Community Services</p> <p>Address: Box 7788, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610 Website: www.facs.gov.au Telephone: 02 62129173 Facsimile: 02 62129299 Email: fcs@facs.gov.au</p>	<p>Director Dispute Management Policy Section Family Pathways Branch Attorney-General's Department</p> <p>Address: Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 Website: www.ag.gov.au Telephone: 02 6250 5833 Facsimile: 02 6250 6521 Email: janet.douglas@ag.gov.au</p>
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Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

ATTACHMENT A
LEAD AGENCY UNDER THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES PROGRAM

<i>FRSP Subprograms</i>	<i>Lead Roles</i>
Family Relationships Mediation	Attorney-General's Department
Children's Contact Services	Attorney-General's Department
Contact Orders Program	Attorney-General's Department
Conciliation Services	Attorney-General's Department
Regional Primary Dispute Resolution Services	Attorney-General's Department
Family Law Online / Family Law Hotline	Attorney-General's Department
Family Relationships Education	Department of Family and Community Services
Family Relationships Skills Training	Department of Family and Community Services
Men and Family Relationships Services	Department of Family and Community Services
Specialist Domestic Violence	Department of Family and Community Services
Adolescent Mediation and Family Therapy	Department of Family and Community Services
Family Relationships Counselling	Both

Competitive Selection Processes

The Departments often use competitive selection processes to allocate funding under the Family Relationships Services Program. Both Departments participate in the selection processes relating to services funded by the Attorney-General.

The following table sets out the main activities in tendering and identifies which Department has the final responsibility for decisions against each function. Decisions and activities will be undertaken collaboratively.

Final decisions about process	Lead agency
Drafting the selection documents	Lead agency
Advertising/website/Qs and As for applicants	Department of Family and Community Services
Information sessions	Joint
Assessment tool	Joint
Panel	Joint – chaired by lead agency
Approval	Lead agency or its Minister
Announcements/letters to organisations	Lead agency or its Minister
Contracting/letters of offer	Department of Family and Community Services

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

ATTACHMENT B

**INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT**

The Attorney-General's Department is jointly responsible for the Family Relationships Services Program but is dependent on the Department of Family and Community Services for information about those services.

Exception reporting

The Attorney-General's Department needs to know when problems arise with a particular service it funds. This information needs to be shared as quickly as practical.

Regular information

To enable the Attorney-General's Department to advise the Attorney-General and answer questions about services it funds it needs to be provided with regular information. Information available to the Department of Family and Community Services to be provided includes:

- copies of annual reports of Attorney-General's Department funded organisations
- financial reports
 - end of financial year reconciliation of Family Relationship Services Program funds received from Attorney-General's Department
 - annual projected expenditure on quarterly payments to service providers and discretionary program payments for the whole of the program
 - quarterly payments schedule for transfer of funds by Attorney-General's Department to Department of Family and Community Services for Attorney-General's Department funded organisations
- statistical analysis
 - annual client information for example numbers of clients and demographic trends.
- program analysis for example emerging needs and service demand.
- annual update of location and allocation of Attorney-General's Department sub-program funds by outlet within electorate/region/State
- organisation and service details in a format consistent to Family Law Online
- standard service agreement for each sub-program

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

ATTACHMENT C

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STO NETWORK

The State and Territory Office network of Department of Family and Community Services will progressively become a significant stakeholder in the administration of the FRSP program during 2004-05, with some program administration functions that are now carried out in Department of Family and Community Services National Office becoming the responsibility of the STO network in 2005.

Communications activities between Department of Family and Community Services and Attorney-General's Department will be structured to recognise the developing partnership with the STO network and provide opportunities for information exchange and the development of relationships between the network, Attorney-General's Department and Department of Family and Community Services National Office.

A formal communication protocol reflecting the role of the STO network will be added as a variation to this Business Partnership Agreement when resources and roles and responsibilities for the STO network have been finalised.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 150

Topic: Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: CA33/39 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

Did FaCSIA prepare the original of that document?

Answer:

The tabled document was not prepared by FaCSIA, but was derived from information provided to the Attorney General's Department.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 152

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Part A rate for children in an approved care organisation

Hansard Page: CA 44 29/05

Senator Moore asked:

What is the rationale behind paying the FTB A at a reduced rate to kids who are in what is defined as an approved care organisation?

Answer:

The rate of payment for children in an approved care organisation has its origin in the introduction of Child Endowment in 1941, which included payment to any approved non-government institution in respect of every child maintained by it. Payment was extended to children in government institutions in 1942. When Family Allowance replaced Child Endowment in 1976, it continued to be universal (i.e. not income tested) and payable for children in the care of an institution.

In November 1987, an income test was introduced for all families receiving Family Allowance. However, Family Allowance for children in the care of an institution continued to be paid free of an income test.

Further payments for low-income families have been introduced, beginning with Family Income Supplement in May 1983. These have not been available for children in approved care organisations.

Family payments have been integrated/rationalised on a number of occasions and each time the payment for children in approved care organisations has been preserved either as basic Family Payment (1993) or minimum Family Payment/Allowance (1996) and now the fortnightly base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A. It has never been considered appropriate to pay the full amount available to low-income families to approved care organisations.

Immediately before the introduction of Family Tax Benefit Part A, Family Allowance of \$31.70 a fortnight was payable for children in an approved care organisation. From 1 July 2000, the rate of Family Tax Benefit for children in an approved care organisation was \$37.38 a fortnight, and continued to not have an income test. From 1 July 2006, the rate is \$45.36 a fortnight.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 153

Topic: Communities for Children

Hansard Page: CA 46 29/6

Senator Evans asked:

How were the first seven sites chosen?

Answer:

Government announced the first seven sites and were chosen using a range of information including:

- Indicators of disadvantage (eg socio-economic indicators for areas – SIEFA);
- Proportion of children in the community;
- Significant numbers of families receiving Family Tax Benefit; and
- Existing social infrastructure to support the project including the capacity of Non Government Organisations in the community to implement the project forward.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 154

Topic: Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008

Hansard Page: CA47 30/6

Senator Evans asked:

When will we see the first of the evaluations?

Answer:

The National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008 (SCFS) has commenced and a final evaluation report is due on 30 June 2008. Some elements of the evaluation will be released progressively, eg promising practice profiles.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Amended Question No: 155

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (1) Please provide updated Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year.
- (2) Please provide updated Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2004-05 financial year to date.
- (3) Can the Department indicate how many families incurred an FTB debt in 2004-05 before the effect of the per-child supplement taken into account?

Answer (Amended):

The table below lists Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2003-04 financial year as at 31 March 2006.

Top-Ups	
Customer Number	1,795,762
% of Total Customer Number	85%
Total Amount	\$2,541 million
Average Amount	\$1,415
Nil Change	
Customer Number	102,276
% of Total Customer Number	5%
Overpayments	
Customer Number	222,285
% of Total Customer Number	10%
Total Amount	\$270 million
Average Amount	\$1,219
TOTAL	
Customer Number	2,120,323

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

The table below lists Family Tax Benefit reconciliation figures for the 2004-05 financial year as at 31 March 2006.

Top-Ups	
Customer Number	1,588,288
% of Total Customer Number	87%
Total Amount	\$2,549 million
Average Amount	\$1,605
Nil Change	
Customer Number	96,099
% of Total Customer Number	5%
Overpayments	
Customer Number	139,902
% of Total Customer Number	8%
Total Amount	\$160 million
Average Amount	\$1,142
TOTAL	
Customer Number	1,824,289

Data on reconciliation outcomes before the effect of the per-child supplement is not produced as part of the reconciliation process.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 159

Topic: FTB health care cards

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

What are the estimated numbers of families which will be eligible for a health care card because they were receiving the maximum rate of FTB Part A as at 31 December 2006 (i.e. following the increase in the income threshold on 1 July 2006)?

Answer:

The estimated number of families who will be eligible for the FTB health care card as at 31 December 2006 is around 245,500.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 166

Topic: Use of 'optical surveillance' to detect welfare fraud

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

The 2006 Budget includes the increased use of 'covert optical surveillance' to detect welfare fraud.

- (a) Is FaCSIA aware of these methods being used to detect fraud amongst recipients of the payments it is responsible for? (age pension and carer payment/allowance)
- (b) Does FaCSIA authorise Centrelink to use these measures in relation to those payments?
- (c) If so, is FaCSIA aware if this surveillance is done by contractors?

Answer:

Yes

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 151

Topic: Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: CA37 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

How did Brookvale, North Ryde and Strathpine rank in terms of the indica prepared by FaCSIA?

Answer:

The ranking is as follows:

Suburb	Statistical Sub-Division (SSD)	Average overall rank of 199 SSD
Strathpine	Pine Rivers Shire	51
Brookvale	Northern Beaches	57
North Ryde	Lower Northern Sydney	62

These rankings were derived from a range of data, including rates of family formation and the risk of family breakdown and separation for specific geographical areas (i.e. Statistical Sub-Divisions).

As advised during the Budget Estimates hearing, these rankings were only one input into the needs analysis processes within FACSIA and the Attorney General's Department. Additional information considered by FaCSIA included:

- existing Family Relationship Services Program service provision in the locations including the service types offered (ie. the mix of early intervention and post separation services), and
- other factors such as the distribution of government and other service hubs, growth areas, residential population, transport routes and accessibility.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 156

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide an update on Question No. 97 from the November 2005 hearings, i.e. breakdowns on the number of families with FTB debts. Please include available information on 2005-06.

Answer:

As advised at the Budget Estimates hearing, due to the intensive resourcing involved, the Minister has directed the Department to refer to published sources when answering questions on notice. The Minister is not prepared to divert Departmental resources to answer this question more than once per year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 157

Topic: Adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Chris Evans asked:

Please provide an update on Question No. 98 from the November 2005 hearings, i.e. average taxable income for FTB recipients. Please include available information on 2005-06 as well as 2004-05, including the income distribution of FTB Part A and FTB Part B recipients for both years.

Answer:

As advised at the Budget Estimates hearing, due to the intensive resourcing involved, the Minister has directed the Department to refer to published sources when answering questions on notice. An update of this information was provided earlier this year in response to Question on Notice number 54 from Additional Estimates. The Minister is not prepared to divert Departmental resources to answer this question more than once per year.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 158

Topic: FTB health care cards

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

As at 30 June and 31 December in each of the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 how many families were eligible for a health care card because they were receiving the maximum rate of FTB Part A? Do these figures include families which were eligible for the health care card because of other reasons (e.g. in receipt of income support)? If yes then separately indicate how many families were eligible for the health care card only because of their receipt of the maximum rate of FTB Part A.

Answer:

The following table sets out the number of families, who held the FTB health care card because of their eligibility to receive the maximum rate of FTB Part A.

Year	30 June	31 December
2002	125803	131477
2003	129782	128482
2004	127546	179800
2005	175951	175192

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 164

Topic: Budget Measure – Fraud and Compliance – Improved Assessment of the Value of Real Estate Assets

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

In terms of the budget measure to increase the number of evaluations of real estate assets held by pension recipients

- a) In terms of the education campaign associated with this measure, when will it begin?
- b) What will be the budget for that campaign?
- c) When will the additional reviews begin?
- d) Will the ongoing review activity be continuing through this education campaign?
- e) How much does it cost to conduct each review?
- f) What are the assumptions in relation to the result of those reviews, i.e. how many will result in no change, how many will result in a reduction in the payment and how many will result in a cancellation of the payment?

Answer:

The education campaign begins from 1 July 2006, and will have a budget of \$1 million.

Additional reviews will begin in the 2007-08 financial year, and ongoing review activity will continue throughout the education campaign. The average cost to FaCSIA is \$740 per review, which incorporates an Australian Valuation Office valuation, Centrelink processing time, postage and systems enhancements/changes.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 165

Topic: Support the System that Supports You and Keeping the System Fair Advertising Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) What assumptions were made to attribute savings to these campaigns?
- (b) In relation to the *Support the Systems that Supports You* campaign what were the actual savings attributed to it?
- (c) In relation to the *Keeping the System Fair* campaign what are the actual savings attributed to it to date?
- (d) Given the machinery of government changes, which agency is now responsible for tracking those savings?
- (e) How are the savings attributed to these campaigns? i.e. how does the Department know whether these campaigns resulted in a change in behaviour that resulted in savings, given the many other fraud and compliance measures?

Answer:

It was assumed that people would be prompted to self declare to Centrelink changes in circumstances that may impact on their eligibility for, or rate, of payment. It was also anticipated that there would be an increase in the number of tip-offs about instances of alleged fraud from the public. The savings estimates were based on the same formula used for other compliance activities.

Savings attributed to the *Support the Systems that Supports You* campaign were \$39.7 million.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is the agency now responsible for tracking savings in relation to keeping the system fair campaign.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 167

Topic: Use of roadblocks to identify welfare fraud

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Did FaCSIA have any role in developing the policies/guidelines for the use of joint police/Centrelink roadblocks?
- (b) Did the Department brief its Minister on this issue?
- (c) Is the Department aware if any of those who have been found to be not declaring income were in recipient of the age pension? (i.e. the policy responsibility of FaCSIA)
- (d) Can the Department explain under what authority the Commonwealth can stop an individual and question them about any income support payments they might be receiving?
- (e) Can an individual refuse to answer these questions? Or can the Commonwealth compel the individual to answer?

Answer:

Centrelink have principle carriage of this action. FaCSIA did not have a role.

Social Security Law authorises Centrelink staff to ask people who are in receipt of a payment, questions relevant to that payment and Centrelink can issue the person with a notice compelling them to provide answers.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 148

Topic: Family Relationship Centres

Hansard Page: CA30 29/05

Senator Ludwig asked:

Advise the dates when the FRC's permanent premises (ie; Wollongong, Mildura, Strathpine & Townsville) are due for completion, when are they likely to move in and what would happen should that change?

Answer:

Wollongong

The fit out of the second floor of the Wollongong FRC was completed on 21 July 2006 and operational from 22 July 2006. Prior to this service was available from the ground floor of the premise.

Mildura

The fit-out of the permanent premise of the Mildura FRC is nearing completion. The service will commence operating from 19 October 2006. Prior to this date, the service has operated from the temporary offices of Mallee Family Care.

Strathpine

The date for completion of the permanent premise of the Strathpine FRC is the end of November 2006 with the fitout of the premise commencing on 25 September 2006. Service will operate from the start of December 2006. Prior to this service is available from the temporary offices of Relationships Australia (Queensland).

Townsville

The permanent premise of the Townsville FRC was operational from 14 August 2006. Prior to this service was available from the temporary offices of Centacare Townsville.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 160

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

- (4) As at 30 June 2005 separately indicate how many families on the maximum rate of FTB Part A were in receipt of income support payments and how many families on the maximum rate of FTB Part A were not in receipt of income support payments.
- (5) For those families not in receipt of income support payments show their income distribution, i.e. less than \$20,001, \$20,001 - \$25,000, 25,001 - \$30,000, \$30,001 - \$35,000.

Answer:

The FaCSIA Annual Report provides a range of information about Family Tax Benefit, including the number of families and the number of children in receipt of different rates of payment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 161

Topic: Number of children by adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit Part A recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Chris Evans asked:

For 2004-05 for all families with one child in receipt of FTB Part A show the numbers with adjusted taxable income in the groups as specified below.

For 2004-05 for all families with two children in receipt of FTB Part A show the numbers with adjusted taxable income in the groups as specified below.

For 2004-05 for all families with three children in receipt of FTB Part A show the numbers with adjusted taxable income in the groups as specified below.

For 2004-05 for all families with four children in receipt of FTB Part A show the numbers with adjusted taxable income in the groups as specified below.

For 2004-05 for all families with five or more children in receipt of FTB Part A show the numbers with adjusted taxable income in the groups as specified below.

For the above five questions, show the income distributions in the following groups:

\$0 to less than \$5000

\$5000 to less than \$10000

\$10000 to less than \$15000

\$15000 to less than \$20000

\$20000 to less than \$25000

\$25000 to less than \$30000

\$30000 to less than \$35000

\$35000 to less than \$40000

\$40000 to less than \$45000

\$45000 to less than \$50000

\$50000 to less than \$55000

\$55000 to less than \$60000

\$60000 to less than \$65000

\$65000 to less than \$70000

\$70000 to less than \$75000

\$75000 to less than \$80000

\$80000 to less than \$85000

\$85000 to less than \$90000

\$90000 to less than \$95000

\$95000 to less than \$100000

\$100000 to less than \$110000

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

\$110000 to less than \$120000
\$120000 to less than \$130000
\$130000 to less than \$140000
\$140000 to less than \$150000
\$150000 or more.

Answer:

The Department is unable to provide the number of children by adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit Part A recipients as the data is not currently produced in this form.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 162

Topic: Family Tax Benefit Reconciliation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

As at 30 June 2005 for all families in receipt of FTB Part A show the age distribution of all children. i.e. 0 to less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 2 years, etc.

Answer:

The table below provides a breakdown of FTB Part A eligible children by age as at 24 June 2006:

Age of child (in years)	Number of FTB Part A eligible children
Less than 1	179,435
1	199,012
2	200,158
3	203,949
4	206,917
5	208,880
6	210,330
7	208,361
8	208,522
9	207,342
10	209,874
11	207,712
12	205,486
13	200,934
14	198,284
15	192,036
16	90,529
17	75,583
18	57,883
Over 18 years	73,172

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 163

Topic: Adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Chris Evans asked:

For 2004-05 how many families receiving FTB Part A also received rent assistance? Please indicate the adjusted taxable income of these families in the groups as specified below:

\$0 to less than \$5000
\$5000 to less than \$10000
\$10000 to less than \$15000
\$15000 to less than \$20000
\$20000 to less than \$25000
\$25000 to less than \$30000
\$30000 to less than \$35000
\$35000 to less than \$40000
\$40000 to less than \$45000
\$45000 to less than \$50000
\$50000 to less than \$55000
\$55000 to less than \$60000
\$60000 to less than \$65000
\$65000 to less than \$70000
\$70000 to less than \$75000
\$75000 to less than \$80000
\$80000 to less than \$85000
\$85000 to less than \$90000
\$90000 to less than \$95000
\$95000 to less than \$100000
\$100000 to less than \$110000
\$110000 to less than \$120000
\$120000 to less than \$130000
\$130000 to less than \$140000
\$140000 to less than \$150000
\$150000 or more.

Answer:

The Department is unable to provide the number of families receiving Rent Assistance by adjusted taxable income for Family Tax Benefit Part A recipients as the data is not currently produced in this form.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 170

Topic: Family Day Care

Hansard Page: CA66 29/6

Senator Allison asked:

How many of the 115,000 children in Family Day Care are 4 years old and how many of these are attending Pre-School.

Answer:

Of the 114,000 children using Family Day Care in September quarter 2005, 16,072 were aged 4 years old. The department does not have any information on how many of these children were attending pre-school.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 173

Topic: Child Care Benefit

Hansard Page: CA81 29/05

Senator Moore asked:

Provide the data on child care fees from the Centrelink system.

Answer:

The child care fees data supplied to Centrelink relate only to child care hours paid for. The child care fees data available from the Census relates to a standard 50 hours of care. The two sources are not comparable.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 174

Topic: Child Care Benefit

Hansard Page: CA67 29/05

Senator Nash asked:

Can we have a list of children accessing CCB in the metro areas and children accessing CCB in non-metro areas

Answer:

In the September quarter 2005, there were 656,400 children using approved child care services in metropolitan areas, and 306,100 children using approved child care services in non-metropolitan areas.

It should be noted that some children may use care in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas within a quarter.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 235

Topic: Display of Certificate of Compliance

Hansard Page: CA65-66 29/05/2006

Senator Nash asked:

Is it a requirement for child care services to display the accreditation rating and Certificate of compliance with state/territory licensing in a prominent position?

Answer:

It is a requirement under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System, Family Day Care Quality Assurance and Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance for services to display their *Certificate of Accreditation* and *Quality Profile Certificate* prominently for families, staff and visitors to see.

Each state and territory has different licensing requirements which may require services to display their licensing certificate.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 236

Topic: Review of Approach to the Setting of National Standards for Child Care

Hansard Page: CA68 29/05/2006

Senator Allison asked:

In relation to the National Standards for Child Care Services project – for a copy of project brief that the NSCCS was given;

For a copy of the report into the review of the approach to setting national standards for child care services (available after July if released by Minister).

Answer:

The Community and Disability Services Ministers Council are yet to consider the report and they will decide arrangements for it's release.

The project brief is an internal working document and will be available with the report when released.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 169

Topic: Family Day Care Fees

Hansard Page: CA66 29/6

Senator Allison asked:

What is the average, the range and the difference of family day care fees in metro areas compared to country areas. Also in rural compared to remote areas.

Answer:

The average, minimum and maximum weekly Family Day Care fees in metropolitan compared to country areas is as follows:

	Average	Minimum	Maximum
METROPOLITAN	\$189	\$139	\$283
NON-METROPOLITAN	\$183	\$135	\$233

Note: This is based on the average weekly fee for Family Day Care Services including the administration levy where applicable.

Source: 2004 Australian Government Census of Child Care Services.

The Department does not hold information on fees for rural compared to remote areas.

Fee information for child care services is available from the 2004 Australian Government Census of Child Care Services, and can be obtained via the internet at:

http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/04_census.htm

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 172

Topic: Long Day Care

Hansard Page: CA71 29/05

Senator Nash asked:

What percentage increase in child care fees has there been in the last three years and how does that compare with CPI?

Answer:

The Australian Government Census of Child Care Services measures gross child care fees. The most recent census dates for which data is available were March 2002 and March 2004. This data is available on the FaCSIA website <http://www.facsia.gov.au>.

Data from the Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006 will be publicly available in 2007.

However, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report *Trends in the Affordability of Child Care Services* shows that, for many families, the cost of child care as a percentage of net family income is lower than it was 10 years ago. This is mainly due to the introduction of the Child Care Benefit by the Howard Government in 2000. The full report can be found at www.aihw.gov.au.

The ABS website www.abs.gov.au provides index numbers for the child care component of the CPI and the CPI All Groups. This data can be downloaded free of charge. The latest release is 6401.0 - Consumer Price Index, Australia, Mar 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Innovation and investment fund

ATTACHMENT A

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
NSW						
Cwth base funding	57.508	58.773	60.066	61.327	62.615	300.289
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.615	0.934	1.000	1.021	3.570
	57.508	59.388	61.000	62.327	63.636	303.859
VIC						
Cwth base funding	38.223	35.721	36.507	37.273	38.056	185.780
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	1.948	2.957	3.167	3.234	11.306
	38.223	37.669	39.464	40.440	41.290	197.086
QLD						
Cwth base funding	29.594	28.914	28.268	28.862	29.468	145.106
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	1.507	2.287	2.449	2.501	8.744
	29.594	30.421	30.555	31.311	31.969	153.850
WA						
Cwth base funding	17.624	17.330	16.938	17.294	17.657	86.843
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.838	1.273	1.363	1.392	4.866
	17.624	18.168	18.211	18.657	19.049	91.709
SA						
Cwth base funding	16.927	16.300	15.948	16.283	16.625	82.083
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.988	1.500	1.606	1.640	5.734
	16.927	17.288	17.448	17.889	18.265	87.817
TAS						
Cwth base funding	7.579	7.446	7.277	7.430	7.586	37.318
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.364	0.553	0.592	0.605	2.114
	7.579	7.810	7.830	8.022	8.191	39.432
NT						
Cwth base funding	5.037	4.899	4.791	4.891	4.994	24.612
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.268	0.407	0.436	0.445	1.556
	5.037	5.167	5.198	5.327	5.439	26.168
ACT						
Cwth base funding	6.038	5.873	6.002	6.128	6.257	30.298
Cwth I&I Contribution	0.000	0.173	0.263	0.282	0.288	1.006
	6.038	6.046	6.265	6.410	6.545	31.304
Cwth	178.530	181.957	185.971	190.383	194.384	931.225
National Priorities	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	1.000
Total	178.530	182.457	186.471	190.383	194.384	932.225

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 041

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance Review

Hansard Page: CA69 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

Can you give us written confirmation on FaCSIA's position on the confidentiality status of the contract?

Answer:

The contract is a standard FaCSIA Funding Agreement which is a performance based, legally enforceable agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia (represented by FaCSIA) and the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies. All of FaCSIA's contracts contain standard confidentiality and non-disclosure clauses of a general nature.

In accordance with the requirements listed in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, the contract was listed on AusTender in 2005 (ID:1513628).

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 043

Topic: Definition of Homelessness

Hansard Page: CA77 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

Advise the actual definition of Homelessness.

Answer:

There are a number of definitions of homelessness developed to meet a specific purpose, such as describing the target group for a government program. In the context of the Senate Estimates hearing of 30 May 2006, the definition referred to is that used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for counting homeless people. Published in the Australian Bureau of Statistics's report *Counting the Homeless – Census 2001*.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 044

Topic: Access to Supported Accommodation Assistance Program by Indigenous Persons

Hansard Page: CA77 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

What access do Indigenous people in remote communities have to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)?

Answer:

Indigenous Australians can access any of the 1,300 SAAP services across Australia. In 2005-06, there are 96 SAAP agencies located in remote regions of Australia.

Indigenous people made up around 74 per cent of clients (3,796 people out of 5,364) in remote areas according to SAAP data in 2003-04.

There are 167 SAAP agencies in 2005-06 that specifically target Indigenous people as their clients.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 104

Topic: Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's bulletin on demand for Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) accommodation, released in March 2006, reported that couples with children who get into SAAP stay a remarkable 122 days on average, while individuals with children stay an average of 55 days.

- a) Can you comment on the main reasons for this phenomenon?
- b) Is there any plan for work to be undertaken through the Innovation and Investment Fund specifically to address this issue?
- c) Are you aware of any research on the impact of extended stays in SAAP services on children's educational attendance or attainment?

Answer:

The shorter, average period of 55 days of SAAP support for individuals with children was due to the fact that the majority of individuals with children were female. In about half of the support periods for females with children, the main reason for seeking support was domestic violence. A considerable proportion (21 per cent) of females who accessed SAAP support because of domestic violence were Indigenous women in remote areas who often sought refuge in safe houses for very short time periods. This led to a lower average duration of SAAP support for individuals with children.

Projects undertaken by state and territory governments under the SAAP Innovation and Investment Fund are based on particular requirements in each of their jurisdictions and are guided by the strategic priorities identified in the SAAP V Multilateral Agreement and individual Bilateral Agreements.

The Department is unaware of any research on the impact of extended stays in SAAP services on children's educational attendance or attainment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 106

Topic: SAAP – Case Management Resource Kit

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

The FaCSIA website provides a Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Case Management Resource Kit which was developed in 1997. Are there any plans to update this Kit and, if so, what is the timeframe and budget for this project?

Answer:

The SAAP Case Management Resource Kit is being updated in 2006-07 at an estimated cost of \$95,000.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 109

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Projects Targeting People with Mental Illness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

One of the new demonstration projects funded under the latest round of the National Homelessness Strategy targets people who are vulnerable to homelessness as a result of their mental illness. Can FaCSIA indicate how projects such as this – funded through Housing Support Branch – link in with other strategies to improve responses to mental illness?

Answer:

Developing improved housing options for people with mental illness is an important aspect of the holistic response to this issue. The National Homelessness Strategy project will be made available on the website once it is completed. Communications Activities funding is also available for organisations working with people vulnerable to homelessness to build linkages and share knowledge and information.

The new Mental Health Branch in FaCSIA will be working closely with the Housing Support Branch to coordinate assistance arrangements for people with mental illness.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 110

Topic: Housing Options for People with Mental Illness Project

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What steps has FaCSIA taken to ensure the findings of the “Housing Options for People with Mental Illness” project undertaken by the Top End Association for Mental Health Inc Northern Territory are disseminated and taken into account in work aimed at improving responses to mental illness?

Answer:

The final report on this project has been made available on the FaCSIA website.

States and territories are made aware of the results of National Homelessness Strategy projects through their representatives on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Coordination and Development Committee.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 111

Topic: Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness Meetings

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

FaCSIA advised in response to Question on Notice 46 of November 2005 that the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) would meet in March 2006.

- a) When did this meeting take place?
- b) Please provide the agenda for the meeting.
- c) Please provide an outline of the outcomes of the meeting or an explanation of why this information cannot be provided.

Answer:

CACH met on 4 April 2006. The role of CACH is to provide advice to the Minister on homelessness issues. The advice is confidential.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 113

Topic: Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Is there an ongoing 'work exchange' placement program between Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) agency workers and Centrelink staff, following from the "Homebound" project?

- a) What were the outcomes of the Wesley Mission's "Family Makeover Project"?
- b) Is there an ongoing program arising out of this project?
- c) How has it contributed to improving support for families at risk of homelessness across the sector?

Answer:

There is no ongoing 'work exchange' placement program between SAAP agency workers and Centrelink staff, following from the *Homebound* project which was completed in 2002. The opportunity to conduct the *Family Makeover Project* and to test the service model has increased the knowledge and experience of the Wesley Mission about improving support for families at risk of homelessness.

The Wesley Mission's *Family Makeover Project* report will be made available soon on the FaCSIA website.

Wesley Mission advises that the project has been absorbed into the Noreen Towers Community Project. This project aims to equip families, vulnerable to homelessness, with the life skills to live independently. Families live in a community setting and are provided with a range of support services to assist them to develop the skills to maintain their tenancies once they leave the program.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 114

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – HAPPI Project

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

What happened after the completion of the second HAPPI project?
How has this project contributed to improving the provision of parenting information and support to families with high and complex needs in rural areas in an ongoing way?

Answer:

National Homelessness Strategy support for the second HAPPI project was completed in 2003. The Evaluation is available on the FaCSIA Website at:
<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-happi.htm>

The project received ongoing funding from the South Australian Government's Social Inclusion initiative and continues to operate.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 115

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Youth Practice Networks

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Have the “Youth Practice Networks” established by the Council to Homeless Persons continued to operate following the end of the demonstration project?
If not, what other concrete outcomes arose from this project?

Answer:

FaCSIA has not yet received the final report for the “Youth Practice Networks” established by the Council to Homeless Persons. The project is due for completion in mid 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 178

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – ‘Exceptionally Vulnerable’

Hansard Page: CA97 29/5

Senator Carr asked:

Following the statement made by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) that ‘Exceptionally Vulnerable’ does not include homeless people, how can we reconcile the apparent conflict between what FaCSIA is trying to achieve and what DEWR says it is trying to achieve?

Answer:

Information on policies and programs administered by DEWR should be sought from that Department.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 179

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy - Centrelink Community Officers

Hansard Page: CA98 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

What lessons were learnt from the provision of the funding for the six additional Centrelink Community Officers (CCOs)? Can you confirm that the funding has been extended from 12 months to four years?

Answer:

The National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) project found that out-servicing was a very successful model for Centrelink customers who were homeless. In particular, that customers dealing with CCOs are more likely to:

- feel valued as people and as customers of Centrelink
- disclose information which would enable a more accurate assessment, including recording of activities on their *Preparing for Work Agreement* commensurate with their homeless circumstances, and
- be able to meet activities if they are a jobseeker, and therefore reduce the risk that they will be breached, in turn minimising the risk of chronic homelessness, and follow up their outstanding Centrelink issues.

The NHS project was not extended.

As a result of this and other NHS funded projects, Centrelink has established its own *Response to Homelessness* strategy with a view to improving service delivery to customers vulnerable to homelessness.

Under Centrelink funding arrangements 33 CCOs are employed to provide out-services to customers.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 182

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – Wage Cost Indices

Hansard Page: CA105 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

In regard to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) indexation arrangements, what standard wage cost indices (WCI) are being used? Are you using one of the WCI indices?

Answer:

The CSHA specifies in clause 4(6)(a) that the indexation applied to CSHA funding is a combination of the Safety Net Adjustment (40 per cent) and the All Groups Consumer Price Index (60 per cent). This is a standard wage cost index.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 184

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – Consumer Price Index

Hansard Page: CA105 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Does the all group Consumer Price Index (CPI) take into account the cost of housing?

Answer:

Yes, the CPI contains a housing component, including: rents, utilities, house purchase, rates and charges, and house repairs and maintenance.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 186

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement - Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA106 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Please provide real figures from 1996 in 2004-05 dollars surrounding actual expenditure when combining the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) and the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

Answer:

The *Report on Government Services 2006*, Table 16A.75, indicates expenditure on CRA and CSHA in nominal and in 2004-05 dollars since 1996.

The Report on Government Services uses a Gross Domestic Product deflator to convert nominal amounts to 2004-05 dollars. Other indices, such as the All Groups Consumer Price Index, show a less substantial change over the period.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 187

Topic: Percentage of Social Housing in Total Housing Stock

Hansard Page: CA111 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Advise what the share of social housing has been as a percentage of total housing stocks.

Answer:

The most recent information about the number of social housing dwellings, including public housing, community housing and state owned and managed Indigenous housing is contained in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare publications *Commonwealth State Housing Agreement National Data Reports 2004-05*, for each tenure, which were released in December 2005. The main source of published information on total number of private dwellings is contained in the 2001 Census reports published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 188

Topic: Rent Assistance – Focus Group Research

Hansard Page: CA115 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Can you provide a copy of the contract and the consultant's report for this particular consultancy?

Answer:

The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies undertook the consultancy services in 2005. This contract was listed on AusTender in 2005. A copy of this contract cannot be provided without the consultant's agreement.

Focus group participants were asked by the Department to sign a confidentiality agreement and gave their views at the focus group sessions in this context.

As the report lists all the individuals and their organisation consulted for the focus groups, releasing the report may make it possible to identify them. Therefore, the agreement of each participant would be needed to release the consultant's report.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 238

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – HOME Program

Hansard Page: CA98 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

What was funded previously through the National Homelessness Strategy and HOME program?

Answer:

A list of Demonstration Projects funded under the previous National Homelessness Strategy (2000-2005) was provided to the Senate Legislation Committee on Community Affairs in Question on Notice 031 in February 2006. The previous National Homelessness Strategy also funded the operations of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness.

The HOME Advice Program was funded for four years in the 2004-05 Budget. The program provides funds for the provision of support to families in danger of losing their housing. A list of service provision locations was provided to the Committee in Question on Notice 053 from the May-June 2004 Budget Estimates. Funding is also provided for a Centrelink Social Worker to work in partnership with each service.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 105

Topic: Supported Accommodation Assistance Program – Refugee Families

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) providers are reporting that they are seeing increasing numbers of refugee families who need accommodation support.

1. Are you aware of this issue? Is any work being done on the extent of the issue and potential policy responses?
 - a) Has FaCSIA had any discussions with the Settlement Services area of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) about the extent of homelessness among humanitarian entrants? Please provide details?
 - b) Is data available on the proportion of SAAP clients who are in Australia on Humanitarian visas? If so, please provide annual data for the period 1996 to 2005 (as far as it is available).
2. Is there data available on the average length of stay in SAAP services by families on humanitarian visas? If so, please provide the most recent data available and data for previous years, back to 1996 if possible.

Answer:

The Department is aware that some SAAP services have reported increasing demands from refugees. The housing needs of refugees have been discussed between FaCSIA and DIMA. Discussions have focussed on identifying housing options for refugees.

No data is available on the proportion of SAAP clients who are in Australia on humanitarian visas, or the average length of stay families on humanitarian visas attend SAAP services.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 107

Topic: Mental Health Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

During the Prime Minister's press conference announcing the new mental health package, he spoke about the need to "greatly expand" and "massively expand" supported accommodation services. Is the supported accommodation for people with mental illness, to which the Prime Minister refers, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)-funded accommodation?

Answer:

The supported accommodation for people with mental illness, to which the Prime Minister referred to in his press conference, is not SAAP funded accommodation.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 108

Topic: Supported Accommodation for People with Mental Illness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

How does the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)-funded accommodation link with other supported accommodation for people with mental illness, given the high proportion of homeless people who are affected by mental illness?

Answer:

In most states and territories, both SAAP and other supported accommodation services are managed through community services departments. The level of cooperation is managed by the state and territory governments.

Enhanced service linkages and greater support for clients with complex needs are priorities under the new SAAP V Agreement. Projects are being developed and funded by the Innovation and Investment Fund with a focus on building these capacities.

Projects are also being funded under the National Homelessness Strategy, building stronger linkages between the mental health and homelessness sectors.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 112

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy - Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

Can FaCSIA explain why the National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) website does not act as a portal for the wide range of information that has been generated through NHS funding? In particular:

- (a) Why is there no link to the web pages of either the National Homelessness Conference in 2003 or the Australian Homelessness Conference in 2006, which received total funding under the Strategy of \$90,000?
- (b) Why is there no link to – or description of outcomes from – the Northside Community Service’s “Wrestling Wicked Problems” conference?
- (c) Why there is no information on the outcomes of the “Schools Research Project” run by NFO CM Research, which is described by FaCSIA (Question on Notice 31, February 2006) as recommending a number of options to meet the information needs of young people and teachers? How have these recommendations been disseminated?

Answer:

The National Homelessness Strategy does not have a dedicated website. Information on the National Homelessness Strategy is included on the FaCSIA website. Links are provided from the FaCSIA website to National Homelessness Strategy publications as well as a range of relevant websites.

A link to the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations website, the organisers of both the 2003 National Homelessness Conference and the 2006 Australian Homelessness Conference, is provided from the National Homelessness Strategy page.

FaCSIA was a small sponsor of the “Wrestling Wicked Problems” conference conducted in Canberra on 2-4 May 2004 (\$5,000 GST Exclusive). The report required by the Department from Northside Community Services was a brief evaluation of the conference and report on administrative matters, registration and attendance. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to discuss service delivery challenges relevant to Northside Community Service. Information on Northside Community Service and the assistance it provides is available on the website www.nside.org.au.

The ‘Schools Research Project’ was completed in 2001. At that time, reports for publication were not required of all projects. Reporting for this project took the form of a Powerpoint presentation to the Department.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 117

Topic: HOME Advice Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

On pages 75-76 of the *Hansard* from 15 February 2006, Mr Knapp described the HOME Advice Program as being “still in its development stage ... we are trialling it in different circumstances.” He also stated that the program “started off as the family homelessness prevention pilot” in 2001 and this was evaluated and “seen to be highly successful”.

- a) What changes were made to the program as a result of the evaluation of the family homelessness prevention pilot?
- b) What are the different circumstances that are being captured under the HOME project compared with the family homelessness prevention pilot?
- c) When will the HOME project be evaluated?
- d) What are the outcome measures against which the project will be evaluated?

Answer:

There have been no major changes to the HOME Program as a result of the evaluation of the Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot, but some administrative efficiencies have been achieved by centralising administrative arrangements.

Comparative data is not yet available for the two programs. The HOME Advice evaluation is due to be submitted by 30 September 2007.

The evaluation is assessing the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Program.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 177

Topic: Welfare to Work - Definition of Vulnerability

Hansard Page: CA98 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Was the Housing Support Branch in FaCSIA consulted about the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) definition of *vulnerability* for the purpose of the Welfare to Work initiative? At what point was the Housing Support Branch consulted and what was the nature of the consultation?

Answer:

The Housing Support Branch within FaCSIA was not consulted about DEWR's definition of *vulnerability*.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 180

Topic: Indigenous Housing – Housing Ministers’ Conference

Hansard Page: CA99 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Could you have a look at the decisions taken last October and give me a breakdown on the specific actions taken to implement those decisions?

Answer:

At the Housing Ministers’ Conference (HMC) in October 2005, Housing Ministers agreed to national action on Indigenous housing, including a reform agenda that includes:

- a commitment to increase the effort of mainstream programs in housing Indigenous people
- initiatives to increase Indigenous home ownership, and
- measures to improve the standard of Indigenous housing, particularly where dwellings are in a poor condition.

While FaCSIA cannot report on behalf of the state and territory jurisdictions, the Department has been progressing work relating to the reform agenda. Specifically:

- consistent with the requirements of the current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, recent reporting indicates that Indigenous access to mainstream social housing has improved by up to 20 per cent in the period 2001-2004
- the Expansion of Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme, which was announced in the 2006 Australian Government Budget, commits \$107.5 million over four years to develop and manage a range of measures to assist Indigenous people to buy their own home on Indigenous land, and
- the Healthy Indigenous Housing Initiative (HIHI), which committed \$56 million over four years (2005-2009) to improve governance in the Indigenous community housing sector, and to fund audits of housing organisations.

FaCSIA has been working with jurisdictions to develop a paper on Indigenous housing investment.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 181

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) Review Focus

Hansard Page: CA104 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

What was the focus of the last review of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA)?

Answer:

The evaluation of the 1999 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement covered the multilateral agreement and its subsidiary agreements. The multilateral agreement sets out the guiding principles, or objectives for the operations and outcomes of the CSHA. These principles were the criteria against which the agreement was evaluated.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 183

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – Indexation Rate

Hansard Page: CA105 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Provide the indexation rate for each year of the agreement and also the actual rate for past years and the estimated rate for future years.

Answer:

The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement is indexed using the latest Wage Cost Index 6 parameter. Department of Finance and Administration does not publish the value of these parameters.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 189

Topic: Forward Estimates – Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

Hansard Page: CA122 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Can you provide estimates for the Wage Cost Index 1 (WCI 1), the forward estimates period for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program agreement?

Answer:

The WCI forward estimates for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Agreement are not made publicly available.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 190

Topic: Wage Cost Indices Average

Hansard Page: CA122 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

Is the Wage Cost Indices (WCI) average 1.8 per cent per annum?

Answer:

The WCI average for the current Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Agreement cannot be provided, as future WCI parameters are not made publicly available.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 045

Topic: Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Locations

Hansard Page: CA78 30/05

Senator Carr asked:

Can you provide a list of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) locations?

Answer:

The day-to-day administration of SAAP is undertaken by the States and Territories, who select the agencies to deliver services to SAAP clients. The location of each SAAP agency can be obtained from the relevant state/territory department.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 116

Topic: National Homelessness Strategy – Indigenous Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Carr asked:

- (a) What happened after the completion of the Waarvah project in Queensland?
- (b) Is there an ongoing program targeting Indigenous young people at risk of homelessness who have high truancy rates or contact with juvenile justice or care and protection systems?
- (c) What happened to the culturally appropriate homelessness prevention information developed during the project? Is it being used by other Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services?

Answer:

The National Homelessness Strategy's (NHS) Waarvah project in Queensland was completed in 2004.

The evaluation report of the Waarvah project is available on the FaCSIA website at: http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/house-waarvah_project_evaluation.htm.

On 14 July 2006, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reaffirmed its commitment to adopt a collaborative approach to addressing family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. It sought to build on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Summit on Violence and Child Abuse in Indigenous Communities, convened by the Australian Government in June.

COAG agreed to a number of specific initiatives, including to work with States and Territories on improving the school attendance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. It was agreed that all jurisdictions will collect and share truancy data on enrolments and attendance and that the Australian Government will establish a National Truancy Unit to monitor, analyse and report on this data.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 185

Topic: Commonwealth State Housing Agreement – Efficiency Dividend

Hansard Page: CA106 29/05

Senator Carr asked:

What was the actual amount that the efficiency dividend was calculated at? Can you go back over the past agreement and for future years in the forward estimates?

Answer:

As noted on the FaCSIA website, an efficiency dividend has applied to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) since 1997-98. This was levied at four per cent on all CSHA funding in 1997-98 and at one per cent on all CSHA funding for all subsequent years with the exception of the extra \$10 million in Aboriginal Rental Housing Program funding in both 2003–04 and 2004–05. Reference to the CSHA efficiency dividend, can be found in the 2003 Agreement.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.2

Question No: 101

Topic: Budget Measure 2006-07: Extending Family Income Management and improving family payment outcomes for Indigenous children

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans

The Budget Measure 2006-07: Extending Family Income Management and improving family payment outcomes for Indigenous children provided \$16.6m over four years. This extra funding expands upon the 2004-05 budget measure *Indigenous financial management*, which provided \$1.1 million per annum between 2006-08.

1. Please provide amounts allocated and expended in relation to this measure in 2004-05 and to date in 2005-06?
2. Please breakdown these amounts according to departmental expenses and administered program funds.
3. Please also breakdown these amounts according to each program and activity.
4. What existed before this measure to assist with financial literacy in Indigenous communities? How much funding did that measure receive (please specify time frame)?
5. It's been suggested that the educational materials attached to this measure were delayed. Is this true?
6. Have the staff that are responsible for administering this measure provided any briefings to the Minister specifically on the measure? Please provide dates of these briefings.
7. Have the staff that are responsible for administering this measure provided any briefings to the Minister on other possible welfare reforms? Please provide dates of these briefings.
8. What evaluation is planned for this measure? Please provide a timeframe.

Answer:

Family Income Management (FIM) has supported financial literacy in Cape York since 2002. In 2004-05 \$490,000 (administered) and \$200,000 (departmental) was allocated and expended on FIM. In 2005-06, \$550,000 (administered) and \$200,000 (departmental) was allocated and expended. In 2004-05, \$600,000 (administered) was allocated to Indigenous Financial Management (IFM) and \$581,245 expended. In 2005-06 \$1,600,000 (administered) was allocated and \$1,465,759 expended. Service providers allocate funds to specific activities based on local needs.

Educational materials for IFM took nine months to develop.

An independent evaluation of the IFM is scheduled for June 2008. An evaluation of the 2006-07 Budget measure is scheduled for 2009-10.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

ASSISTANCE MEASURES THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING FOR THOSE IN THE CAPE YORK REGION WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY BOTH TROPICAL CYCLONES MONICA AND LARRY.

On 26 May 2006, the Prime Minister announced additional assistance in Cape York between Wolverton and the southern boundary of the Cook Shire Council for those farmers and businesses that have been adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both TC Larry and Monica.

Australian Government financial assistance measures provided:

Income support for farmers and small business people

- Income support for farmers and small business operators will be provided:
 - equivalent to the Newstart Allowance;
 - for the next six months;
 - the asset test will be waived in relation to the capital value of their farm or business assets; and
 - this will mean they will be able to focus on the immediate task of rebuilding their businesses. This assistance aims to help them pay their day-to-day bills.

Payments to farmers and other businesses

- One-off business assistance grants of \$10,000 will be made available for those businesses in the affected area. This will help businesses with immediate restocking, repair and clean-up activities. These grants will be tax free.
 - Eligibility will be extended to all businesses and farmers, regardless of size, that have been adversely affected by both Tropical Cyclones Monica and Larry;
 - Grants will be increased to \$25,000 where businesses and farmers can demonstrate severe damage;
 - Centrelink will assess these applications for additional support based on the information provided by the applicants;
 - Claimants must supply an ABN number; and
 - The business or farm is in the disaster declared area between Wolverton and the southern boundary of the Cook Shire Council.

Concessional loans

- Farmers and businesses will also have access to concessional loans to re-establish their enterprises. Loans of up to \$200,000 will be available under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.
 - Principal and interest repayments will be deferred for up to two years; and
 - the loans will also include a grant of 25% of the value of the loan amount.

For further information

For information regarding the income support or the one-off business assistance grants please contact the Tropical Cyclone Relief hotline on 1802002 or people can apply through their local Centrelink office.

For information regarding the Concessional interest rate loans please contact the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) 1800 623 946.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Australian Government – Tropical Cyclones Monica and Larry
Areas of Eligibility

On 26 May 2006, the Prime Minister announced additional assistance in Cape York between Wollverton and the southern boundary of the Cook Shire Council for those farmers and business that have been adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both TC Larry and TC Monica.

Listed below is the area in which people may be eligible to receive assistance under the Cyclone Monica/Larry assistance package.

- The assistance is available to those eligible people located in the Cape York region of Far North Queensland – between Wollverton (in the north) to the southern end of the Cook Shire Council boundary. The Cook Shire's southern boundary comprises in part the Bloomfield River. The Cook Shire Council shares its southern boundary with Douglas Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council and Carpentaria Shire Council.
- The northern most latitude (Wollverton) is at 13° 18' (min) 54" (sec) South [that is, approx. - 13.3146].
- This will incorporate some areas of in the Cook Shire Council, all of Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, all of Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, all of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, the southern-most 22 kms of Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, part of Aurukun Shire Council from the town of Aurukun south and the northern most 150kms of Carpentaria Shire Council (this excludes the two towns of Normanton and Karumba).
- Cook Shire Council eligible areas include (but not exclusively): Archer River Roadhouse, Coen, Port Stewart, Hann River Roadhouse, Cooktown, Laura, Helenvale, Rossville, Lakeland, Wujal Wujal, Ayton, Bloomfield and Palmerville.
 - This area also includes the following out stations and homesteads: 'Wollverton', 'Merapah', 'Rokeby', 'Running Creek', 'Ebagooola', 'Pollappa', 'Yaraden', 'Lily Vale', 'Strathburn', 'Marina Plains', 'Aloszville', 'New Bamboo', 'Violet Vale', 'Strathgordon', 'New Strathgordon', 'Strathmay', 'Strathaven', 'Glen Garland', 'Musgrave Roadhouse', 'Kalpowar', 'Lakefield', 'Munburra', 'Artemis', 'New Dixie', 'Kalinga', 'Old Laura', 'Battle Camp', 'Melsomby', 'Normanby', 'Koolburra', 'Killarney', 'Oroners', 'Sefton', 'Fairview', 'Welcome', 'Kimba', 'Pinnacles', 'Kingvale', 'Fairlight', 'Jowalbinna', 'Spring Vale', 'King Junction', 'Strathleven', 'Bonney Glen', 'Dunbar', 'Drumduff', and 'Byers Town'.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 191

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA124 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Of the 37,980 ex gratia claims made in relation to Tropical Cyclone Larry how many were adults and how many were childrens?

Answer:

As at 19/5/06, 37,980 claims had been granted

Claims included

- 32,015 claims for adults
- 5,965 claims for children

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 192

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA124 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Do you have data available on the locality of claimants relating to Tropical Cyclone Larry?

Answer:

Yes. The payments were made to eligible individuals who as a result of Tropical Cyclone Larry were unable to live at their principal place of residence in the defined area. The defined area used for the purposes of assistance for Tropical Cyclone Larry is the area declared by the State under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangement (NDRA) which is also used to determine eligibility for various Commonwealth payments.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 193

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA124 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

How many cases of disagreement on eligibility for ex gratia claims were there in relation to Cyclone Larry?

Answer:

Currently around 136 individuals have requested that their claims for ex gratia be resubmitted for further consideration.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 194

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA125 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Have you had to retrieve any money that has been incorrectly paid in relation to Cyclone Larry?

Answer:

Yes. Eight individuals have repaid amounts incorrectly paid.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 195

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA127 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Can you provide the list of areas identified as affected by both cyclone Larry and Monica but outside the cyclone Larry eligibility area?

Answer:

The areas affected by the cumulative effects of both Cyclone Larry and Cyclone Monica that fell outside the assistance package for Cyclone Larry are:

- Cook Shire Council from the southern boundary north to Wolverton.
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Aurukun Shire Council from the southern boundary north to the town of Aurukun
- Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council – the southern most 22kms

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 196

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: CA128 29/05

Senator McLucas asked:

Do you have to live in the area to be eligible for the ex-gratia payments?

Answer:

To be eligible to receive assistance under the assistance package provided in response to the cumulative effects of Cyclone Larry and Cyclone Monica you are required to live in the area affected by both cyclones.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 197

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

In Monday's hearing (29 May 2006), Deputy Secretary Stephen Hunter stated that the Commonwealth can choose when it wants to become involved in natural disaster relief efforts. Can the department state when it began investigating the potential damage caused by Cyclone Monica and the measures it might be appropriate to take?

Answer:

On 26 April 2006, staff of the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) met to consider the information available on the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Monica on Australian communities.

On 28 April and 5 May 2006, the Australian Disaster Recovery Committee, of which FaCSIA is the chair, met to determine whether there was a need for additional Australian Government assistance for those areas affected by Cyclone Monica in the Northern Territory and/or far North Queensland, in addition to assistance already being provided under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements. However, no final decisions on the further assistance package were made because of the ongoing problems in obtaining situational information due to the poor accessibility into the remote areas caused by the weather conditions.

At its meeting on 22 May 2006, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee was in a position to consider options for assistance for those affected by Tropical Cyclone Monica. This was followed by an announcement by the Prime Minister of the additional assistance measures for those affected by both Tropical Cyclones Monica and Larry on 26 May 2006.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 198

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Can the department state when its officials visited Cape York, and the areas they visited?

Answer:

Officers from agencies represented on the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee chaired by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, visited areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Monica in the Cape York Region on:

- 2/3 May – Cairns. 9/10 May - Musgrave to Archer River;
- 2 June – Coen;
- 3/4 June - Musgrave Station;
- 7/8 June – further visit to Cooktown.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 199

Topic: Community Recovery

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Can the department state when the Commonwealth was notified of the State Government's decision to extend the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements to cover the area affected by Cyclone Monica?

Can the department explain why the Commonwealth Cyclone Monica relief measures did not extend to all areas covered by the NDRA, and why it was decided not to provide a wage subsidy element in the measures?

Answer:

The Commonwealth was notified of the State Government's decision to extend the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) to cover the area affected by Tropical Cyclone Monica on the 27 April 2006.

The purpose of the relief measures was to provide assistance to those who had been adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both Tropical Cyclone Monica and Tropical Cyclone Larry not those affected only by Tropical Cyclone Monica. These areas received widespread flooding as a result of Tropical Cyclone Larry, which was then compounded by the effects of Tropical Cyclone Monica.

The special additional Australian Government assistance, over and above that provided under the normal NDRA, was tailored to meet the special needs of those communities affected by both the cumulative effects of Tropical Cyclone Monica and Tropical Cyclone Larry.

The assistance provided by the Australian Government in response to Tropical Cyclone Larry reflected the devastating impact on an entire regional economy and a number of large industries. The wage subsidy assistance was provided based on a particular need in the Tropical Cyclone Larry affected area for assistance to help employers retain their workforce in the immediate period following the cyclones and in the recovery phase.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 227

Topic: Tropical Cyclone Monica

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Can the Minister confirm that the statements in the document tabled by FACSIA at Budget Estimates (copy attached), that the Commonwealth's assistance package to victims of Cyclone Monica is limited to the area between Wolverton and the southern boundary of Cook Shire, are correct?

Answer:

The Australian Government assistance package announced by the Prime Minister on 26 May 2006 for those adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both Tropical Cyclone Larry and Tropical Cyclone Monica is for the area between Wolverton and the southern boundary of Cook Shire in the Cape York region. The area is as defined in the tabled document. Cases that do not meet the guidelines for assistance may be considered by the Australian Government under special circumstance provisions.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 228

Topic: Tropical Cyclone Monica

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Can the Minister explain why the Commonwealth wage subsidy offered to business victims of Cyclone Larry has not been extended to business victims of Cyclone Monica?

Answer:

The Australian Government assistance package for Tropical Cyclone Larry includes a wage subsidy for adversely affected businesses. The decision to offer the wage subsidy was based on the large number of businesses affected, the impact on industry along with consideration of the transient nature of the seasonal workforce. The wage subsidy was not offered to businesses adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both Tropical Cyclones Monica and Larry because the number of businesses affected was much smaller and it was considered that Job Network assistance would be sufficient.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 229

Topic: Tropical Cyclone Monica

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Will the extended Commonwealth support be given to all businesses in Cape York and Torres Strait that have been affected by Cyclone Monica, including businesses based outside the area described in the tabled document?

Answer:

On 26 May 2006, the Prime Minister announced additional Australian Government assistance in the Cape York (between Wolverton and the southern boundary of the Cook Shire Council) for those businesses that have been adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both Tropical Cyclone Larry and Tropical Cyclone Monica. The defined area for this assistance remains as identified in the tabled document. Cases that do not meet the guidelines for assistance may be considered by the Australian Government under special circumstance provisions.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.3

Question No: 230

Topic: Tropical Cyclone Monica

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Will Commonwealth wage subsidies be offered to all businesses in Cape York and Torres Strait that have been affected by Cyclone Monica, including business based outside the area described in the tabled document?

Answer:

The Australian Government assistance package for those farmers and businesses adversely affected by the cumulative effects of both Tropical Cyclone Larry and Tropical Cyclone Monica did not include a wage subsidy component.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 222

Topic: Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

What was the closing date for submissions for Round 3 of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy – Local Answers program?

What was the assessment process?

When were the Round 3 successful applicants notified?

Answer:

Applications for Local Answers Round Three closed on the 23 September 2005.

A formal assessment process was conducted in a national assessment centre, drawing on experienced departmental staff from all State and Territories, National Office and other experienced staff. The assessment process was undertaken according to a probity supervised assessment plan. The probity plan ensured that all applications were treated equally.

The announcement of successful outcomes was made on the 30 March 2006 with all successful and unsuccessful applicants being advised of the outcome.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 223

Topic: Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Why were YIRS not notified of the outcome of funding until 31 March despite being told initially it would be December?

Answer:

The announcement of successful outcomes was made on 30 March 2006 with all successful and unsuccessful applicants being advised of the outcome in writing. The announcement of the outcome of Local Answers Round Three was made after all the assessment processes were complete.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 224

Topic: Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

According to the Minister in his letter to me of 6 May YIRS application met all selection criteria, but others rated more highly. In what way were they considered better applications?

Answer:

The application for Youth Information Referral Service –Mackay (YIRS) sought funding for almost \$300,000. Projects seeking this level of funding were in an extremely competitive environment. Local Answers Round Three received over 560 applications, with 140 projects receiving funding. Projects needed to meet all the selection criteria to a high degree to be in contention for funding. Overall, applications were of a very high quality, resulting in many good projects missing out on funding.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 225

Topic: Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Research by Flinders Uni identified YIRS in their project for FaCSIA *'Stronger Families and Communities Strategy community-based capacity building and early intervention projects – A tool kit'* designed to assist applicants in developing a best practice service. If YIRS was regarded as successful enough to be included in academic based research for the Department, why did the Department knock back their funding in Round 3?

Were there any other projects funded in the Mackay region?

Answer:

All applications were rigorously assessed against the Local Answers Round Three selection criteria, with a checking of the process conducted by an independent probity auditor, to determine which projects met all the criteria to the highest degree and would provide the most effective solutions for families and communities across Australia. The Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Partnership, made up of community experts from around Australia, provided advice regarding the assessment process. YIRS is receiving 12 months additional funding to assist the department in the reporting of outcomes.

There were no projects funded in the Mackay region through Local Answers Round Three. Projects are not allocated on the basis of a quota per region.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 226

Topic: Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

YIRS was one of the first fourteen projects funded under the *Local Answers* initiative in April 2004. The local problems that was identified in the Mackay and surrounding regions include family dysfunction, homelessness, relationship breakdowns, health, domestic Violence, drug & alcohol problems and unemployment (see attached info from FaCSIA website). YIRS has worked hard to address these issues, and have been making good progress.

How will the young people of Mackay be able to continue to address these problems if YIRS cannot continue?

Are there any other programs YIRS can access so as to continue to provide the services?

Answer:

Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay) received substantial funding of \$543,270 through the Stronger Families and Community Strategy. The organisation was aware of the start and end dates for the project and the Strategy was not intended to provide ongoing funding once the initial project had been completed.

The department funds the following Family Relationships Services in the Mackay area:

Mackay Childrens Contact Service
37 Boddington Street Mackay
(07) 4944-1733

Relationships Australia - Queensland
Level 2 45 Victoria Street Mackay
(07) 4975 - 4542

CentaCare Central Queensland
7/12 Grendon Street Mackay
(07) 4957-2533

Youth Information Referral Service (Mackay) is receiving 12 months additional funding to assist the department in the reporting of outcomes. YIRS may apply in future funding rounds of Local Answers for a project that meets the guidelines. As opportunities for funding become available, they will be advertised widely in the press and on the departments website at: www.facsia.gov.au.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2006-07 Budget Estimates, May - June 2006

Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 221

Topic: Election Commitments

Hansard Page: CA81

Senator Evans asked:

- a) When did FaCS find out about the election commitments?
- b) Which one of the eight election commitments did not come through DOTARS?
- c) Which of the eight had previously had applications?
- d) Were the eight commitments subject to the ANAO audit on grants?

Answer:

This issue has been canvassed extensively and answers provided in Additional Estimates 2005-06 (Hansard CA 185), Budget Estimates 2006-07 (Hansard CA 81), QoN – 073, QoN - 115, and QoN - 1364. As election commitments the Government determined to honour them through programs that best met the purpose of the commitment.

FaCSIA was informed of these between February and April 2005. Applications are not required for election commitments, and none were submitted to FaCSIA for these election commitments.

The Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) project did not come from DOTARS but, like the others, was an election commitment and was therefore treated in the same manner as the others.

The ANAO determines the content of its audit reports.