

Community Affairs Committee

Examination of Additional Estimates 2008-2009

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2

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

Cross Outcome and Outcomes 1 to 4

18 JUNE 2009

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2008-2009

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on 26 February 2009 and cross portfolio Indigenous issues hearing 27 February 2009

*** Please note that the tabling date of 25 June 2009 is the proposed tabling date**

FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
Humphries	2, 4, 5	Finance/budget/policy		14.05.09
Humphries	7, 8	Staffing		14.05.09
Humphries	10	Finance/budget/policy		14.05.09
Humphries	11-13	Depreciation funding		14.05.09
Humphries	15, 16	Stimulus package		14.05.09
Humphries	17, 19, 21	Staffing		14.05.09
Humphries	24	Gershon review		14.05.09
Humphries	27	Media monitoring		14.05.09
Humphries	31, 33, 34, 35	Ministerial staff/DLOs		14.05.09
Humphries	36	Ministerial travel		14.05.09
Humphries	48	Freedom of information		14.05.09
Humphries	49	Freedom of information requests		14.05.09
Humphries	62-64	Consultancies		14.05.09
Scullion	67-68	Economic security strategy letters		14.05.09
Boyce	437	NTER employment		14.05.09
Humphries	1, 9	Finance/budget/policy		14.05.09
Humphries	18	Staffing		14.05.09
Humphries	22	Program underspends/lapsing		14.05.09
Humphries	30	Media monitoring		14.05.09
Humphries	40	Department advertising		14.05.09
Bernardi	65	ESS advertising		14.05.09
Bernardi	66	Advertising expenditure		14.05.09
Boyce	71	Minister for Social Inclusion		14.05.09
Payne	126	Increase in AHL operating costs		14.05.09
Hanson- Young	422, 433	Same-sex couples		14.05.09
Humphries	3	Finance/budget/policy		14.05.09
Humphries	6, 20	Staffing		14.05.09
Humphries	25-26	Gershon review		14.05.09
Humphries	28-29	Media monitoring		14.05.09
Humphries	42	Government advertising		14.05.09
Humphries	45-46	Board appointments		14.05.09
Humphries	47	Grants		14.05.09
Humphries	52	Community Cabinets		14.05.09
Humphries	61	Consultancies		14.05.09

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Humphries	69-70	Promotion of wellbeing and productivity	14.05.09
Boyce	72-73	Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian bushfires	14.05.09
Boyce	74	Program benefits	14.05.09
Scullion	75	Media monitoring	14.05.09
Boyce	436	NTER employment	14.05.09
Humphries	14	Depreciation funding	25.06.09
Humphries	32	IT and telephone equipment issued to Ministerial staff	25.06.09
Humphries	23	Program underspends/lapsings	25.06.09
Humphries	55	Departmental reviews	25.06.09
Humphries	43, 44	FaHCSIA hospitality expenditure	25.06.09
Central Land Council			
Brandis	142	Payments – Note 15	14.05.09
Brandis	143	Walpuri Trust	14.05.09
Outcome 1: Output group 1.1 – Whole-of-government coordination of policy development and service delivery for Indigenous Australians			
	T1 tabled at cross portfolio hearing	NTER cross agency summary report as at 31 January 2009	19.03.09
Boyce	129	Housing in Aboriginal communities	14.05.09
Siewert	251	Early childhood program	14.05.09
Siewert	252	Use of NTER playgroups	14.05.09
Siewert	253	NTER playgroups integrating schools	14.05.09
Siewert	76	Closing the Gap Annual Report	14.05.09
Boyce	140	Education programs	14.05.09
Humphries	78	NT Intervention staffing	14.05.09
Siewert	77	NT Intervention expenditure	25.06.09
Humphries			
Outcome 1: Output group 1.2 – Services for Indigenous Australians			
Payne	89-92	Lease negotiations	14.05.09
Payne	101, 103	Housing in Queensland	14.05.09
Payne	105-108, 111	National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	14.05.09
Payne	112-122	Walgett repairs & maintenance program and subdivision of Aboriginal land	14.05.09
Payne	297	Housing in Queensland	14.05.09
Siewert	430	CDEP	14.05.09
Payne	87	SIHIP - employment	14.05.09

Payne	96, 97, 99, 100	\$25m housing deal with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara	14.05.09
Payne	102	Housing in Queensland	14.05.09
Siewert	128	Poor model for Indigenous housing	14.05.09
Payne	80-84	Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/construction of new houses	14.05.09
Payne	85, 86, 88	SIHIP - employment	14.05.09
Payne	89	Lease negotiations	14.05.09
Payne	93	Maningrida	14.05.09
Payne	94	Housing in Maningrida	14.05.09
Payne	104, 109, 110	National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing	14.05.09
Payne	123-125	Indigenous home ownership	14.05.09
Siewert	127	40 year leases	14.05.09
Humphries	134-139	Pornography audit	14.05.09
Siewert	431	CDEP reform evaluation	14.05.09
Siewert	432	CDEP job creation	14.05.09
Payne	442	Domestic violence data	14.05.09
Payne	95, 98	\$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara	14.05.09
Scullion	79	Indigenous housing	25.06.09
Siewert	133	GBMs – accommodation	25.06.09

**Outcome 1: Output group 1.3 – Registration,
regulation and capacity building of Indigenous
corporations**

**Outcome 2: Output group 2.1 – Support for the
Aged**

Boyce	146	Support for the aged	14.05.09
Boyce	148	Pension review	14.05.09
Hanson- Young	149	Pensioner concession card	14.05.09
Scullion	150-151	Pension review	14.05.09
Humphries	152-153	Age pension	14.05.09
Humphries	154	Pension Loans Scheme	14.05.09
Boyce	147	Support for the aged	14.05.09

**Outcome 2: Output group 2.2 – Support for People
with Disability**

T3 tabled at hearing		Children accessing Early Intervention services by State/Territory as at 25.02.09	19.03.09
T4 tabled at hearing		NACMH consultation – proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health	19.03.09
T5 tabled at hearing		Enquiries fielded by Centrelink since the introduction of Special Disability Trusts	19.03.09
T7 tabled at hearing		Primary school resource kit for young carers – content of kits	19.03.09
Scullion	155-161, 163	Personal Helpers and Mentors Program	14.05.09
Bernardi	164-167	Australian disability Enterprises	14.05.09

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Bernardi	178, 180-182	Opportunity booklet and disability confidence website	14.05.09
Bernardi	183	Disability investment group	14.05.09
Bernardi	184, 186, 187	Disability support pension	14.05.09
Bernardi	188, 190-195	Disabled Workers Union funding	14.05.09
Bernardi	197	Autism advisor program	14.05.09
Bernardi	200-201	PlayConnect playgroups	14.05.09
Bernardi	202-203	Helping children with autism package	14.05.09
Bernardi	204	PlayConnect	14.05.09
Bernardi	205	Autism advisor program	14.05.09
Bernardi	206	National Companion Card Scheme	14.05.09
Bernardi	208-209	National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable	14.05.09
Bernardi	211-213, 215	National Disability Strategy	14.05.09
Bernardi	217, 219, 220	National People with Disabilities and Carer Council	14.05.09
Bernardi	221	Services for people with disability	14.05.09
Bernardi	225	Younger people with disability living in aged care	14.05.09
Siewert	228	National Disability Agreement	14.05.09
Bernardi	229	CSTDA and NDA	14.05.09
Boyce	230	Allen Consulting Group report	14.05.09
Parry	232	Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres	14.05.09
Boyce	235	Residential aged care	14.05.09
Scullion	162	Personal Helpers and Mentors Program	14.05.09
Bernardi	168-169	Australian Disability Enterprises	25.06.09
Bernardi	179	Opportunity booklet and disability confidence website	25.06.09
Bernardi	189	Disabled Workers Union Funding	25.06.09
Bernardi	196, 198	Autism Advisor Program	25.06.09
Fifield	199	Workshops	25.06.09
Bernardi	207	National Companion Card Scheme	25.06.09
Bernardi	210	National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable	25.06.09
Bernardi	216	National Disability Strategy	25.06.09
Bernardi	224	Younger people with disability living in aged care	25.06.09
Siewert	226	National Disability Agreement	25.06.09
Siewert	227	Early intervention and prevention and life long planning	25.06.09
Parry	231	Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres	25.06.09
Bernardi	214	National Disability Strategy	25.06.09
Parry	233	Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres	25.06.09
Bernardi	185	Disability Support Pension	25.06.09
Bernardi	222, 223	Younger people with disability living in aged care	25.06.09
Fielding	234	\$244 million COAG program	25.06.09

Outcome 2: Output group 2.3 – Support for Carers

Bernardi	236	Better support for carers inquiry	25.06.09
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Outcome 2: Output group 2.4 – Addressing Youth Homelessness**Outcome 2: Output group 2.5 – Support for Women**

Boyce	239-241	Women's leadership and development	14.05.09
Hanson-Young	237	National plan to reduce violence against women and their children	14.05.09
Brown, Carol	242	Office for Women work plan	14.05.09
Hanson-Young	238	National plan to reduce violence against women and their children	25.06.09

Outcome 3: Output group 3.1 – Support for Families

	T6 tabled at hearing	Broadband for seniors – lower need postal areas	19.03.09
Siewert	130	Income management evaluation	14.05.09
Siewert	131	Evaluation framework	14.05.09
Humphries	132	Numbers of income management customers by community	14.05.09
Bernardi	243	Baby bonus	14.05.09
Boyce	244	School enrolment and attendance measure	14.05.09
Siewert	254-255	Voluntary income management	14.05.09
Siewert	256	Auditing Department for Child Protection (DCP) Services	14.05.09
Siewert	257-259	Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP)	14.05.09
Boyce	412	Stronger Families projects	14.05.09
Siewert	423	Regional towns in WA that are currently subject to income management	14.05.09
Siewert	424	Voluntary income management in WA	14.05.09
Siewert	425	Income management trials	14.05.09
Siewert	426	Welfare payments reform initiatives baseline data	14.05.09
Siewert	427	Evaluation of welfare payments conditionality	14.05.09
Siewert	428	Cost of implementing income management trials	14.05.09
Siewert	260	Family Relationship Services Program	14.05.09
Siewert	249	Safe houses	25.06.09
Siewert	250	Safe house expenditure	25.06.09

Outcome 3: Output group 3.2 – Child Support**Outcome 4: Output group 4.1 – Housing Support**

	T1 tabled at hearing	National Rental Affordability Scheme actual & estimated dwellings for 2008/09 financial year	19.03.09
	T2 tabled at hearing	2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement Grant Allocations by year, as at 6 Feb 08	19.03.09
Payne	262	National Affordable Housing Agreement	

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Payne	263, 264, 267, 269, 270, 272- 283, 285, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294	National Partnership Agreement	
Payne	295	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Payne	298	Homelessness	14.05.09
Payne	301, 302	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Payne	303	National Rental Affordability Scheme	14.05.09
Payne	305-308	National Housing Supply Council	14.05.09
Payne	312	National Partnership Agreement	14.05.09
Payne	314	Housing Affordability	14.05.09
Payne	315	Housing affordability and mortgage stress	14.05.09
Ludlam	319, 320	Foyer model	14.05.09
Ludlam	321	Common ground model of accommodation for adults	14.05.09
Ludlam	322	Homelessness programs	14.05.09
Ludlam	326-328	Homelessness legislation	14.05.09
Ludlam	330	Reducing homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	331-333, 335	White Paper on homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	336, 337, 339-360	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Ludlam	361	Community Engagement Officers	14.05.09
Ludlam	364	Weekly benefit payments	14.05.09
Ludlam	367	White Paper on homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	368-370	Bea Miles Foundation	14.05.09
Ludlam	372	Homelessness review	14.05.09
Ludlam	373	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Ludlam	374-379	Australian Council on Homelessness	14.05.09
Boyce	380-382	White Paper on homelessness	14.05.09
Boyce	383	National Rental Affordability Plan	14.05.09
Boyce	385	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Fielding	387	Public housing tenants	14.05.09
Payne	389-391	National Rental Affordability Scheme	14.05.09
Payne	392	Edmondson Park	14.05.09
Payne	393	Renwick project in the Southern Highlands	14.05.09
Payne	396	Housing Affordability Fund	14.05.09
Payne	397	Payments	14.05.09
Payne	399	Breakdown of dwellings	14.05.09
Payne	400	ESS expenditure	14.05.09
Payne	401	COAG reports	14.05.09
Payne	265	National Affordable Housing Agreement	14.05.09

Payne	266, 268, 284, 287, 289, 291	National Partnership Agreement	14.05.09
Payne	296, 299	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Payne	304	Housing Affordability Fund	14.05.09
Payne	309	National Housing Supply Council	14.05.09
Payne	311	National Partnership Agreement	14.05.09
Payne	313	Housing Affordability	14.05.09
Payne	316, 317	Housing affordability and mortgage stress	14.05.09
Ludlam	324, 325	Homelessness legislation	14.05.09
Ludlam	329	Reducing homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	334	White Paper on Homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	338	Homelessness policy	14.05.09
Ludlam	365, 366, 371	White Paper on Homelessness	14.05.09
Ludlam	384	National Rental Affordability Plan	14.05.09
Payne	388	National Rental Affordability Scheme	14.05.09
Ludlam	398	White Paper information sessions	14.05.09
Ludlam	318	National Partnership Agreement	25.06.09
Payne	394	Housing Affordability Fund	25.06.09
Payne	395	Shire of Harvey development	25.06.09
Boyce	386	Homelessness Policy	25.06.09
Payne	310	Housing affordability	25.06.09
Payne	293	National Partnership Agreement	25.06.09
Payne	443	National building and jobs plan	25.06.09
Payne	271	National Partnership Agreement	25.06.09

Outcome 4: Output group 4.2 –Supporting Financial Management

Xenophon	438-440	Problem gambling	14.05.09
Xenophon	441	Commonwealth Financial Counselling	14.05.09

Outcome 4: Output group 4.3 – Community Recovery

Boyce	404	North Queensland floods	14.05.09
Fifield	402	Governance arrangements for the Victorian bushfires	14.05.09
Fifield	403	Victorian bushfires	25.06.09

Outcome 4: Output group 4.4 – Community Partnership and Delivery

Boyce	413	Playford North project	14.05.09
Boyce	415—416	Funding Agreements	14.05.09
Boyce	417-418	Grants process	14.05.09
Fifield	419	Fuel reimbursement	14.05.09
Fifield	420	Volunteering Australia Secretariat funding	14.05.09
Fifield	421	Kiosks	14.05.09
Boyce	411	Stronger Families	14.05.09
Boyce	414	Funding agreements	14.05.09

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 002

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How has your agency implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend?

Answer:

In May 2008 the Department set a balanced budget for 2008-09 which took account of: the estimated effect of the Efficiency Dividend; Machinery of Government changes; the winding down or termination of previous Budget Measures; and the implementation of new Budget Measures. The reduction due to the Efficiency Dividend was applied equally across all groups in the Department.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 004

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Have you had to reduce any activities that you consider to be 'core business' or have you had to reduce service standards as a result of the Efficiency Dividend?

Answer:

No 'core business' activities have been reduced nor has there been any reduction in service standards as a result of the Efficiency Dividend.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 005

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and / or other budgets cuts? If so, where and at what level?

Answer:

The answer to this question remains the same as the answer previously provided to Question Number 14 from the Supplementary Estimates, October 2008.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 007

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs?

Are such employment programs being reduced?

If so, by how many and have you done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?

Answer:

No changes are underway or planned for the graduate recruitment, cadetship or similar programs.

The graduate recruitment, cadetships and similar programs are not being reduced.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 008

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Has your consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?

Answer:

No.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 010

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Does your department/agency have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – are you provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is committed to providing sufficient analytical resources to support evidence-based policy development. In 2008–09 FaHCSIA will invest approximately \$26m in policy relevant research, analysis, evaluation and related data activities to support the department's role in policy advice and development, and program design and implementation.

FaHCSIA conducts three longitudinal surveys - Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) – which are intended to provide publicly available data for use by researchers and policy makers. In addition, FaHCSIA has a comprehensive range of administrative datasets as well as access to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) datasets. In combination, these administrative and survey datasets provide a strong basis for the analysis required for evidence-based policy development and evaluation.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 011

Topic: Depreciation Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Did your agency use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?

Answer:

The department did not use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 012

Topic: Depreciation Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Has your agency used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?

Answer:

The department has not used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 013

Topic: Depreciation Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?

Answer:

Depreciation funding was not used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 015

Topic: Stimulus Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Does the Department/agency have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package?

If so, was (and when was) the Dept/agency asked for input before the stimulus package was announced?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs is involved in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package.

The Department was asked for input before the stimulus package was announced.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 016

Topic: Stimulus Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

When did the Dept/agency know details about the stimulus package affecting their portfolio?

Answer:

The Department assisted government with development of details associated with the package prior to the announcement in February.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 017

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the current total staffing for the Department/Agency – permanent and temporary?

Answer:

As at 24 February 2009 staffing (by headcount) for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs were 3051 permanent and 245 temporary staff.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 019

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date?

What level are these staff?

Answer:

493 permanent staff were recruited in calendar year 2008. The levels of these staff were:

APS1	APS2	APS3	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	Legal 1	Legal 2	SES Band 1	SES Band 2
3	5	72	58	85	85	129	34	6	5	11	0

354 permanent staff have been recruited in FY 2008-09 to date (24 February 2009). The levels of these staff were:

APS1	APS2	APS3	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	Legal 1	Legal 2	SES Band 1	SES Band 2
6	8	58	50	50	60	91	21	3	3	4	0

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 021

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

For CY 2008, 464 employees were employed on contract.

For FY 2008-09, 341 employees have been employed on contract to date (26 February 2009).

The average length of the employment period is 3.3 months.

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Question No: 024

Topic: Gershon Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What impact will the Gershon Review have on your department/agency?

Answer:

FaHCSIA have chosen to pursue savings initiatives to meet the 2009/10 5% target for the Information and Communications Technology Business As Usual (ICT BAU) budget reduction in areas expected to have minimal or no impact to either IT service delivery or the business of the Department.

As examples FaHCSIA will target the reduction of non essential IT industry services and drive for greater competitiveness and efficiency of service provider contracts.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 027

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008?

Answer:

For the 2008 calendar year the Department spent \$473,712 on media monitoring.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 031

Topic: Ministerial Staff/DLOs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

For each Minister/Parl Secretary in the portfolio, (a) how many personal staff are employed, (b) how many vacancies exists and (c) what levels are these positions?

Answer:

The following information is provided by the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation:

As at 27 February 2009:

	(a) how many personal staff are employed	(b) how many vacancies exists	(c) what levels are these positions
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Hon Jenny Macklin MP	Nine (9)	One (1)	1 x Senior Adviser (Chief of Staff/Cabinet) 1 x Senior Media Adviser 4 x Adviser 2 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant/Officer Manager 1 x Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	Six (6)	Nil (0)	1 x Senior Adviser (Chief of Staff/non-Cabinet) 1 x Media Adviser 1 x Adviser 1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant/Officer Manager 1 x Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services; Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction The Hon Bill Shorten	Two (2)	Nil (0)	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant/Officer Manager

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MP			
Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens	Two	Nil (0)	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant/Officer Manager

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 033

Topic: Ministerial Staff/DLOs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many Departmental Liaison Officers are currently allocated to each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer:

As at 27 February 2009, there are six Departmental Liaison Officers allocated to the Ministers/Parliamentary Secretary. This is made up of:

Office	No of DLO's
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs The Hon Jenny Macklin MP	3
Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	1
Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services; Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction The Hon Bill Shorten MP	1
Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens	1

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 034

Topic: Ministerial Staff/DLOs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Do any DLOs they provide policy advice?

Answer:

DLOs provide a range of administrative duties and liaise between the department officers, the Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices and their office staff. This will at times include working with officers to clarify advice between the department and the Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 035

Topic: Departmental Liaison Officers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Are any Departmental officers on secondment to the office of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? If so, how many and to whom?

Answer:

As at 27 February 2009, there was one (1) Departmental Officer on secondment to assist with the Victorian Bushfire crisis.

Office	No of Departmental officers
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs: The Hon Jenny Macklin MP	One (1)
Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	Nil
Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services; Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction The Hon Bill Shorten MP	Nil
Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens	Nil

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 036

Topic: Ministerial Travel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

- a) Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates? If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?
- b) What was the total cost of: Travel, accommodation, and any other expenses?
- c) How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? For these staff/family what was the cost of: Travel accommodation, and any other expenses?
- d) How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of: Travel, accommodation, and any other expenses?

Answer:

- a) Yes. The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Mr Bill Shorten, travelled to Beijing, China to attend the Paralympic Games from 12 to 19 September 2008. Minister Plibersek, Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women travelled to New York, USA to lead the Australian delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for the first four days, from 27 February to 7 March 2009.
- b) All costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Dates, destinations, the purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Travel Paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*.
- c) One Senior Adviser accompanied Mr Shorten and one Adviser accompanied Minister Plibersek.
- d) No Departmental officers accompanied Mr Shorten.

Two officers from the Department represented Australia at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, the Departmental officers provided support to Minister

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Plibersek, while she was in attendance leading the Australian delegation. The cost of travel, accommodation and any other expenses is estimated at \$43,200. The period of both officers travel is from 27 February to 13 March 2009.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 048

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of having received any advice from any other Department in relation to how to respond to FOI requests.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 049

Topic: Freedom of Information Requests

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many FOI requests has the Department received in the 2008 calendar year and from 1 July 2008 to 16 March 2009?

How many have been granted or denied?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

The following information about FOI requests that the Department has received is for:

1. The 2008 calendar year:

- **Number of requests received:** 36
 - 16 primary decisions
 - 4 granted in full
 - 6 granted in part
 - 6 denied
 - 4 transferred
 - 12 withdrawn
 - 4 on hand at 31 December 2008
- **Number of conclusive certificates issued in relation to FOI requests:** No conclusive certificates were issued.

2. The period from 1 July 2008 to 16 March 2009:

- **Number of requests received:** 16
 - 10 primary decisions
 - 1 granted in full
 - 6 granted in part
 - 3 denied
 - 2 transferred
 - 3 withdrawn
 - 1 on hand as at 16 March 2009
- **Number of conclusive certificates issued in relation to FOI requests:** No conclusive certificates were issued.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 062

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What changes or corrections have been made to the Government Tenders website www.tenders.gov.au since 18 February 2009?

Answer:

FaHCSIA reported details of new contracts, Funding Agreements, Standing Offer arrangements or amendments to these arrangements valued at \$10,000 or more, entered into over the preceding month on 2 March 2009. The department also published an update of its 2008-09 Annual Procurement Plan on the Government Tenders website www.tenders.gov.au on 5 March 2009.

As at 13 March 2009, addenda to 11 Requests for Tender have been loaded to the AusTender website and three Requests for Tender have closed and therefore been removed from the website, since 18 February 2009.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 063

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many consultancies are planned / budgeted for this calendar year?

Answer:

The updated 2008-09 FaHCSIA Annual Procurement Plan shows that the department is expecting to approach the market in respect of four further consultancies this financial year.

The number of consultancies forecast for the second half of the calendar year is not yet known but will be reflected in the department's 2009-10 Annual Procurement Plan. The Plan will be published on the AusTender website before 1 July 2009, in accordance with the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines* (clause 7.15).

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 064

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

- A. Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not?
- B. In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

- A. Yes.
- B. As required by the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*, the Annual Procurement Plan includes details of the subject matter of any planned procurement and the estimated date of the publication of the approach to market.

The other information specified in the question is not known until after the award of a contract. Full details of awarded contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more are published on the AusTender website within six weeks of the contract start date.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 067

Topic: Economic Security Strategy letters

Hansard Page: CA 9 – 26/2

Senator Scullion asked:

Please provide a copy of the Economic Security Strategy payment letters.

Answer:

Attached are copies of the final mock up versions of customer letters sent to all customer groups eligible for the Economic Security Strategy payments.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 068

Topic: Economic Security Strategy letters

Hansard Page: CA10-26/2

Senator Scullion asked:

What information was released on the day of the announcement?

Answer:

Attached are links to three Media Releases by the Prime Minister of Australia on the 14 October 2008 that provided information on the Economic Security Strategy. These Media Releases were:

Joint Press Release with, the Treasurer, Wayne Swan - Economic Security Strategy.

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0550.cfm

Joint Press Release with the Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and Minister for Families, Jenny Macklin - \$4.8 Billion down payment to help Pensioners, Seniors and Carers.

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0544.cfm

Joint Media Release with the Treasurer, Minister for Families – Australian Families to receive \$3.9 Billion in Rudd Government Support.

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0545.cfm

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 437

Topic: NTER Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What sort of budget will this strategy require to ensure more indigenous recruitment and can you provide a breakdown of funding for this?

Answer:

The funding allocated for the strategy for 2008-09 was \$473,972.

The funding allocation covers Entry Level Training, Recruitment and Retention and Mentoring and Leadership programs.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 001

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many SES positions were there in this department as at:

- 24 November 2007
- 26 February 2009

Answer:

As at 24 November 2007 the department had 122 SES staff.

As at 26 February 2009 the department had 122 SES staff.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 009

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

I note that the Government has introduced new legislation – the Federal Financial Relations Bill – which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States. Does your department/agency receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Dept? What are these?

Answer:

Payments to the States and Territories will no longer be appropriated to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs through annual appropriations.

The annual Appropriation Acts will not appropriate amounts to be paid as National Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) or National Partnership payments to the States and Territories.

Instead, the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* provides for standing appropriations for the National Disabilities Services SPP and the National Affordable Housing SPP. The *Act* also provides for the Treasurer, through a written determination, to credit amounts to the COAG Reform Fund for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the States in the form of National Partnership payments.

The Treasurer will make a determination at the start of each month for payments to be paid in that month. Amounts transferred to the COAG Reform Fund special account from other special accounts are the only payments that will not be included in these determinations.

The COAG Reform Fund will be used to disburse National Partnership payments and general purpose financial assistance to the States under the new federal financial framework.

No appropriations will be transferred to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury). Existing annual appropriations for 2008-09 will lapse. The Department of Finance and Deregulation will quarantine these appropriations to ensure agencies can not draw down on them. The appropriations through the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* are new appropriations, including payments due in the remainder of 2008-09.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 018

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the Department/Agency on 1 July 2008?

Answer:

The total FTE staffing level for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs at 1 July 2008 was 2724.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 022

Topic: Program underspends/lapsing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year?

Answer:

Underspending programs will be known at the end of the financial year.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 030

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Would there be any increase in this cost if such clips were copied to shadow ministers' offices?

Answer:

Yes.

Based on the commercial arrangement FaHCSIA has with Media Monitors and the Department's forecast estimated expenditure on clippings this financial year, for each shadow minister the estimated annual cost would be approximately \$32,000 for hard copy clips and \$84,000 for online delivery.

In the case of hard copy clips, a new service would need to be established to produce and deliver the clips because Minister Macklin, Minister Plibersek, Parliamentary Secretary Shorten and the Department no longer receive printed clips.

In the case of online delivery of clips, Copyright Agency Limited advises that shadow ministers would be considered as separate entities and therefore cannot be given access to the Department's electronic clips account. New and separate accounts would need to be established.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 040

Topic: Department Advertising

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake?

For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs)

Answer:

This financial year, the Department has implemented one communication campaign for the Economic Security Strategy Payments to families and is currently implementing a campaign for the First Home Owners Boost.

The total spend for the Economic Security Strategy Payments to families campaign was \$3,712,119. In addition to design, call centre, despatch, research and evaluation costs totalling \$351,588, this includes an expenditure of \$1,382,013 on press advertising, \$1,319,649 on radio advertising, \$200,000 on digital advertising, \$379,354 on advertising to audiences from non-English speaking backgrounds, \$70,387 on advertising to Indigenous audiences and \$9,128 on radio for the print handicapped.

The total spend to date for the First Home Owners Boost campaign is \$3,222,714. The anticipated total spend for the campaign is \$6,195,700. In addition to call centre, creative development, public relations, despatch, translation, research and evaluation costs totalling \$1,446,671, this includes an expenditure of \$1,543,757 on press advertising, \$389,888 on magazine advertising, \$1,204,811 on radio advertising, \$638,000 on digital advertising, \$269,401 on advertising to audiences from non-English speaking backgrounds, \$104,120 on advertising to Indigenous audiences, \$10,542 on radio for the print handicapped, \$588,510 in outdoor advertising.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 065

Topic: ESS Advertising

Hansard Page: CA7 – 26/2

Senator Bernardi asked:

Please provide a copy of the advertising guidelines and the date of the guidelines were announced.

Answer:

The Guidelines on Campaign Advertising by Australian Government Departments were announced in June 2008. A full copy of the Guidelines is available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation website at <http://www.finance.gov.au/Advertising/guidelines-on-campaign-advertising.html>

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 066

Topic: Advertising Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA8 – 26/2

Senator Bernardi asked:

What is the expenditure over the last 12 years on advertising campaigns for government initiatives?

Answer:

Expenditure on advertising campaign media over the last 12 years as placed through the Central Advertising System can be found in the report titled 'Campaign Advertising by Australian Government Departments and Agencies - Half Year Report 1 July to 31 December 2008'. This report can be found on the Department of Finance and Deregulation's website at <http://www.finance.gov.au/Advertising/docs/biannual-report.pdf>

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 71

Topic: Minister for Social Inclusion

Hansard Page: CA12-26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Who is the Minister for Inclusion? Is it correct that the Office for Social Inclusion, which was the Prime Minister's department, is moving to FaHCSIA?

Answer:

These are matters for determination by the Prime Minister.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 126

Topic: Increase in AHL operating costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senators Payne asked:

How does the department explain the 11.1% increase in operating costs over the same period?

Answer:

AHL has revised and resubmitted the answer for Question 109 regarding AHL operating costs as follows:

The table below contains long term data that provides a broader perspective showing AHL operational costs (excluding wages) have increased steadily over the last three financial years to 2007-08. The increase is mainly attributable to the commencement of the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) in January 2005, a program controlled by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). AHL has been contracted as a provider for accommodation at 10 approved locations in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Newcastle, Dubbo, Canberra, Shepparton, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

Table: AHL company expenditure summary 2005-06 to 2007-08 (\$'000)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
AHL expenditure (excluding wage & salary payments)	16,654	17,921	18,871

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Output Group: Cross

Questions No: 422

Topic: Same-sex couples

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Please provide a breakdown by payment type, age and sex of the number of same-sex individuals estimated by the department to now be eligible for being assessed as a member of a couple?

Answer:

The table provides estimates of the number of recipients of Centrelink payments in a same-sex de facto relationship. These estimates have been derived by applying a factor for the proportion of people in a same-sex relationship (from the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics census) to Centrelink administrative data.

Payment Type	Estimated Same Sex Customers in a de facto relationship
Age Pension	7,540
Austudy	80
Carer Payment	510
Disability Support Pension	2,700
Family Assistance	11,120
Mobility Allowance	200
Newstart Allowance	1,750
Parenting Payment Partnered	0*
Parenting Payment Single	1,290
Partner Allowance	0*
Sickness Allowance	30
Special Benefit	20
Widow Allowance	140
Youth Allowance	1,050
TOTAL	26,430

* Under current social security law, eligibility for Parenting Payment Partnered and Partner Allowance include membership of a couple which does not include same-sex couples.

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Output Group: Cross

Questions No: 433

Topic: Same-sex couples

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

- a) Would the Minister please provide a breakdown by payment type, age and sex of the number of same-sex individuals estimated by the department to now be eligible for being assessed as a member of a couple?
- b) Based on the above, could the minister elaborate how many of these customers are anticipated to be in a same-sex relationship and may have their payment reduced?
- c) Could the minister further elaborate what the average reduction amount is anticipated to be per person affected by now being assessed as member of a couple?

Answer:

- a) The below table provides estimates of the number of recipients of Centrelink payments in a same-sex de facto relationship. These estimates have been derived by applying a factor for the proportion of people in a same-sex relationship (from the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics census) to Centrelink administrative data.

Payment Type	Estimated Same Sex Customers in a de facto relationship
Age Pension	7,540
Austudy	80
Carer Payment	510
Disability Support Pension	2,700
Family Assistance	11,120
Mobility Allowance	200
Newstart Allowance	1,750
Parenting Payment Partnered	0*
Parenting Payment Single	1,290
Partner Allowance	0*
Sickness Allowance	30
Special Benefit	20
Widow Allowance	140
Youth Allowance	1,050
TOTAL	26,430

* Under current social security law, eligibility for Parenting Payment Partnered and Partner Allowance include membership of a couple which does not include same-sex couples.

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- b) The number of customers listed in the table at answer a) above may have their payment reduced.
- b) Average reduction amounts are not available as payment eligibility and rate depend on a number of factors, including the income and assets of the individual and their partner. Individual rates will vary according to a recipient's circumstances.
- c)

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 003

Topic: Finance/Budget/Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Where have savings been achieved i.e. which programs or resources have been cut?

Answer:

During 2008-09, the Department has achieved savings through:

- Reducing the number of printed copies of publications such as the annual report
- Promoting switching off IT equipment after hours
- Changing our air travel arrangements so that Senior Executive Service staff fly economy between Canberra and Sydney
- Using video conferencing wherever possible to reduce travel
- Co-locating staff to reduce the number of property holdings.

No programs have been cut to achieve the savings.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 006

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Are there any plans for staff reductions?

If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

Answer:

According to demand, there will be growth in some areas of the Department and contraction in others, completely in line with normal government processes.

If any reduction proves necessary, options to do so will include:

- Staff attrition rates;
- Redeploying staff
- Offering voluntary redundancies (not compulsory); and
- Reducing non-ongoing staff numbers.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 020

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many temporary positions exist or have been created CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date?

Answer:

As at 31 December 2008 there were 283 employees in temporary positions, and 245 as at 24 February 2009.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 025

Topic: Gershon Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How much money will be saved?

Answer:

The adjustment is currently being considered in the 2009 – 10 Budget Process. As such this is budget in confidence and cannot be released at this stage.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 026

Topic: Gershon Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Will you be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?

Answer:

Yes. This is currently being considered as part of the 2009 – 10 Budget.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 028

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How much has been spent on media monitoring FY 2008-09 YTD? How many staff in each department/agency are employed for media related duties?

Answer:

For the 2008-09 financial year to 26 February 2009, the Department spent \$168,226 on media monitoring.

At 26 February 2009, the Department employed six on-going staff for media related duties.

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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 029

Topic: Media Monitoring

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How much is the Department spending on purchasing daily media clips and on media monitoring?

Answer:

The responses to the two preceding questions on notice (number 27 and 28) provide the response to this question.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 042

Topic: Government Advertising

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What was the total spend on advertising by the Department/Agency in CY 2008 and for so far for FY 2008/09?

Answer:

The total spend on advertising by FaHCSIA in 2008 calendar year was \$5,775,198. This included \$4,172,451 on promotion of government programs; \$846,377 to call for expressions of interest and tenders; \$108,069 to announce funding rounds; \$648,301 to call for public submissions and consultations.

The total spend on the advertising by FaHCSIA financial year 2008/09 to February is \$8,114,831. This includes \$6,853,632 on promotion of government programs (including the Economic Security Strategy campaign); \$615,954 to call for expressions of interest and tenders; \$206,490 to announce funding rounds; \$438,753 to call for public submissions and consultations.

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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 045

Topic: Board Appointments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Noting the continuing order of the Senate, what is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?

Answer:

The gender ratios of ministerial appointments on each of the statutory Boards in the portfolio are:

Portfolio body	Male	Female
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	3	3
Indigenous Business Australia	3	5
Indigenous Land Corporation	5	2
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	91	144
Total	102	154

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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 046

Topic: Board Appointments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

In which states/territories do these Board members reside?

Answer:

The states/territories in which these Board members reside are:

Agency	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Indigenous Business Australia	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	2
Indigenous Land Corporation	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	2
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	50	53	2	42	18	6	46	18

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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 047

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

Yes.

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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 052

Topic: Community Cabinets

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What was the cost of Minister's travel expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates? How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel? What was the total cost to the Department for the Community Cabinet?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs provided information to the 2008 Supplementary Estimates Hearing held in October 2008 via a written Answer to a Question on Notice from Senator Bernardi regarding the above questions, Question No. 30 Amended refers. The following information is for Community Cabinet Meetings held since the October 2008 Supplementary Estimates Hearing.

Community Cabinet Meeting	Minister(s) / Parl Sec attending	Total Ministerial / Parl Sec Advisers attending	Total Departmental staff attending
Geelong, VIC Monday, 8 December 2008	Minister Macklin Minister Plibersek Parl Sec Shorten	4	5
Campbelltown, NSW Tuesday, 17 February 2009	Minister Plibersek Parl Sec Shorten	2	3

Ministers / Parliamentary Secretary travel and expenses for the above two Community Cabinet meetings, provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, are: \$1,984.51 (\$1,578.51 airfares and \$406.00 accommodation / meals / other costs).

Ministerial / Parliamentary Secretary Advisers travel and expenses for the above two Community Cabinet meetings, provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, are: \$1,899.54 (\$1,648.54 airfares and \$251.00 accommodation / meals / other costs).

Departmental travel and expenses for the above two Community Cabinet meetings are: \$1,832.45 (\$1,452.60 airfares and \$379.85 accommodation / meals / other costs).

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2008 Supplementary Estimates, October 2008

ATTACHMENT to QoN 52

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 030 (Amended)

Topic: Community Cabinets

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates? How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?

Answer:

Community Cabinet Meeting	Minister(s) attending	Ministerial Advisers attending	Departmental staff attending
Mackay, QLD Sunday, 29 June 2008	Minister Macklin Minister Plibersek	3	6
Yirrkala, NT Wednesday, 26 July 2008	Minister Macklin	4	2
Hallett Cove, SA Thursday, 14 August 2008	Minister Macklin	3	3
Newcastle, NSW Monday, 29 September 2008	Minister Macklin Minister Plibersek Parl Sec Shorten	6	4
Launceston, TAS Wednesday, 5 November 2008	Minister Macklin Minister Plibersek Parl Sec Shorten	4	4

Ministers / Parliamentary Secretary travel and expenses for the above five Community Cabinet meetings, provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, is: \$7,166.60 (\$4,540.60 airfares and \$2,626 accommodation / meals / other costs).

Ministerial / Parliamentary Secretary Advisers travel and expenses for the above five Community Cabinet meetings, provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, is: \$21,167.97 (\$17,346.97 airfares and \$3,821 accommodation / meals / other costs).

Departmental travel and expenses for the above five Community Cabinet meetings is: \$23,949.80 (\$15,306.72 airfares and \$8,643.08 accommodation / meals / other costs).

Information on the Community Cabinet meeting in Geelong VIC on 8 December 2008 has not been included as it is not yet available.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 061

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

- A. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
- B. Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the consultancy, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.

Answer:

- A. Since November 2007, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has initiated a total of 202 consultancies (as at 10 March 2009).
- B. Full details of each consultancy valued at \$10,000 or more are publicly available and are published on the Government Tenders website, AusTender.

The total value of the 202 consultancies let by FaHCSIA is \$48,910,805. Of these, \$34.5 million relates to the ongoing contract with the Melbourne Institute Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey.

Some of the consultancies may also span a number of years with the latest end date being for the HILDA survey, recorded as 31 December 2014.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 069

Topic: Promotion of Wellbeing and productivity

Hansard Page: CA11 – 26/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Has FaHCSIA organised any conferences, seminars or other organised events to promote the wellbeing and productivity of people within the organisation?

Answer:

See answer to question 70.

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2009 Additional Estimates, February 2009

Output Group: Cross

Question No: 070

Topic: Promotion of Wellbeing and Productivity

Hansard Page: CA12 – 26/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Could you give me information about those programs and let me know what area of the department has been invited to them and the cost of each of those if they were provided from resources outside of the department – over the last financial year and this year to date?

Answer:

In 2007-08, Beyond Blue conducted 50 programs for a total of 940 staff at a cost of \$36.28 per person. The workshops were provided to raise the awareness of mental health issues, and reduce the stigma associated with people who suffer from depression or anxiety.

As part of Mental Health Week in October 2008, the Department ran 4 workshops to promote the benefits of relaxation and meditation for staff. These workshops were conducted during the lunch period. The workshops were provided at no cost to the Department and were attended by 39 staff.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 072

Topic: Parliamentary Secretary for Victoria Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA14 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you take me through the department's role and what Mr Shorten's particular responsibilities will be? [as his appointment as parliamentary secretary for the Vic Bushfires]

Answer:

As Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, Mr Shorten will be responsible for assisting the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in coordinating the Commonwealth Government's efforts to help rebuild the lives, homes and communities which have been devastated by the recent bushfires. As part of that role, Mr Shorten will work closely with the various Commonwealth Ministers with portfolio responsibilities in the area, as well as with the Victorian Government, local government authorities, charitable organisations and the private sector.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 073

Topic: Parliamentary Secretary for Victoria Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA15 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide the administrative arrangements around Mr Shorten's appointment?

Answer:

As Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Mr Shorten has been sworn to administer the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 074

Topic: Program benefits

Hansard Page: CA17 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

How many individuals receive benefits from the government under programs administered by FaHCSIA in 2007-08, and the last half of 2008 to current? And can it be split into regular and one-off payments?

Answer:

Most numbers were extracted from the Annual report. Annual report numbers are point in time or ‘snapshot’ data (excluding one off payments) – that is, how many people on payment at a certain time.

It should be noted that customers can be in receipt of multiple payments.

eg. A customer can be in receipt of Carer Payment AND Carer Allowance at the same time.

Wife Pensions – Age and DSP have not been granted since 1995 and Widows B Pension has not been granted since 1997. Numbers have been sourced from FaHCSIA Annual Reports.

Fortnightly Payments

Age Pension

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 1,952,686
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 2,039,305
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 2,064,360

Note: December 2008 Age pension numbers do not include the DVA component

Disability Support Pension (DSP)

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 714,156
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 732,367
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 740,657

Carer Payment

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 116,614
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 130,657
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 138,503

Carer Allowance

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 393,263
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 422,905

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- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 443,752

Special Benefit

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 6,244
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 6,003
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 5,715

Bereavement Allowance

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 553
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 464
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 137

Wife Pension – Age

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 13,395
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 12,380

Wife Pension – DSP

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 22,175
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 17,236

Widows B Pension

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 683
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 660

Double Orphan Pension

- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2007 was 1,330
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 1,440

Family Tax Benefit part A

- Number of Customers who were receiving as at June 2007 was 1,834,626
- Number of Customers who were receiving benefit as at June 2008 was 1,811,000
- Number of Customers in receipt of benefit as at December 2008 was 1,720,422

Community Development Employment Project

- Number of CDEP recipients as at 31 July 07 was 23,187
- Number of CDEP recipients as at 31 July 08 was 18,186

Note: CDEP was not administered by FaHCSIA until 3 December 07; and Due to NTER, some CDEP participants were transitioned from CDEP wages to Income support payments, so there is a high chance of CDEP customers being counted under other Income Support payments for the same time period.

One-off Payments

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Maternity Immunisation Allowance

- Number of Customers who received benefit during the 2007-08 f/y is 260,000
- Number of Customers who received benefit from 1/7/08 to 31/12/08 is 134,434

Baby Bonus Payment - commenced on 1/7/07

- Number of Customers who received benefit during the 2007-08 f/y is 285,000
- Number of Customers who received benefit from 1/7/08 to 28/2/09 is 173,800

Crisis Payment

- Number of Customers who received benefit during the 2007-08 f/y is 51,747
- Number of Customers who had received benefit from 1/7/08 to 6/3/09 was 39,139

FTB lump sums Emergency Relief and Disaster Relief are not included due to time restraints.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 075

Topic: Media monitoring

Hansard Page: CA18 - 26/2

Senator Scullion asked:

What will be the percentage increased cost if media clips were provided to the shadow Parliamentary Secretaries?

Answer:

Based on FaHCSIA's 2007-08 annual media monitoring expenditure and the commercial arrangement FaHCSIA has with Media Monitors, the percentage increase per shadow Parliamentary Secretary would be approximately 9 per cent for hard copy clips and 24 per cent for online delivery, per annum.

It should be noted that from July 2008, Minister Macklin, Minister Plibersek, Parliamentary Secretary Shorten and the Department no longer receive printed clips.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 436

Topic: NTER Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Do you have any more information regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Strategy?

If not, when is this going to be up and running?

If the strategy has been introduced, when will results of this be available?

Answer:

The current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2006 – 09 (Strategy) focuses on attracting highly skilled and motivated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to FaHCSIA, developing them so that they have both broad-based and specialised skills that will equip them to contribute to the department's business objectives and retaining them by providing them with a supportive work environment.

The current Strategy is due to expire in June 2009 and consultations on the review and renewal of the Strategy are currently underway. It is anticipated that the renewed Strategy will be launched in July 2009 in keeping with our 2008 – 09 Reconciliation Action Plan commitment.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 014

Topic: Depreciation Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How much has your department/agency spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?

Answer:

The department has spent approximately \$8.8m on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 032

Topic: IT and Telephone equipment issued to Ministerial Staff

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many laptops, mobile phones and PDAs does the Department provide to the personal staff of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer:

- Minister Macklin's office has 9 laptops, 2 mobile phones and 9 Blackberry PDAs.
- Minister Plibersek's office has 5 laptops and 5 Blackberry PDAs.
- Parliamentary Secretary Shorten's Office has 4 laptops and 6 Blackberry PDAs.
- Parliamentary Secretary Stephens' Office has 2 laptops.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 023

Topic: Program underspends/lapsings

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many of the Department's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year?

Answer:

No Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' funding programs/budget measures will lapse in the financial year ending 30 June 2009.

In accordance with the Budget process, lapsing programs/measures are those where funding has not been specified as ongoing or terminating at a specified date. There is provision for funding in the forward estimates, but no decision has been made on its continuation beyond the lapsing date.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 055

Topic: Departmental Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

How many reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency?

When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Which reviews have been completed since Supplementary Budget Estimates 2008?

When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

What is the total number of reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007? What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?

What further reviews are planned for 2009?

Answer:

As when we have previously answered these questions, we have focused on publicly announced committees initiated by the Department or one of its Ministers. We have explicitly excluded work in respect of Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, COAG Working Groups, internal committees, etc.

Reviews currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio/agency are as previously indicated in Question on Notice 31 to Senator Bernardi (2008 Supplementary Estimates, October 2008). The only variations to these previous answers are that:

- (a) the Pension Review, which forms part of the broader Inquiry into Australia's Future Tax System, was completed on 28 February 2009;
- (b) the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children review was concluded on 19 March 2009;
- (c) a Productivity Commission's review of the contribution of the not-for-profit sector to Australian society, which was announced by the Government on 17 March 2009 is anticipated to conclude at the end of December 2009;
- (d) a Print Disability Program (PDP) review is due to report in August 2009;
- (e) a National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) review is due to report on 30 June 2009; and
- (f) a post-implementation review of the National Rental Affordability Scheme is due to report in June 2009.

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Reviews to be concluded are as previously indicated in Question on Notice 31 to Senator Bernardi (2008 Supplementary Estimates, October 2008). Additions are that:

- (a) the Pension Review, which forms part of the broader Inquiry into Australia's Future Tax System, was completed on 28 February 2009;
- (b) the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children review was concluded on 19 March 2009;
- (c) a Productivity Commission's review of the contribution of the not-for-profit sector to Australian society, which was announced by the Government on 17 March 2009 is anticipated to conclude at the end of December 2009;
- (d) a Print Disability Program (PDP) review is due to report in August 2009;
- (e) a National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) review is due to report on 30 June 2009; and
- (f) a post-implementation review of the National Rental Affordability Scheme is due to report in June 2009.

Reviews that have been completed since Supplementary Budget Estimates 2008:

- (a) the Pension Review, which was concluded on 28 February 2009; and
- (b) the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, which concluded on 19 March 2009.

It has also come to our attention that in previous responses to QoN's FaHCSIA has inadvertently left out information on an internal review of its Community Programs, as part of the Government's Program by Program Review, which was concluded on 8 December 2008. This review was funded from within existing departmental resources.

As previously indicated in Question on Notice 31 to Senator Bernardi (2008 Supplementary Estimates, October 2008), the government will be responding in accordance to its responsibilities in relation to all completed reviews.

The total number of reviews completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio/agency are as previously indicated in Question on Notice 31 to Senator Bernardi (2008 Supplementary Estimates, October 2008). The only variations to these previous answers are that:

- (a) the Pension Review, which forms part of the broader Inquiry into Australia's Future Tax System, was completed on 28 February 2009;
- (b) the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children review was concluded on 19 March 2009;
- (c) a Productivity Commission's review of the contribution of the not-for-profit sector to Australian society, which was announced by the Government on 17 March 2009 is anticipated to conclude at the end of December 2009;
- (d) a Print Disability Program (PDP) review is due to report in August 2009;
- (e) a National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) review is due to report on 30 June 2009; and

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(f) a post-implementation review of the National Rental Affordability Scheme is due to report in June 2009.

As mentioned above, in previous responses to QoN's FaHCSIA has inadvertently left out information on the Community Programs Review, which was concluded on 8 December 2008.

As previously indicated, a significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and calculate the total estimated costs of all reviews undertaken within FaHCSIA and outside the portfolio since November 2007.

In terms of further reviews planned for 2009, under the Social Housing National Partnership Agreement, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to undertake reviews to address the supply shortfalls in housing and possible payment of Commonwealth funding assistance for social housing through means such as Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 043

Topic: FaHCSIA Hospitality expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the Department's hospitality spend CY 2008 and FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

- 1) Our financial system is not configured to accurately provide this level of detail without significant resourcing implications.
- 2) Expenses recorded as hospitality in FaHCSIA's system include:
 - Community consultations convened by the Department, including conferences;
 - Hosting delegations (international obligations);
 - Working lunches/morning and afternoon teas associated with planning days;
 - Workshops;
 - Training; and
 - Staff reward and recognition events and payments.

The last four of these relate to business operations expenses which are not Official Hospitality.

- 3) We are currently putting in place changes which should allow us to provide this information more easily in the future.
- 4) We can provide the total expenditure recorded as Hospitality for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years as well as the current FYTD figure which, in proportion to total departmental expenditure, is trending downwards, notwithstanding that this financial year the department has held extensive consultations in relation to the Pension Review.

Financial Year	Hospitality Spend \$
2006-07	622,450
2007-08	519,186
2008-09 ytd to 30 April 2009	411,099

- 5) Hospitality expenditure for the calendar year 2008 was \$602,367.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 044

Topic: FaHCSIA Hospitality expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

For each Minister/Parl Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend CY2008 and FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

This question should be referred to the Department of Finance and Deregulation. There are events that Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attend which involve hospitality funded by the department, however, none of these qualify as a hospitality spend by either Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries.

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 142

Topic: Payments – Note 15

Hansard Page: CA60 – 27/2

Senator Brandis asked:

Who are the payees of those sums?

Answer:

Refer attached schedules which lists payees for each of the financial years 05/06, 06/07, 07/08.

Alpha sorted	
Payees 2005/6	
AC = Aboriginal Corporation	
Aaki AC	Tnyimiputa AC
Abbott AC	Turlpartha AC
Alkngarintja AC	Twetye AC
Angatyepe AC	Tynimiputa AC
Angkerle Irenge AC	Tywenpe AC
Antjakwera AC	Urapuntja Artists
Anumarru AC	Walkungurru AC
Areyonga Community Inc	Wangarri-Kari AC
Armstrong AC	Warlpiri AC
Arrilhjere AC	Western Outstation Community Development AC
Central Land Council (Reimb. Fuel)	Wstrn Des Nganampa Walytja AC
Elitja AC	Wulguna AC
Granites Mine Affected Area AC	Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu AC
Haasts Bluff AC	Yipirinya School Council Inc
Ilkarralama AC	
Inbinba Atwatye AC	
Inkamala AC	Traditional Owners - misc/on behalf of
Ipolera AC	Angela Purvis
Iteyepentye AC	Annie Purvis
Itperlyenge AC	Barbara Price
Janganpa AC	Barbara Tjikatu
Jipalalki AC	Bob Purvis
Jirrgow AC	Brian Payne
Kaltukatjara Community Council	Bunny Ampetyane
Karlantijpa AC	Bunny Pope
Kurra AC	Cassidy Uluru
Malthouse AC	Daisy Walkabout
Mamingirri AC	David Mpetyan
McNamara AC	Dorothy Ampetyane
Mirrena AC	Elsie Malbunka
Mistake Creek AC	Gracie Price
Mulluyu AC	Harold Payne
Mutitjulu Community Inc	Jim Nukuti
Ngapa AC	Johnny Tingo
Ngatijirri AC	Judy Trigger
Ngaywalyalya AC	Julie Purvis
Ngumar AC	Ken Tilmouth
Ngurratjuta Pmara AC	Malya Temay
Ninu AC	Margaret Anawari
Ntjalka AC	Michael Carr
Patina AC	Myrtle Mpetyan
Patta AC	Patch Price
Perte Therre AC	Peggy Purvis
Pirlingarna AC	Percy Payne
Petermann Paranyakupayi Anangku AC	Peter Purvis
Ratara AC	Phyllis Price
Red Sandhill AC	Pixie Brown
Renkaraka AC	Ray Nelson
Rontji AC	Ray Penangk
Roulpmaulpma AC	Regge Uluru
Santos Ltd	Richard Kulitja
Smith AC	Robin Purvis
Taliparnta AC	Rosemary Price
Tennant Region AC	Traditional Owners - misc/on behalf of
Thuiparta AC	U/Pynt Aljawara Comp
Tjunkupu AC	Wendy Purvis
Tjuwanpa Outstation Resources Centre	
Therte AC	
Tnerte Irrkentye AC	

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Alpha sorted	
Payees 2006/07	
AC = Aboriginal Corporation	
Aaki AC	Tennant Region AC
Abbott AC	Thuiparta AC
Alkngarintja AC	Tjunkupu AC
Angatyepe AC	Tnerte AC
Angkerle Irenege AC	Tnerte Irrkentye AC
Antjakwera AC	Tnyimiputa AC
Anumarru AC	Turlpartna AC
Anumarru Piti AC	Twetye AC
Anumaru AC	Tywenpe AC
Armstrong AC	Walkungkurru AC
Arrilhjere AC	Wangarri-Kari AC
Central Land Council	Warlpiri AC
Cyril Duncan O/station	Western Outstation Community Development AC
Elitja AC	Wulguna AC
Granites Mine Affected Area AC	Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu AC
Haasts Bluff AC	Yipirinya School Council Inc
Hermannsburg Historical Society Inc	
Ilkarralama AC	Traditional Owners - misc/on behalf of
Inbinba Atwatye AC	Anslem Impu
Inkamala AC	B Breaden
Ipolera AC	B Pope
Itperlyenge AC	C Ratara
Janganpa AC	Caltex
Jipalalki AC	D Alice
Jirngow AC	D Ryder
Karlantija AC	Douglas Toby
Kurra AC	E Alice
Malikijarra AC	Elders Ltd Merchandise
Malthouse AC	F Gorey
Mamangirri AC	Helimuster NT Operation Pty Ltd
Marlamarla AC	Hubert Pareroultja
McNamara AC	K Coulthard
Mirrena AC	Laucke Mills
Mistake Creek AC	Ltyentye Apurte Cncl Cattle Proj
Mt Theo Yuendumu Sub Misuse AC	Mt Dennison Station
Mulluyu AC	Ned Impu
Native Title Traditional Owners	R Coulthard
Ngapa AC	Roy Rusty
Ngatijirri AC	T Furber
Ngayuwarntu AC	T Long
Ngaywalyalya AC	Tanami Transport
Ngumar AC	Tim Lander Contractors
Ngurratjuta Pmara AC	W Brown
Ngurruwaji AC	W Davis
Ninu AC	Yuendumu Comm Govt Council
Ntjalka AC	
Patina AC	
Petermann Paranyakupayi Anangku AC	
Pirlingarna AC	
Ratara AC	
Red Sandhill AC	
Renkaraka AC	
Rontji AC	
Roulpaulpoma AC	

Alpha sorted	
Payees 2007/08	
AC = Aboriginal Corporation	
Abbott AC	Roulpmalpma AC
Alkgnarintja AC	Roulpmalpma AC
Alkngarintja AC	Smith AC
Angatyepe AC	South East Arrernte Region AC
Antjakwera AC	Taliparnta AC
Anumarru Piti AC	Tanami Mine Affected Area AC
Anumarru AC	Tennant Region AC
Armstrong AC	Thuiparta AC
Arrilhjere AC	Tjunkupu AC
Elitjia AC	Tnerte AC
Granites Mine Affected Area AC	Tnerte Irrkentye AC
Haasts Bluff AC	Tnyimiputa AC
Ilkarralama AC	Turlparnta AC
Inbinba Atwatye AC	Twetye AC
Inkamala AC	Tynimiputa AC
Ipolera AC	Tywenpe AC
Itperlyennge AC	Wangarri-Kari AC
Janganpa AC	Warlpiri AC
Kurra AC	Were Therre AC
Kwalye Kwalye AC	Western Outstation Community Development AC
Malikijarra AC	Wstn O/Stns Ent Devt AC
Malthouse AC	Wulguna AC
McNamara AC	Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu AC
Mirrena AC	
Mt Theo Yuendumu Substance Misuse AC	Traditional Owners - misc/on behalf of
Mutitjulu Community Council Inc	Anslem Impu
Native Title Traditional Owners	C Ratara
Ngapa AC	Douglas Toby
Ngatijirri AC	Hubert Pareroultja
Ngayuwarntu AC	Ned Impu
Ngaywalyalya AC	Roy Rusty
Ngumar AC	
Ngurratjuta Pmara AC	
Ngurruwaji AC	
Ninu AC	
Ntjalka AC	
Palm Valley OL3 AC	
Patina AC	
Perte Therre AC	
Pirlingarna AC	
Pmere Aningke AC	
Ratara AC	
Red Sandhill AC	
Renkaraka AC	
Rontji AC	

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Output Group: Cross

Question No: 143

Topic: Walpuri Trust

Hansard Page: CA62 – 27/2

Senator Brandis asked:

In the 2008 financial year, did the Central Land Council pay any monies into the Walpuri trust?

Answer:

No.

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NTER CROSS AGENCY SUMMARY REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2009			\$m		
THEME	AGENCY	MEASURE	Total Admin Budget for 2008/0	YTD Admin Expenditure to 31 Jan 2009	% Spent
Coordination	FaHCSIA	Government Business Managers			
	FaHCSIA	Leadership and Coordination Activities	12.0	3.0	25.0%
	FaHCSIA	Community Engagement	0.9	0.0	0.0%
	FaHCSIA	Remote Accommodation			
	Omb Off.	Commonwealth Ombudsman Support			0.2
Enhancing Education	DEEWR	Enhancing Education	18.6	0.0	0.0%
	DEEWR	School Nutrition	6.9	2.2	31.8%
	DEEWR	Greater Enrolment; + 200 Teachers	11.6	4.3	37.1%
Employment & Welfare Reform	FaHCSIA	Income Man't - FaHCSIA only	5.2	1.7	32.8%
	DHS	Income Man't - Centrelink only			52.0
	DEEWR	Further Welfare & Emp Reform (1)	44.8	17.2	38.4%
	DHS	Debit Card Set Up			3.6
	DHS	Centrelink Services and Activities			6.1
Improving Health	FaHCSIA	NTER - Flexible Funding -Special A/C	68.0	68.0	100.0%
	DoHA	Follow Up Health Care	13.6	7.6	55.9%
	DoHA	Improve Child and Family Health	39.0	15.7	40.3%
Promoting Law & Order	ACC	Violence & Child Abuse Taskforce			4.2
	AGD	Indigenous Legal Aid	2.0	1.5	75.0%
	AGD	Aboriginal Interpreter service	0.7	0.5	73.2%
	AGD	Night Patrol services	17.1	6.4	37.5%
	AGD (AFP)	Promoting Law & Order (AFP)			9.2
Supporting Families	FaHCSIA	Promoting Law & Order	11.0	2.6	23.6%
	DEEWR	Creches	2.3	0.7	31.1%
	FaHCSIA	Early Childhood Programs	0.4	0.1	20.0%
	FaHCSIA	Playgroups	0.7	0.2	29.7%
	FaHCSIA	Family Support Package	9.5	0.0	0.0%
Total			272.9	134.0	49.1%
(1) Plus Special Approp - part of DEEWR item shown above as \$65.9m (PBS value is \$66.4m)					0.453
Total NTER Appropriation (Resourcing)					460.4
The PBS (Fiscal Balance) value for the above is \$451.5m - the difference of \$8.9m. is depreciation					

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National Rental Affordability Scheme
ACTUAL & ESTIMATED DWELLINGS FOR 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR

State or Territory By Capital City and/or Regional Areas	Ready for Rent or rented now	Ready for rent by 30 June 2009	Total
NSW – Sydney	73	62	135
NSW – Regional Areas	nil	57	57
NSW total	73	119	192
Vic – Melbourne	Nil	66	66
VIC total	Nil	66	66
Qld – Regional Areas	6	20	26
QLD total	6	20	26
WA – Perth	Nil	47	47
WA - Regional Area	Nil	35	35
WA total	Nil	82	82
SA – Adelaide	40	112	152
SA total	40	112	152
Tas – Hobart	12	156	168
Tas – Regional Area	23	84	107
TAS total	35	240	275
ACT – Canberra	Nil	37	37
ACT total		37	37
TOTAL	154	676	830

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National Rental Affordability Scheme
LOCATIONS OF NRAS DWELLINGS READY TO RENT OR RENTED

Locations by Jurisdiction	Number
NSW	
Fairfield NSW 2165	8
Leumeah NSW 2560	50
Oxley Park NSW 2760	15
NSW total	73
QLD	
Southport Goldcoast QLD 4215	6
QLD total	6
SA	
Adelaide SA 5000	16
Hampstead Gardens SA 5086	12
Richmond SA 5033	12
SA total	40
TAS	
Blackmans Bay TAS 7052	2
Howrah TAS 7018	4
Kingston TAS 7050	7
Margate TAS 7054	9
Port Sorell TAS 7307	12
Shorewell Park TAS 7320	1
TAS total	35
Total	154

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National Rental Affordability Scheme
LOCATIONS OF DWELLINGS YET TO BE CONSTRUCTED

State of reserved allocation	Number of Allocations
NSW	434
VIC	379
QLD	442
WA	361
SA	382
TAS	592
ACT	56
TOTAL	2646

Locations of reserved allocations	Number
New South Wales	
2150 *	3
2170 *	3
2250 *	8
2259 *	3
2444 *	5
Bankstown NSW 2200	62
Bega NSW 2550	10
Canley Vale NSW 2166	26
Cardiff NSW 2285	88

Locations of reserved allocations	Number
Victoria	
Avondale Heights VIC 3034	100
Dandenong Victoria	100
Footscray VIC 3011	179
TOTAL	379
Queensland	
Bellmere QLD 4510	10
Coomera QLD 4209	10

Locations of reserved allocations	Number
Western Australia	
Armadale WA 6112	94
Ballajura WA 6066	25
Beechboro WA 6063	10
Bertram WA 6167	9
Brookdale WA 6112	60
Broome Kimberely WA 6725	24
Coolbellup WA 6163	22
Ellenbrook WA 6069	14
Kelmscott WA 6111	25

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Cessnock NSW 2325	11	Gympie QLD 4570	14	Langford WA 6147	29
Charmhaven, Wyong NSW 2259	12	Holmview QLD 4207	40	Midland WA 6056	10
Edgeworth NSW 2285	21	Kelso QLD 4815	15	Pinjarra WA 6208	35
Gosford NSW 2250	28	Maryborough QLD 4650	50	Wungong WA 6112	4
Macarthur NSW 2560	12	Newstead QLD 4006	30	TOTAL	361
Maroubra NSW 2035	8	Ningi QLD 4511	10		
Oxley Park NSW 2760	1	Pialba QLD 4655	56		
Picton NSW 2571	60	Redbank Plains QLD 4301	30		
Smithfield NSW 2164	50	Southport Goldcoast QLD 4215	94		
St Marys NSW 2760	8	Tanah Merah QLD 4128	83		
Wallsend NSW 2287	3	TOTAL	442		
Worrigee NSW 2540	12				
TOTAL	434				

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Locations of reserved allocations	Number
South Australia	
Adelaide SA 5000	189
Black Forest SA 5035	1
Blair Athol SA 5084	5
Brighton SA 5048	2
Claren CC Gardens SA 5039	1
Edwardstown SA 5039	1
Elizabeth East SA 5112	10
Elizabeth North SA 5113	20
Elizabeth South SA 5112I	12
Evandale SA 5069	4
Fullarton SA 5063	2
Glenelg SA 5045	2
Glenelg South SA 5045	1
Greenacres SA 5086	2
Hampstead Gardens SA 5086	10
Kensington Gardens SA 5068	1
Kurralta Park SA 5037	1
Largs North SA 5016	5
Mitchell Park Central SA 5043	18
Modbury SA 5092	2
Myrtle Bank SA 5069	2

Locations of reserved allocations	Number
Tasmania	
7010 *	2
7011 *	10
7030 *	16
7248 *	6
7250 *	14
Bicheno TAS 7215	6
Burnie TAS 7320	78
Claremont TAS 7011	10
Devonport TAS 7310	24
East Devonport TAS 7310	2
Glenorchy TAS 7010	22
Huonville TAS 7109	16
Kingston TAS 7050	89
Latrobe TAS 7307	23
Launceston TAS 7250	18
Miandetta TAS 7310	3
Midway Point TAS 7171	24
New Norfolk TAS 7140	20
Port Sorell TAS 7307	12
Ravenswood TAS 7250	2
Risdon Vale TAS 7016	2

Locations of reserved allocations	Number
Australian Capital Territory	
Forde ACT 2914	20
Holt ACT 2615	31
Kaleen ACT 2617	2
Latham ACT 2615	1
Lyons ACT 2606	1
Pearce ACT 2607	1
TOTAL	56

FINAL NUMBER	2646
* Suburb in which dwelling will be constructed not known	

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Northfield SA 5058	28
Park Holme SA 5043	2
Richmond SA 5033	58
Thebarton SA 5031	1
Victor Harbour SA 5211	1
Woodville Gardens SA 5012	1
TOTAL	382

Rocherlea TAS 7248	8
Rokeby TAS 7019	14
Shorewell Park TAS7320	18
Sorell TAS 7172	30
Springfield TAS 7260	3
St Helens TAS 7216	15
Swansea TAS 7190	10
Triabunna TAS 7190	34
Waverley TAS 7250	1
Wellard	40
West Ulverstone TAS 7315	5
Wynyard TAS 7325	15
TOTAL	592

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 129

Topic: Housing in Aboriginal Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Are you aware that some studies have shown only 6 per cent of houses in Aboriginal communities have functioning fridges?

If so, what are you doing to ensure the problem is solved?

Answer:

The Government acknowledges that a range of studies have been undertaken over many years concerning Indigenous housing and is particularly interested in those which address Indigenous disadvantage and related Closing the Gap targets.

Recent research conducted by Associate Professor Paul Torzillo and published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (vol 32, no 1) found that only 6 per cent of nutritional hardware is functional in some Aboriginal communities. This finding included but was not limited to the functionality of fridges.

The Fixing Houses for Better Health program is a Government initiative that trains and employs local Indigenous community members to survey and fix critical “health hardware” items such as taps, toilets, drains, showers, hot water systems and electrical fittings.

The ongoing delivery of the Fixing Houses for Better Health program directly addresses the issues raised in the study by improving the conditions of essential household amenities. Fixing Houses for Better Health program assists by tackling the deplorable housing conditions, chronic overcrowding and homelessness in remote Indigenous communities, improving tenancy management services and increasing housing standards to the level provided to all Australians living in public housing.

The Government also delivers a range of programs and initiatives designed to improve food security and financial literacy in communities.

Responsibility for provision of whitegoods is a matter for individuals.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 251

Topic: Early Childhood Program

Hansard Page: CA38 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

The early childhood program has had only a small amount of money allocated. Where are we with that?

Answer:

FaHCSIA's Early Childhood Program under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Supporting Families Measure comprises five facilitated playgroups and the expansion of existing early childhood services delivered under the Invest to Grow (ItG) and Indigenous Children Program (ICP). The allocation for this component is \$1,073,000 and the actual expenditure to date is \$605,000.

This allocation is broken up into 2 x Intensive Support Playgroups, 3 x Locational Support Playgroups and 4 x Expansion of Existing Early Childhood Services.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) also delivers a suite of services under the NTER Supporting Families Measure.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 252

Topic: Use of NTER Playgroups

Hansard Page: CA39 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Are the NTER playgroups being well used? Are a number of people using those services?

Answer:

In the six months to December 2008, 264 children and 92 parents/caregivers participated in two NTER-funded mobile Intensive Support Playgroups (ISPs) being delivered from Tennant Creek and Katherine. NTER-funded Locational Supported Playgroups planned for Yuendumu, Milingimbi and Numbulwar are not yet delivering services.

Three ISPs are also delivering mobile playgroup services to Indigenous families in Darwin, Wadeye and Alice Springs under the playgroups component of the Family Support Program (FSP). In the six months to December 2008, 320 children and 63 parents/caregivers participated in the Darwin and Wadeye playgroups. Current participation figures aren't available for the Alice Springs ISP, but in the six month period to December 2007, 346 children and 31 parents/caregivers attended.

There are four supported playgroups in Oenpelli, Daly River, Nhulunbuy and Tiwi in the NT that are also funded under the playgroups component of the FSP. In the five months to November 2008, 75 children and 56 parents/caregivers participated in these playgroups.

The Australian Government also funds playgroups for Indigenous families under other components of the FSP, but attendance figures are not currently available.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 253

Topic: NTER Playgroups integrating schools

Hansard Page: CA39 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

How are they integrating with schools, with kids moving from the playgroups into the school system?

Answer:

NTER playgroups form close links with schools and collaborative relationships with teachers, principals and School Liaison Officers to enhance children's transition to school. At a local level, this may include a number of strategies, such as joint activities with schools or pre-schools where these exist, inter-agency guidelines, addressing health issues to enable learning, transport and information.

For example, the Tennant Creek Intensive Support Playgroup for example, is developing a set of inter-agency protocols to guide its relationship with the School Readiness Program with the view to appropriately and sensitively linking school age children into the Tennant Creek Primary School Attendance Unit's program.

NTER playgroups deliver activities designed to strengthen the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children; improving their school-readiness. They also provide a broad range of support services to families to address issues that may be causing barriers to school attendance. This might include referrals to health services where children can have their eyes and ears checked and where parents and caregivers can receive advice on healthy eating and drug and alcohol issues. Playgroup staff have also arranged for families to receive assistance with transport and a range of advice on government programs for example, legal advocacy and emergency housing.

NTER Intensive Support Playgroups operating in the community outstations around Tennant Creek and Katherine are reporting improvements in behaviours and skills that will help young children transition from playgroup to school. Improved interaction with other children and adults, capacity to share, ability to hold pencils and colour-in, more patience and better concentration not only make children more school-ready but also improve their outcomes once they are there.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 076

Topic: Closing the Gap Annual Report

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

On what date was the Prime Minister's annual report on Closing the Gap sent to the printers?

Answer:

It was sent to the printers on 25 February 2009.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 140

Topic: Education Programs

Hansard Page: CA25-27/2

Senator Boyce asked:

What education programs are being run in the communities around alcohol abuse?

Answer:

FaHCSIA is in the process of finalising agreements with the NT Government in support of research, education and communication strategies around the legislation of Australian and Northern Territory Governments relating to alcohol:

- Research relating to alcohol consumption and harm (Drinking paddocks, research and evaluation of the East Arnhem alcohol management plan).
- Expanded Alcohol Management Planning and Alcohol Education capabilities .
- Resourcing the establishment of an NT Alcohol Data Unit to identify and collate indicators for alcohol related harm
- A broad scale communications and marketing strategy in relation to alcohol, including tools to support education around the legislation of Australian and NT Governments relating to alcohol.

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 078

Topic: NT Intervention Staffing

Hansard Page: CA21 – 27/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide figures for the number of staff that are committed to the NT intervention?

Answer:

The total staffing numbers for the NTER are:

Northern Territory	Other Locations	TOTAL
409	200.5	609.5

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Output Group: 1.1

Question No: 077

Topic: NT Intervention Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA20-21 – 27/2

Senator Siewert and Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide the tracked expenditure in terms of the admin funds for the NT Intervention? And the total departmental expenditure which is involved in the intervention

Answer:

The attached report provides both administered and departmental current allocations by Agency for the Northern Territory Emergency Response for the financial year 2008-09.

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Attachment to QoN 77- AE's February 2009 NTER Cross Agency Expenditure Report as at 31 JANUARY 2009											
AGENCY	THEME	MEASURE	Total Admin Budget \$m	YTD Admin Exp \$m	% Spent	Total Dept Budget \$m	YTD Dept Exp \$m	% Spent	Total NTER Reportable Budget (Admin + Dept)	Total YTD Exp (Admin + Dept)	% Spent
Attorney-General's Department	Promoting Law & Order	Violence & Child Abuse Taskforce (ACC)				4.2	2.8	67%	4.2	2.8	67%
		Aboriginal Interpreter service	0.7	0.5	73%	0.1	0.1	61%	0.8	0.6	72%
		Indigenous Legal Aid	2.0	1.5	75%				2.0	1.5	76%
		Night Patrol services	17.1	6.4	38%	0.6	0.4	58%	17.7	6.8	38%
		Promoting Law & Order (AFP)				9.2	5.4	59%	9.2	5.4	59%
	Total		19.7	8.4	43%	14.1	8.6	61%	33.8	17.0	50%
Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations	Enhancing Education	Creches	2.3	0.7	31%				2.3		
		Enhancing Education	18.6	0.0	0%	0.6		0%	19.1		
		Further Welfare & Emp Reform (1)	44.8	17.2	38%	21.1		0%	65.9		
		Greater Enrolment, + 200 Teachers	11.6	4.3	37%				11.6		
		School Nutrition	6.9	2.2	32%	0.5		0%	7.4		
	Total		84.1	24.4	29%	22.2	8.6	39%	106.4	33.0	31%
Department of Human Services	Employment & Welfare Reform	Centrelink Services and Activities				6.1	3.4	56%	6.1	3.4	56%
		Debit Card Set Up				3.6	1.8	50%	3.6	1.8	50%
		Income Man't - Centrelink only				52.0	40.5	78%	52.0	40.5	78%
	Total					61.7	45.7	74%	61.7	45.7	74%
Department of Health and Ageing	Improving Health	Follow Up Health Care	13.6	7.6	56%				13.6	7.6	56%
		Improve Child and Family Health	39.0	15.7	40%	6.5	3.0	46%	45.5	18.7	41%
	Total		52.6	23.3	44%	6.5	3.0	46%	59.1	26.3	45%
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Coordination	Community Engagement	0.9	0.0	0%	2.9	1.2	43%	3.8	1.2	32%
		Leadership and Coordination Activities	12.0	3.0	25%	21.4	11.4	53%	33.4	14.4	43%
		Government Business Managers				36.5	14.2	39%	36.5	14.2	39%
		Remote Accommodation				7.3	6.1	84%	7.3	6.1	84%
	Sub Total		12.9	3.0	23%	68.1	32.9	48%	81.0	35.9	44%
	Employment & Welfare Reform	Income Man't - FaHCSIA only	5.2	1.7	33%	4.5	2.1	46%	9.7	3.8	39%
		NTER - Flexible Funding -Special A/C	68.0	68.0	100%	7.9	7.9	100%	75.9	75.9	100%
	Sub Total		73.2	69.7	95%	12.4	10.0	81%	85.6	79.7	93%
	Law & Order	Promoting Law & Order	11.0	2.6	24%	0.6	0.3	52%	11.6	2.9	25%
	Sub Total		11.0	2.6	24%	0.6	0.3	52%	11.6	2.9	25%
	Supporting Families	Early Childhood Programs	0.4	0.1	20%				0.4	0.1	20%
		Playgroups	0.7	0.2	30%	0.1	0.0	52%	0.7	0.2	31%
		Youth Alcohol Diversion	8.8	2.3	26%	0.7	0.4	55%	9.5	2.7	28%
		Family Support Package	9.5	0.0	0%	0.3	0.2	62%	9.8	0.2	2%
	Sub Total		19.4	2.6	13%	1.1	0.6	57%	20.4	3.2	16%
	Total		116.5	77.9	67%	82.1	43.8	53%	198.6	121.7	61%
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - Ombudsman's Office	Coordination	Commonwealth Ombudsman Support				1.0	0.5	50%	1.0	0.5	50%
Total			272.9	134.0	49%	187.7	109.8	58%	460.7	243.7	53%
(1) Plus Special Approp - part of DEEWR item shown above as \$65.9m (PBS value is \$66.4m)											
Total NTER Resourcing Budget											
PLEASE NOTE: The shaded squares represent no funding allocation											

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Question No: 089

Topic: Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department confirm how many lease agreements have been finalised in the 16 communities?

Answer:

Whole-of-township leases have been finalised in four (4) of the sixteen (16) priority communities identified under SIHIP. Details are:

- A 99 year township lease was finalised at Nguiu (Tiwi Islands) on 30 August 2007.
- Effective 80 year township leases were finalised at Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra (Groote Eylandt) on 5 December 2008.

Housing precinct leases were approved by the Northern Land Council Full Council on 10 February 2009 in relation to a further four (4) communities (Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, and Wadeye) with execution of these leases expected by mid 2009.

In addition, an effective 60 year sublease of the Tennant Creek town camps was finalised in October 2008.

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Question No: 090

Topic: Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the announcement on 12 February 2009 that the Northern Land Council has approved housing leases for Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Wadeye mean that these agreements have been signed and are now in force?

Answer:

Housing precinct leases were approved by the Northern Land Council Full Council on 10 February in relation to a further four (4) communities (Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, and Wadeye) with execution of these leases expected by mid 2009.

Preparatory work has commenced on the basis of these agreements and executed leases will be in place before construction works commence.

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Question No: 091

Topic: Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What is the status of lease negotiations for Yuendumu, Lajamanu and Hermannsburg?

Answer:

The Central Land Council is continuing consultations with traditional owners and community members in relation to potential leases at Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu. Northern Territory and Australian Government officials have been working with the CLC in relation to these consultations including attending meetings at the communities as appropriate.

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Question No: 092

Topic: Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What other communities are in the process of or likely to begin lease negotiations as part of SIHIP as a matter of priority?

What is the expected lag time between the signing of leases and the commencement of construction in each community?

Answer:

The sixteen (16) Northern Territory communities identified for major works under SIHIP are being targeted as a priority for lease negotiations.

Whole-of-township leases have been finalised in four (4) of the sixteen (16) priority communities. Details are:

- A 99 year township lease was finalised at Nguuiu (Tiwi Islands) on 30 August 2007.
- Effective 80 year township leases were finalised at Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra (Groote Eylandt) on 5 December 2008.

Housing precinct leases were approved by the Northern Land Council Full Council on 10 February 2009 in relation to a further four (4) communities (Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, and Wadeye) with execution of these leases expected by mid 2009.

In addition, an effective 60 year sublease of the Tennant Creek town camps was finalised in October 2008 to further support SIHIP investment.

The Northern Territory and Australian Governments are pursuing negotiations in relation to the remaining eight (8) communities.

The Northern Land Council has already commenced negotiations about Ngukurr and Numbulwar and is expected to commence consultations in relation to Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi and Yirrkala shortly.

The Central Land Council is continuing consultations with traditional owners and community members in relation to Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu.

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Although, the lead time between agreement to a lease and the commencement of construction will vary in each case, construction at all of the sites at which leases are in place or agreed is expected to commence or continue during 2009. Communities are advised of the likely construction timetable during negotiations.

During the lead time, additional activities are conducted which will ensure the best possible outcomes during the construction phase: primarily engagement with the community and preparatory work for employment and workforce development. Property and Tenancy management, including repairs and maintenance, also continue in those communities through this period.

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Question No: 101

Topic: Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide information about how many Indigenous Community Housing Organisations have moved to the Queensland Government's One Social Housing System, or have otherwise indicated interest in making such a move?

Answer:

Eighteen (18) Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) are expected to join the Queensland One Social Housing System (OSHS) in the near future pending finalisation of technical legal matters.

Negotiations are continuing to transfer other ICHOs in the future.

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Question No: 103

Topic: Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide details about the nature of the collaboration between FaHCSIA and the Queensland Department of Housing in maximising training and employment opportunities for local Indigenous people under this funding package?

Answer:

FaHCSIA is working with the Queensland Department of Housing through a Joint Management Group (JMG) comprising senior officials from both Departments in rolling out the \$60 million package. The JMG has agreed that both agencies will work to develop employment and training opportunities under this package.

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Question No: 105

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How often has the Commission met since it was formed?

What is the proposed meeting schedule for 2009?

Where does the Commission meet, and how many of its meetings have been face-to-face, how many by teleconference?

Answer:

The Commission has held four meetings.

The Commission met on 28 January 2009. Generally, meeting dates are agreed out-of-session and the next meeting in 2009 is being planned for April/May.

To date, the Commission has met in Canberra. There have been three face-to-face meetings and one teleconference.

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Question No: 106

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the Commission seek to have any local engagement when it meets, or at other times, on the issues within its remit?

Answer:

To date, the Commission has met in Canberra. However, it is proposed that a future meeting, likely later in 2009, may be held in a remote community and involve discussions with community members.

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Question No: 107

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What are the reporting requirements for the Commission?

Has the Commission provided any reports to Government yet and, if so, can the department make a copy of these reports available to the committee?

Answer:

The Commission has no formal reporting requirements.

The Commission is an advisory body that makes recommendations directly to the Minister and the Prime Minister.

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Question No: 108

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What is the budget allocation for the Commission?

Answer:

There is no formal budget allocation for the National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing. The costs of the Commission are met from the Department's operating budget.

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Question No: 111

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What discussions or consultations have there been between members of the Commission and departmental officials?

Answer:

Members of the Commission have had a number of discussions and consultations both in formal Commission meetings and with departmental officials out-of session.

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Question No: 112

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program and Subdivision of Aboriginal land

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

With reference to two media releases from Jenny Macklin on 21 November, how far has work progressed on the 70 houses in Walgett and surrounds that were to benefit from \$2.1m for upgrades?

How many houses have been completed and when is it expected that work will be completed?

What was the average cost of the upgrades?

Answer:

A contract is about to be signed with a Project Management Consultant to manage the works which are expected to be completed by the end of this year. The average cost of the upgrades will be approximately \$30,000. Work on urgent repairs has begun, with Murdi Paaki Housing Corporation managing a program of emergency works including electrical repairs, replacement of broken windows and the installation of flyscreens.

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Question No: 113

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Before work was due to commence, an audit of the required reports and maintenance was to be completed. Can the department make the findings of that audit available to the committee?

Answer:

The Condition Assessment Survey has been completed and the Department can make the report available. The report has been released with the permission of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

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Question No: 114

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Who will provide funding for ongoing maintenance of the houses to receive upgrades?

Answer:

Funding for the ongoing maintenance of houses in Walgett will be provided by Murdi Paaki Housing Corporation from rent collections made under the individual tenancy agreements.

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Question No: 115

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Of the \$6m partnership to encourage home ownership in Walgett, can the department confirm the Commonwealth is providing the full \$6m?

Answer:

The Commonwealth is providing half of the \$6million cost of the subdivision program and the balance will be met by the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

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Question No: 116

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What, if any, financial contribution will the NSW Aboriginal Land Council be required to make under the partnership?

Answer:

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council will provide \$3 million for the subdivision project plus project management costs.

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Question No: 117

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What progress has been made so far on surveying the land and on conveyancing? Can the department provide advice on the timetable for surveying and conveyancing across the 63 former reserves?

Answer:

Before any surveying work can be undertaken, agreement needs to be given by the members of the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, in accordance with the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. As 63 former Reserves are involved in the project, no timetable for completion is available at this stage, but this will become clearer once community consultation is complete.

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Question No: 118

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

When is it expected that land will be made available for private purchase, and what steps will need to occur before then?

Answer:

Houses on the former reserves can be made available for sale once the members of the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council have consented to the subdivision, and the necessary subdivision surveys, council approvals and any necessary infrastructure updates are finalised. Sale of houses and land is subject to majority agreement by members of the Local Land Council.

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Question No: 119

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide advice on any further funding that will be provided to support Indigenous home ownership in NSW?

Answer:

Additional funding is available through home loan products provided by Indigenous Business Australia.

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Question No: 120

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Walgett was announced as one of the first beneficiaries of the \$6m funding. What progress has been made there, and can the department provide information about any other communities where surveying or conveyancing has occurred under this program?

Answer:

Preliminary discussions have taken place with local community members in Walgett and there is interest from residents. An information day on home ownership will be held in Walgett where staff from all the relevant agencies will deliver information to tenants of public housing. No detailed surveying has taken place yet as it is subject to the agreement of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local consultations are still underway.

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Question No: 121

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide advice on the costs of surveying and conveyancing in the 63 former reserves targeted by this funding?

How will the department measure the results of the \$6m funding?

Answer:

Detailed costing of this project will be available when tenders are finalised by the NSW Aboriginal Land Council. The subdivision project involves 63 discrete former Aboriginal reserves across NSW, a number of NSW state government departments and all affected Local Aboriginal Land Councils. The results of this project will be measured by the number of completed subdivisions giving rise to home ownership options for Aboriginal people.

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Question No: 122

Topic: Walgett Repairs & Maintenance Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

For both funding amounts, why was Walgett chosen, and will similar funding be provided to encourage home ownership and to upgrade houses in other Aboriginal communities in NSW, or the other states? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Walgett repairs and maintenance program and the subdivision project were approved by the Minister in late 2008 under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program. Walgett was proposed for funding based on its remoteness, large Aboriginal population, high level of social disadvantage and poor condition of some of the community housing stock. Funding for housing in other Aboriginal communities is provided under a number of National Partnerships that form part of the National Affordable Housing Agreement. The National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building Jobs Plan also provides significant resolves to social housing to the States and Territories. The state-wide subdivision project, which will benefit all Aboriginal communities in NSW, aims to offer home ownership opportunities to residents of properties located on Aboriginal land.

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Question No: 297

Topic: Housing in QLD

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

The Minister has stated that \$1.9 billion of funding has been announced to address overcrowding, homelessness, poor housing conditions and severe shortage of housing in remote indigenous communities. Can you confirm this is the funding that was announced in the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing? What limitations are there to ensure that this funding does not leak into other programs not directly targeting indigenous communities?

Answer:

Yes, this figure is the additional new money announced under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, bringing the total to \$5.5 billion over ten years. Under the National Partnership Agreement implementation plans are currently being negotiated with each jurisdiction including benchmarks, milestones and targets. Regular reporting against these benchmarks, milestones and targets will enable the Commonwealth to measure the performance of the states and Northern Territory and to inform release of payments under the Agreement.

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Question No: 430

Topic: CDEP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the marginal cost of CDEP participation over being on unemployment benefits? Does that take into account the cost of administering income quarantining?

Answer:

The marginal cost per fortnight is approximately \$170 for Non-remote participants and \$221 for Remote participants. This figure includes the CDEP Management and Activity Fee paid to providers for running the activities that the participants undertake in order develop skills and improve employability and inturn receive the CDEP Wage amount.

These figures do not take into account the cost of administering income quarantining (which does not apply to CDEP participants).

CDEP Costs	Non-Remote	Remote	
CDEP Wages	\$449	\$499	Paid to the provider to forward onto the participants.
CDEP Management and Activity Fees	\$174	\$193	Paid to the provider for managing activities.
Total CDEP Costs	\$623	\$692	
Centrelink			
Newstart Allowance (Single, no children)	\$453	\$453 + \$18 (Remote Area Allowance)	Paid directly to the customers.
Marginal Cost (difference)	\$170	\$221	

Note – Both CDEP participants and persons on Income Support may be eligible for other allowances such as a Health Care Cards and Pharmaceutical Benefits which have not been included in these calculations.

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Question No: 087

Topic: SIHIP – Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide information about the number of job-readiness programs already underway, including the communities in which they are taking place, the skills being taught, the number of people participating, and the number of Aboriginal people expected to be given jobs as a result of the program?

Answer:

Information relating to job readiness programs planned or underway as part of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program has been provided in response to Question on Notice Number 86.

Targets for the number of Indigenous people to be employed by the Alliance Partners on each of the first 3 packages will be available when the Package Development Reports are completed in April 2009.

The overall target for Aboriginal people employed locally under the program is 20 percent. Further information on the targets for the program has been provided in response to Question on Notice Number 85.

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Question No: 096

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is there a final figure on the number of new houses and housing upgrades to be completed under the project?

Are there final figures on the cost of construction for the new houses, including infrastructure costs, and for minor and major housing upgrades?

Answer:

Under the \$25 million housing project the South Australian Government (SA Government) has estimated that 48 new houses could be constructed and 50 upgrades undertaken in the communities of Amata and Mimili. The SA Government intends that the first stage of this work will involve the construction of 26 houses with the remaining work being completed under a subsequent tender.

Estimates provided by the SA Government for the construction of new houses range from \$220,000 to \$370,000 for 1 and 4 bedroom houses respectively. Additional infrastructure will be required where serviced blocks are not available for new houses

Actual construction and infrastructure costs will not be known however until the tenders for this work have been submitted.

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Question No: 097

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What progress has been made on the development of a policy to ensure rents are paid on time, and to develop penalties for tardy rent payments?

Answer:

It is intended that where possible Centrepay deductions through Centrelink will be used to assist tenants with the timely payment of rent. This approach should minimise issues with late payment of rent.

The South Australian Department of Families and Communities is currently developing their policy framework for management of remote housing and tenants and an approach to manage late rental payments will be part of this framework.

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Question No: 099

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What is the expected start date and end date for construction?

Who will be responsible for the construction of the new houses?

How many Anangu people will be involved in the project, and what progress has been made to identify these people?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) estimate that work will start within two to three months of the tender being called in April 2009.

The South Australian Government (SA Government) will be responsible for delivery of the construction program with the capital works being undertaken by a licensed builder contracted through a competitive tender process.

Employment and training for Anangu people will be included in the tender process as an outcome that the SA Government is seeking from this project. Construction companies will need to address this matter in their tender bid and it will be considered by the SA Government during its assessment of tenders. These outcomes will then be included in the contract with the successful tenderer.

SA Government is seeking to maximise the Anangu employment and training outcomes and will encourage all companies involved in the tender to utilise Anangu who have been involved in the local housing Repairs and Maintenance program as well as the Fixing Houses for Better Health programs that have been operating in the APY Lands.

In addition to this the SA Government will work with the Bungala Aboriginal Corporation to arrange for pre-employment training with local people to occur.

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Question No: 100

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the department aware of media reports that AP Services has gone into special administration?

What impact does the department consider this will have on the delivery of the \$25m housing deal?

Answer:

The Department is aware of this. We are working closely with the Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations and the Administrator they have appointed to resolve issues with this organisation. Staff from the Department's Port Augusta Indigenous Coordination Centre are in regular contact with the Administrator to ensure that services continue to be delivered to communities.

As AP services has no direct role in the delivery of the APY \$25 million housing deal there is expected to be minimal impact caused by this situation.

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Question No: 102

Topic: Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Of these, how many houses have already moved to the Queensland Government system, and of those that have moved, has upgrade work commenced? If not, when is upgrade work expected to commence? How many more are currently expected to be moved to the Queensland Government system?

Answer:

There are 498 properties belonging to these eighteen (18) Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) in the process of moving to the Queensland One Social Housing System (OSHS). Scoping of repair and upgrade work has commenced with these 18 ICHOs with a view to actual work getting underway once the ICHO transition to the OSHS is complete.

Discussions are continuing with other ICHOs to move to the OSHS in the future. As the movement to the OSHS by ICHOs is voluntarily exact numbers are hard to predict.

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Question No: 128

Topic: Poor Model for Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Did the Minister for Indigenous Affairs receive advice that the current process used to deliver housing in the Northern Territory to Indigenous people was a poor model?

Answer:

It is not appropriate for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to disclose whether there was policy advice provided to the Minister on a specific topic or the nature and content of any policy advice provided.

The current model of delivery for remote Indigenous Housing in the Northern Territory was chosen following a procurement scoping exercise which was conducted by an Independent consultant. This exercise considered historical contracting methods and eight alternate contracting options. It involved significant industry and community consultation. The report recommended an Alliance contracting method which is now in place in the Northern Territory.

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Question No: 080

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/Construction of New Houses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have any of the Alliance Partners submitted PDRs yet?
Are they on track to do so by February/March 2009?

Answer:

The Alliance Partners are working closely with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to finalise by the end of April 2009 the Package Development Reports (PDRs) for the first three packages (Tennant Creek, Tiwi Islands and Groote Eylandt) under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

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Question No: 081

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/Construction of New Houses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In answer to a question on notice at the last estimates, the department said that the SIHIP “will encourage innovation in the design of new houses and deliver value for money.” How will it do this?

Answer:

The Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) will encourage innovation in the design of new houses by:

- developing a Design Library that will showcase and promote innovations in design and enable successful design options to be shared across Alliance Partners;
- encouraging a culture that promotes and rewards innovation and outstanding performance through a performance based procurement model;
- facilitating a design process that enables the expertise of large construction firms to be combined with the knowledge of local Indigenous community members, in order to develop tailored solutions that respond to local needs and are appropriate to local conditions; and
- sharing learnings on design and construction innovation by each Alliance Partner with the other Alliance Partners participating in SIHIP.

SIHIP is a large scale construction program that can offer better economies of scale than traditional small-scale Indigenous housing programs. Value for money will also be (and therefore cost efficiency) improved by the use of an independent estimator and auditor to validate target cost estimates and ensure transparency in the costing process.

The Alliance model employed by SIHIP is based on a shared risk approach which will provide genuine incentives for Alliance Partners to achieve improved results. The combination of open-book accounting and the sharing of project risks means that companies do not need to artificially inflate prices to compensate for perceived higher risks that may or may not eventuate. In addition, by having all contractors on board early in the process, risks can be identified, costed and mitigated much earlier in the design process.

Value for money will also be improved by ensuring a greater focus on whole-of-life cycle costs. The Alliance model enables contractors to be involved much earlier in the design process and to be rewarded for designs that reduce overall life-cycle costs. This can help to ensure that designs take into account the cost and performance of the building over its total life-cycle rather than just focusing on the up front construction cost.

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Question No: 082

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/Construction of New Houses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the department have an indication yet about the impact of current market conditions on the Alliance's capacity to deliver its target of 750 new houses and 2500 upgrades?

Answer:

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments recognise that the availability and cost of trade resources are a critical risk for the program with the potential to impact on the number of houses and upgrades that can be delivered within the funds allocated to the program.

Each of the three Alliance Partners is currently working closely with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to scope the first three packages that will be delivered through the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). Alliance Partners will provide Package Development Reports by the end of April 2009 that will provide details on the cost, key deliverables and performance targets that will be delivered through these packages.

There has been strong interest from local small-to-medium sized enterprises wanting to work with Alliance Partners in delivering SIHIP. Five SIHIP industry information forums were held in major Northern Territory centres between 23 February and 8 March 2009, which attracted large audiences. The Northern Territory Government is also establishing an industry reference group with membership from peak industry bodies in the Northern Territory to help facilitate opportunities for local businesses to be involved in SIHIP.

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Question No: 083

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/Construction of New Houses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have the current market conditions had an impact on the estimated cost of each dwelling (previously at \$450,000, including \$100,000 in infrastructure costs)?

Answer:

The projected cost of each dwelling and the impact of current market conditions on the first three packages under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program will not be known until the Alliance Partners submit their Package Development Reports for approval by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments by the end of April 2009.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 084

Topic: Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program/Construction of New Houses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has construction or upgrade work begun yet under the SIHIP program?

Answer:

Detailed planning and community consultation for the first three SIHIP packages commenced in late October 2008. By April 2009 this work will have reached a point where the Alliance Partners will be able to present a Package Development Report to the Northern Territory and Australian Governments for approval. Once this approval is given the construction project will commence.

Approval has been given by both levels of Government for an immediate start of minor early works in Tennant Creek. These early works are employing three local Indigenous people to fabricate components for eight kitchens in the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation workshops.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 085

Topic: SIHIP – Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department supply information about the number of Aboriginal people employed, trained, or identified as potential trainees or employees through the Alliance/SIHIP? Of these, can the department indicate how many of these Aboriginal people come from the community in which the construction work is taking place, and how many from other communities?

Can the department break this figure down by Alliance member and construction project?

Answer:

The Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) will provide opportunities for training and employment for local Indigenous people in each community, to help build a sustainable workforce for the ongoing construction, maintenance and management of housing.

Each Alliance is committed to utilising as many local Indigenous people and businesses in their program rollout as possible and they have built capacity to undertake this important program element. In addition, there are targets and associated financial incentives built into Alliance contracts to maximise employment and training outcomes for local Indigenous community members.

In Tennant Creek there are two job readiness programs underway, involving thirty two participants. On Groote Eylandt prevocational training will be undertaken by 10 community members on the 7 and 8 April 2009 in Occupational Health and Safety. On 27 April 2009 training for early works on Groote Eylandt will commence which will incorporate two modules in general construction, occupational health and safety and numeracy and literacy. In Nguiu (Tiwi Islands) a job readiness course was run on 8 March 2009 in truck driving.

Each Alliance will work with both levels of government to set targets in a Package. Incentive payments will be available to the Alliance if they exceed the target and the Alliance will be financially penalised if they do not meet the target. The aim of SIHIP is to maximise the number of Indigenous people employed.

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The Integrated Project Team for SIHIP has an Employment and Workforce Development Team which is assisting the Alliances in accessing other programs such as the Community Development Employment Projects Program and the Structured Training and Employment Projects Employment and Related Services Program. They are also ensuring that relevant government agencies are doing preparatory work in communities ahead of Alliances commencing their scoping and community engagement work.

The Northern Territory Government has formed an Employment and Workforce Development Working Group with representatives from a number of different state and Commonwealth departments undertaking work in remote areas of the Northern Territory. The Group monitors and advises both levels of government about employment and workforce development initiatives at the SIHIP program level.

The overall program target for local employment under SIHIP is 20 percent of persons employed on capital projects but specific targets set for each package will vary depending on the capacity of local people to participate in these projects. Targets for the number of Indigenous people to be employed by the Alliance Partners on each of the first three packages will be available when the Package Development Reports are completed in late April 2009. As Package Development Reports are completed the Department will have a breakdown of employment and training targets and outcomes against each packages and Alliance Partner.

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Question No: 086

Topic: SIHIP – Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What progress has been made in providing early job-readiness programs as part of SIHIP?

Answer:

There is an Employment and Workforce Development Team within the Northern Territory Government who have been assisting the Alliances in accessing other programs such as the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program and the Structured Training and Employment Projects Employment and Related Services (STEP ERS) Program and ensuring that relevant government agencies are doing preparatory work in communities ahead of Alliances commencing their scoping and community engagement work.

The three SIHIP Alliance Partners are committed to providing early job-readiness programs as part of their Community Employment and Workforce Development plans for the first three SIHIP works packages.

Earth Connect Alliance

Prevocational training on Groote Eylandt for potential employees has been developed in close consultation with Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE) and the Job Shop. Ten community members will undertake training commencing 7 and 8 April 2009 for:

- Occupational Health and Safety

Training will commence on the 27 April 2009 for early works and will include:

- two modules in general construction
- language, literacy and numeracy skills
- leadership skills and
- reverse cross cultural training and
- Occupational Health and Safety

New Future Alliance

Two work ready programs are being implemented in Tennant Creek through a collaborative arrangement between Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, Group Training NT, Industries Services Training and the New Future Alliance. This is the first arrangement of its kind in this region.

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The two work ready programs already underway are:

- a pre-vocational course for potential local Indigenous employees specifically addressing the needs for SIHIP established by Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation; and
- an eight week program covering introductory modules in mining operations and civil construction. On completion of the program, participants will receive Statements of Attainment for partial completion of Certificate III in Metalliferous Mining Operations (Open Cut) and Civil Construction (Plant Operations).

The first program for 16 participants began on 2 February 2009 and the second program for a further 16 participants commenced on 27 March 2009.

Territory Alliance

The Territory Alliance is rolling out targeted prevocational training on the Tiwi Islands.

Two truck driving training courses were run on 8 March 2009 with the Bathurst Island Housing Association. There were four local people nominated by the Shire and four from the Mission Australia employment network.

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Question No: 088

Topic: SIHIP – Employment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What work has been undertaken by the Alliance Partners to “actively engage with each community prior to commencing construction to determine the further training needs of local employees”?

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government is establishing Housing Reference Groups in each Community targeted under the program. The Housing Reference Groups will be comprised of representatives from the community and will advise the Alliances on:

- land use and area planning;
- housing design, priorities and options with regard to determining the number of new house construction and refurbishments;
- jobs and training opportunities; and
- how local businesses could benefit.

Each Housing Reference Group will be required to endorse the Alliance’s Project Development Report, which will contain the Employment and Workforce Development Plan.

The Alliance Partners have been undertaking a high level of community engagement in the first three Packages (Groote Eylandt, Tiwi Islands and Tennant Creek).

On Groote Eylandt the Earth Connect Alliance is working with the Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises and the Job Shop to identify the best way to deliver training to support employment opportunities. Prevocational occupational health and safety training was undertaken by 10 community members on 7 and 8 April 2009. Training for early works will commence on 27 April 2009. It will include modules on general construction, occupational health and safety and numeracy and literacy.

In Tennant Creek the New Future Alliance is implementing a collaborative arrangement between Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, Group Training NT, Industries Services Training and the Alliance has been established to maximise outcomes for the delivery of training programs in Tennant Creek.

In the Tiwi Islands, Territory Alliance has worked with stakeholders to develop two construction pre-vocational training courses in truck driving that commenced on 8 March 2009 in conjunction with the Bathurst Island Housing Association.

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Question No: 089

Topic: Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department confirm how many lease agreements have been finalised in the 16 communities?

Answer:

Whole-of-township leases have been finalised in four (4) of the sixteen (16) priority communities identified under SIHIP. Details are:

- A 99 year township lease was finalised at Nguiu (Tiwi Islands) on 30 August 2007.
- Effective 80 year township leases were finalised at Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra (Groote Eylandt) on 5 December 2008.

Housing precinct leases were approved by the Northern Land Council Full Council on 10 February 2009 in relation to a further four (4) communities (Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, and Wadeye) with execution of these leases expected by mid 2009.

In addition, an effective 60 year sublease of the Tennant Creek town camps was finalised in October 2008.

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Question No: 093

Topic: Maningrida

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has construction begun at Maningrida under the SIHIP program? If so, how far is the project advanced?

When is it expected that houses will be ready?

Answer:

Construction has not yet commenced in Maningrida under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

The Northern Land Council, acting for traditional owners, formally agreed to a housing precinct lease for Maningrida on 10 February 2009. This has enabled the SIHIP Alliance Partner, Territory Alliance to commence detailed package scoping activity. Formal community engagement commenced on 11 March 2009 when Territory Alliance, with representatives from both levels of government, held introductory meetings over two days with the Housing Reference Group, the West Arnhem Shire, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Maningrida Progress Association and the Malabam Health Board. It is anticipated that the first houses will be completed in the 2010 dry season.

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Output Group: Indigenous Remote Service Delivery

Question No: 094

Topic: Housing in Maningrida

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Who is likely to benefit from the first houses constructed at Maningrida, and how will this be decided?

Answer:

Northern Territory Housing (NTH) is responsible for implementing property and tenancy management arrangements in Maningrida (and other prescribed communities in the Northern Territory) in accordance with the Remote Public Housing Management Framework. This means that vacant housing in Maningrida (whether it is new, upgraded, refurbished or an older dwelling) will be allocated by NTH taking into account:

- The local wait list for housing;
- The type of housing available for allocation compared to the needs of people on the wait list; and
- The views of the community, as expressed through the local Housing Reference Group (local cultural factors or other issues may need to be considered by NTH before allocating housing).

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Question No: 104

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the department aware of a media report which appeared in *The Australian* on 11 February 2009 in which unnamed members of the National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing express concerns that they are not being taken seriously, are not meeting frequently enough, and have too limited a role to be effective?

What is the department's view of these comments?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of a report appearing in *The Australian* on 11 February 2009.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 109

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What proportion of the budget is taken up in administration, what proportion in travel arrangements, what proportion fees for participants, and what proportion in secretariat support?

Answer:

As there is no formal budget, proportions of a total cannot be calculated.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 110

Topic: National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is there a secretariat for the Commission, and if so, what size is it and where is it located?

How does the work of the Commission fit with the broader work on housing being conducted by the department?

Answer:

A secretariat for the National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing is located in the Department's national office, Canberra within the Indigenous Remote Services Delivery Group, the secretariat is located in a section consisting of eight people, two of whom regularly undertake Commission related work. However, at various times the Commission draws on expertise from across the broader portfolio.

The Commission provides advice on remote Indigenous housing. The Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership is complementary to the broader National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) arrangements.

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Question No: 123

Topic: Indigenous Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Why has funding decreased for AHL for 2008/09?

Answer:

The difference in funding between 2008/09 and 2007/08 relates to changes in the capital funding for Kununurra Secondary Education Hostel Development, Noongar Elders Home, Renal Dialysis Hostel in Port Hedland and Fire Safety Works at AHL hostels. The Kununurra Secondary Education Hostel Development has received all required capital funds in 2007-08 (\$5.400 million) and will not require additional funds in 2008-09.

Capital funds were appropriated to AHL for specific projects and as such do not have any implications on the operational funding of the company.

PROJECT	2007-08	2008-09
Noongars Elders Home	\$1.600m	\$1.600m
Renal Dialysis Hostel	\$7.100m	\$3.699m
Fire Safety Works at AHL Hostels	\$2.130m	\$1.173m

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Question No: 124

Topic: Indigenous Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the department expect further budget decreases for AHL in the 2009/10 Federal Budget?

Answer:

The Department does not speculate on future Budget outcomes.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 125

Topic: Indigenous Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In the department's view, why did the AHL's occupancy rate fall by 4% in the last financial year?

Answer:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited's (AHL) previous response to question on notice 109 was incorrect.

AHL has now amended its response to that question showing there has been no decrease in the occupancy rate for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

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Question No: 127

Topic: 40 Year Leases

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Has Jenny Macklin written to State and Territory Housing Ministers notifying them that in order for Australian Government funds to be spent on Indigenous public housing on Indigenous land, 40 year leases must first be obtained over this land?

Answer:

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, wrote to State Housing Ministers in Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania on 13 February 2009 regarding the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing including the joint commitment to progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

Copies of the letters are attached.

The letters refer to long term leases as an effective mechanism to secure Government investment and indicate that other options for sufficient tenure which meet the Australian Government's minimum requirements may be canvassed in negotiations between officials on the Implementation Plans under the National Partnership.

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**The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 7560
Facsimile: (02) 6273 4122

MN09-000385

13 FEB 2009

The Hon Robert Schwartzen MP
Minister for Public Works, Housing and
Information and Communication Technology
GPO Box 2457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister *Rob*

I am writing in relation to our work to implement the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (the National Partnership) and in particular our key commitment to progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

I am writing to ensure that the discussions between our officials over the coming weeks in relation to the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership which is to be agreed by no later than 31 March 2009 focus appropriately on land tenure issues. The Implementation Plan will need to confirm the secure land tenure requirements which, under the National Partnership, are a condition of the Commonwealth funding for investment in Indigenous housing and housing-related infrastructure in remote Australia. While satisfying these requirements will tend to be straightforward at sites which are currently held as ordinary freehold, the challenges increase when investment is proposed for remote communities located on Indigenous held land.

The ultimate aim of land tenure reform in relation to townships located on Indigenous held land is to approximate ordinary freehold title to the greatest extent possible. These arrangements should enable individual transferable title, including through long term leasing and other interests within the context of communal ownership.

The manner in which arrangements are structured will vary amongst the States and Territories depending on the legal framework under which land is held by, or on behalf of, Indigenous people and may take account of the different circumstances of a community.

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Ensuring sufficient tenure to support substantial government investment in housing and infrastructure on Indigenous held land must be the first priority in order to allow housing projects to proceed quickly. The Australian Government minimum requirements in this regard are:

- government must have access to and control of the land on which construction will proceed for a minimum period of 40 years. A longer period has additional advantages;
- the tenure arrangements must support the implementation of tenancy management reforms including the issue of individual tenancy management agreements between the Housing Authority and the tenant without requiring further consent from the underlying land owner. This capacity must also permit replacement of the housing service provider if required; and
- native title issues must also have been resolved.

These conditions must be met prior to the commencement of construction on any project agreed in the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership Agreement.

A long term lease to government granted by the relevant Indigenous land owner is the most effective mechanism to obtain the required security. However, I do not rule out the possibility that other mechanisms which meet these three criteria could also meet our shared objectives. I would expect that the options for meeting the required standard in your State will be canvassed by officials during the negotiations.

In the longer term, land reform is also required to facilitate general economic development and home ownership. This approach is agreed also in the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery and anticipates jurisdictions working towards legislative frameworks which allow maximum transferability of individual titles on Indigenous held land with minimum procedural barriers to dealings with such land. These arrangements should be designed to facilitate home ownership and mortgages, attract commercial investment and generally support a developing economy.

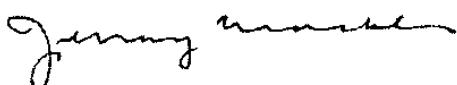
Jurisdictions should also review and reform their land registration and planning and related laws with a view to reducing the administrative burden of implementing commercial operations or home ownership on Indigenous held land. For example the system of regulation for a new suburban sub-division may be inappropriate and excessively onerous when applied to creating individual titles over lots in a pre-existing Indigenous township.

The Australian Government recognises that while it is essential to obtain appropriate tenure on Indigenous land, arrangements must also facilitate the preservation of cultural links to land and respect traditional land holding systems. While this means that reforms may fall short of the unrestricted nature of ordinary tenure elsewhere in the country, the Australian Government calls upon States and Territories to progressively review and reform Indigenous land systems to maximise their economic capacity.

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I look forward to endorsing the final Implementation Plan and seeing the results of this historic investment in remote Indigenous housing. The contact officer in my Department is [REDACTED] who may be contacted on [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



JENNY MACKLIN MP

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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**The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 7560
Facsimile: (02) 6273 4122

MN09-000385

13 FEB 2009

The Hon Troy Buswell MLA
Minister for Housing and Works
21st Floor, Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Minister

I am writing in relation to our work to implement the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (the National Partnership) and in particular our key commitment to progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

I am writing to ensure that the discussions between our officials over the coming weeks in relation to the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership which is to be agreed by no later than 31 March 2009 focus appropriately on land tenure issues. The Implementation Plan will need to confirm the secure land tenure requirements which, under the National Partnership, are a condition of the Commonwealth funding for investment in Indigenous housing and housing-related infrastructure in remote Australia. While satisfying these requirements will tend to be straightforward at sites which are currently held as ordinary freehold, the challenges increase when investment is proposed for remote communities located on Indigenous held land.

The ultimate aim of land tenure reform in relation to townships located on Indigenous held land is to approximate ordinary freehold title to the greatest extent possible. These arrangements should enable individual transferable title, including through long term leasing and other interests within the context of communal ownership.

The manner in which arrangements are structured will vary amongst the States and Territories depending on the legal framework under which land is held by, or on behalf of, Indigenous people and may take account of the different circumstances of a community.

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Ensuring sufficient tenure to support substantial government investment in housing and infrastructure on Indigenous held land must be the first priority in order to allow housing projects to proceed quickly. The Australian Government minimum requirements in this regard are:

- government must have access to and control of the land on which construction will proceed for a minimum period of 40 years. A longer period has additional advantages;
- the tenure arrangements must support the implementation of tenancy management reforms including the issue of individual tenancy management agreements between the Housing Authority and the tenant without requiring further consent from the underlying land owner. This capacity must also permit replacement of the housing service provider if required; and
- native title issues must also have been resolved.

These conditions must be met prior to the commencement of construction on any project agreed in the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership Agreement.

A long term lease to government granted by the relevant Indigenous land owner is the most effective mechanism to obtain the required security. However, I do not rule out the possibility that other mechanisms which meet these three criteria could also meet our shared objectives. I would expect that the options for meeting the required standard in your State will be canvassed by officials during the negotiations.

In the longer term, land reform is also required to facilitate general economic development and home ownership. This approach is agreed also in the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery and anticipates jurisdictions working towards legislative frameworks which allow maximum transferability of individual titles on Indigenous held land with minimum procedural barriers to dealings with such land. These arrangements should be designed to facilitate home ownership and mortgages, attract commercial investment and generally support a developing economy.

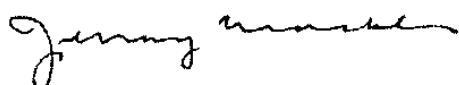
Jurisdictions should also review and reform their land registration and planning and related laws with a view to reducing the administrative burden of implementing commercial operations or home ownership on Indigenous held land. For example the system of regulation for a new suburban sub-division may be inappropriate and excessively onerous when applied to creating individual titles over lots in a pre-existing Indigenous township.

The Australian Government recognises that while it is essential to obtain appropriate tenure on Indigenous land, arrangements must also facilitate the preservation of cultural links to land and respect traditional land holding systems. While this means that reforms may fall short of the unrestricted nature of ordinary tenure elsewhere in the country, the Australian Government calls upon States and Territories to progressively review and reform Indigenous land systems to maximise their economic capacity.

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I look forward to endorsing the final Implementation Plan and seeing the results of this historic investment in remote Indigenous housing. The contact officer in my Department is [REDACTED] who may be contacted on [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



JENNY MACKLIN MP

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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**The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 7560
Facsimile: (02) 6273 4122

13 FEB 2009

MN09-000385

The Hon David Borger MP
Minister for Housing
Level 37 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister David

I am writing in relation to our work to implement the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (the National Partnership) and in particular our key commitment to progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

I am writing to ensure that the discussions between our officials over the coming weeks in relation to the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership which is to be agreed by no later than 31 March 2009 focus appropriately on land tenure issues. The Implementation Plan will need to confirm the secure land tenure requirements which, under the National Partnership, are a condition of the Commonwealth funding for investment in Indigenous housing and housing-related infrastructure in remote Australia. While satisfying these requirements will tend to be straightforward at sites which are currently held as ordinary freehold, the challenges increase when investment is proposed for remote communities located on Indigenous held land.

The ultimate aim of land tenure reform in relation to townships located on Indigenous held land is to approximate ordinary freehold title to the greatest extent possible. These arrangements should enable individual transferable title, including through long term leasing and other interests within the context of communal ownership.

The manner in which arrangements are structured will vary amongst the States and Territories depending on the legal framework under which land is held by, or on behalf of, Indigenous people and may take account of the different circumstances of a community.

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Ensuring sufficient tenure to support substantial government investment in housing and infrastructure on Indigenous held land must be the first priority in order to allow housing projects to proceed quickly. The Australian Government minimum requirements in this regard are:

- government must have access to and control of the land on which construction will proceed for a minimum period of 40 years. A longer period has additional advantages;
- the tenure arrangements must support the implementation of tenancy management reforms including the issue of individual tenancy management agreements between the Housing Authority and the tenant without requiring further consent from the underlying land owner. This capacity must also permit replacement of the housing service provider if required; and
- native title issues must also have been resolved.

These conditions must be met prior to the commencement of construction on any project agreed in the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership Agreement.

A long term lease to government granted by the relevant Indigenous land owner is the most effective mechanism to obtain the required security. However, I do not rule out the possibility that other mechanisms which meet these three criteria could also meet our shared objectives. I would expect that the options for meeting the required standard in your State will be canvassed by officials during the negotiations.

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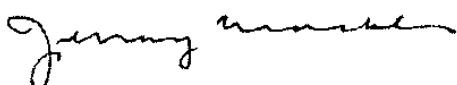
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Yours sincerely



JENNY MACKLIN MP

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 7560
Facsimile: (02) 6273 4122

MN09-000385

13 FEB 2009

The Hon Lin Thorp MLC
Minister for Human Services
8th Floor, 10 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Minister Lin

I am writing in relation to our work to implement the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (the National Partnership) and in particular our key commitment to progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

I am writing to ensure that the discussions between our officials over the coming weeks in relation to the Implementation Plan under the National Partnership which is to be agreed by no later than 31 March 2009 focus appropriately on land tenure issues. The Implementation Plan will need to confirm the secure land tenure requirements which, under the National Partnership, are a condition of the Commonwealth funding for investment in Indigenous housing and housing-related infrastructure in remote Australia. While satisfying these requirements will tend to be straightforward at sites which are currently held as ordinary freehold, the challenges increase when investment is proposed for remote communities located on Indigenous held land.

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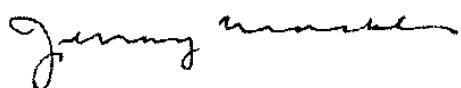
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I look forward to endorsing the final Implementation Plan and seeing the results of this historic investment in remote Indigenous housing. The contact officer in my Department is [REDACTED] who may be contacted on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



JENNY MACKLIN MP

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 134

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA23-27/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Where does the investigation stand at the moment?

Answer:

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) identified five organisations during the first audit on 2 June 2008 that had computers that may have been used to access pornography. The audit software utilised for this first audit, however, was limited in its interrogative capabilities, due to the requirement for the software to be compatible with the majority of a diverse range of computer systems. Prior to the 1 December 2008 audit, commercially available software was identified with improved interrogation capabilities. The software was customised to meet the audit requirements and contracted. All five organisations identified in the first audit were subject to the 1 December audit utilising the new software. The ACC is currently analysing the 1 December 2008 audit data and evidence of pornography has been detected on some computers. The ACC may, following an analysis of the audit data, conduct further investigations themselves or refer the matter to another law enforcement agency.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 135

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA24-27/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Has FaHCSIA been asked to remove any publicly funded computers from any communities at this point in time?

Answer:

The *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 (NTNER Act)* does not include any provisions for FaHCSIA to seize assets including computers.

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Question No: 136

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA24-27/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Will there be a final and formal and public report on that audit?

Answer:

Reports are not made available to the public due to the sensitive information they contain and the possibility that the information may be used in further investigations by the Australian Crime Commission or another law enforcement agency.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 137

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA24-27/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Has the first audit been completed and a report gone to the government on the topic?

Answer:

Yes.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 138

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA25-27/2

Senator Boyce asked:

As a result of that first audit was any material seized by local police? Who would have been concerned by the result? Who would be accountable for the result?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is not aware of any material being seized by local police as a result of the first audit. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is responsible for the day to day administration of these provisions in the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act and to that extent it is accountable for the results of the audits. However, FaHCSIA is not responsible for police action arising from the audit's findings.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 139

Topic: Pornography Audit

Hansard Page: CA25-27/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Has there been any feedback to the department from the communities about the bans on pornographic material on computers?

Answer:

Pornography is a very difficult subject to discuss in many remote communities for cultural reasons. However, the feedback that Government Business Managers and others have received about this specific measure of the Northern Territory Emergency Response suggests that it has a degree of support.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 431

Topic: CDEP Reform Evaluation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What post-program evaluation is planned for CDEP participants whose employment program will cease on 1 July?

Answer:

Subsequent to the reforms to Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will track the number of former participants undertaking participation activities and the number of participants moving to employment and retention in those jobs.

This will provide information on the level of active engagement with employment services and within the labour market, and enable an ongoing assessment of areas that may require additional support or corrective action as the reforms are implemented.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 432

Topic: CDEP Job Creation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How many of these participants are expected to find employment?

Answer:

As part of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program reforms as a whole, approximately 2,000 properly paid jobs for the delivery of government services that were previously supported by CDEP will be created across Australia. CDEP participants who do not move into these positions will be assisted by the universal employment services the Indigenous Employment Program and CDEP (in regions where the reformed CDEP will be offered from 1 July 2009) to prepare for, take up and retain jobs. Major reforms to these programs will be implemented from 1 July 2009 to enhance the support provided to job seekers, including Indigenous job seekers.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 442

Topic: Domestic violence data

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does AHL or the department maintain figures on the number of women and children who use AHL's services to escape domestic violence? If so, can these be made available to the committee?

Answer:

The specific data required is not collected. Some client usage data is collected by the Victorian State Government's Supported Accommodation Assistance Program from AHL's William T Onus Hostel in Melbourne. A report for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is currently available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Contact details can be found at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/contactus.cfm>. Data from six months to December 2008 will be publicly available from 1 April 2009.

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Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 095

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide an update on the \$25m APY housing deal?

Answer:

The \$25 million APY housing project is part of the new \$291 million National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing in South Australia.

The South Australian Government went to tender on 28 April 2009 for Stage One of the APY Housing Project. Tenders will close on 26 May 2009 and initial construction work is planned to commence in July 2009. Stage One will involve the construction of 26 new houses at Amata and Mimili.

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Question No: 098

Topic: \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has the tender process commenced yet for the project?

Answer:

The tender was advertised on Tuesday 28 April 2009 and will close on 26 May 2009.

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Output Group: 1.2

Amended Question No: 079

Topic: Indigenous Housing

Hansard Page: Written & CA55 – 27/2

Senator Scullion asked:

1. How many houses have been constructed in Northern Territory Indigenous communities between December 2007 and 25 February 2009?
2. In which communities were these houses built?
3. Who occupies each of these houses? For example government employee or agents (Federal NT or Local government such as school teachers, police officers, Government Business Manager) or Indigenous community residents who is not a government employee or agent.
4. Could you seek confirmation of how many they have built during that period of time? Can you tell me in which communities these houses were built?

Answer:

1. A total of 61 residential dwellings were constructed in Northern Territory Indigenous communities between December 2007 and 25 February 2009, with funding from Australian and Northern Territory Government Indigenous housing and infrastructure programs. A further 22 houses were completed in March and April 2009, taking the total number of houses completed to 83.
2. The location of these houses by community is: Amoonguna (1), Galiwinku (3), Gapuwiyak (2), Gunbalunya (1), Irrultja (3), Milingimbi (7), Nguiu (25), Pirlangimpi (1), Santa Theresa (3), Wadapuli>Nama (20), Wadeye (15) and Yirrkala (2).
3. All 83 houses are for local Indigenous community residents.

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Question No: 133

Topic: GBMs - Accommodation

Hansard Page: CA17 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Have all government business managers now got accommodation in the community they are stationed in?

Answer:

Fifty-nine (59) Government Business Managers are deployed servicing 73 communities and town camps in Darwin, Tennant Creek, Elliott and Alice Springs. Accommodation has been provided for Government Business Managers in most communities except in relation to town camps where most operate out of the relevant ICC.

The following table identifies where the GBMs are located, the Indigenous Co-ordination Centre (ICC) region and the accommodation provided.

NORTH		
Community	ICC Region	Accommodation Type provided
Darwin Town Camps: Bagot, Kulaluk, Minmarama, One Mile Dam	Darwin	N/A serviced from Darwin ICC
Minjilang	Darwin	Demountable
Nauiyu (Daly River)	Darwin	Demountable
Acacia Larrakia, Darwin Town Camps: Palmerston Indigenous Villiage (PIV), Amangal, Knuckeys Lagoon	Darwin	N/A serviced from Darwin –Demountable at Acacia Larrakia
Nguiu (Bathurst Island)	Darwin	Demountable
Wadeye	Darwin	Demountable
Maningrida	Darwin	Demountable
Palumpa, Peppimenarti (relief GBM)	Darwin	Demountable
Gunbalanya (Oenpelli)	Darwin	Demountable
Warruwi	Darwin	Demountable
Milikapiti, Pirlangimpi	Darwin	No demountable at Milikpati –demountable at Pirlangimpi
Belyuen	Darwin	Demountable
Kybrook Farm Binjari	Darwin	Demountable - Kybrook Farm does not have a demountable – GBM lives at Binjari and travels to Kybrook
Minyerri	Katherine	Demountable

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Ngukurr, Rittarangu	Katherine	Demountable at Ngukurr services Rittarangu (Urapunga) from there
Bulla, Amanbidji	Katherine	Demountable at Bulla services Amanbidji from there
Robinson River	Katherine	Demountable at Robinson River
Daguragu, Kalkarindji (Wave Hill)	Katherine	Demountable at Daguragu service Kalkarindji from there
Lajamanu	Katherine	Demountable
Numbulwar	Katherine	Demountable
Yarralin, Pigeon Hole	Katherine	Demountable at Yarralin services Pigeon Hole from there
Bulman, Weemol	Katherine	Demountable at Bulman services Weemol from there
Beswick, Manyallaluk	Katherine	Demountable at Beswick services Manyallaluk from there
Barunga	Katherine	Demountable
Jilkminggan (Duck Ck)	Katherine	Demountable
Galuwin'ku	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella)	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Angurugu, Milyakburra (Bickerton Island)	Nhulunbuy	Demountable at Angurugu services Milyakburra (Bickerton island) from there
Ramingining	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Yirrkala	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Gunyangara	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Umbakumba	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Milingimbi	Nhulunbuy	Demountable
Community	ICC Region	
Relief GBM	Southern	N/A Alice Springs
Yuelamu	Alice Springs	Demountable
Titjikala	Alice Springs	Demountable
Impana (also services Kings Canyon)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Finke (Apatula)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Wallace Rockhole, Hermannsburg (Ntaria)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Alice Springs Town Camps & Outstations	Alice Springs	N/A serviced from Alice Springs
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)	Alice Springs	Demountable

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Amoonguna	Alice Springs	No accommodation GBM resides at Santa Teresa
Nturiya, (Ti Tree) Wilora, Pmara Jutunta	Alice Springs	Demountable
Papunya, Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Mt Liebig (Watiyawananu)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Kaltukatjara (Docker River)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Yuendumu, Nyirripi	Alice Springs	Demountable
Engawala, Laramba	Alice Springs	Demountable at Engawala No accommodation at Laramba
Kintore (Walungurru)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Mutitjulu	Alice Springs	Rental accommodation
Areyonga (Utju)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Atitjere (Harts Range)	Alice Springs	Demountable
Willowra	Alice Springs	Demountable
Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash)	Tennant Creek	Demountable
Elliott Town Camps	Tennant Creek	GBM resides in Elliott in rented accommodation
Tennant Creek Town Camps	Tennant Creek	N/A serviced from Tenant Creek
Ali Curung, Imanara (Murray Downs) Tara	Tennant Creek	Demountable
Wutunugurra (Epenarra),	Tennant Creek	Demountable
Canteen Creek (Owairilla)	Tennant Creek	Demountable
Ampilatwatja	Tennant Creek	Demountable

NB: (1) Information is correct as at Thursday 14th May 2009.

(2) The Government Business Manager demountables at Angurugu, Belyuen, Bulla, Gapuwiyak, Gunbalanya, Gunyangara, Milingimbi, Nauiyu, Nguiu, Numbulwar, Palumpa, Peppimenarti, Pirlangimpi, Ramingining, Robinson River, Umbakumba, Wadeye and Warruwi are currently closed because of air quality concerns and the relevant GBMs are either in alternative accommodation in the community or have been relocated to Darwin.

(3) The Government Business Manager demountable at Minjilang is closed due to the removal of the kitchen as part of remediation trials and not air quality concerns

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 146

Topic: Support for the aged

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

With the current financial crisis, what is being done to support pensioners?

Answer:

There have been two primary impacts on pensioners and other retirees due to the global financial crisis. These are the *fall in returns* on financial investments and the *fall in the value* of financial investments. There have been a number of measures implemented in response to these impacts to aid pensioners.

Deeming rates have been reduced three times in the last five months to ensure that they reflect the lower rates of return on the market. As of 20 March 2009, the deeming rates will be 2 and 3 percent.

On 3 November 2008 Centrelink updated customer records to ensure that pensions reflect falls in asset values for listed securities and managed investments. The next update will take place on 20 March 2009 as part of the regular half yearly revaluation of listed securities and managed investments.

On 18 February 2009 the Treasurer and the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law jointly announced that the Government will halve the minimum payment requirement for account-based pensions for this financial year. This change will benefit pensioners who hold these products as they will not be required to sell assets at a loss in order to meet the minimum payment amount rules for the current year. Part rate income tested pensioners may receive an increase in their payment as less income may be assessed.

Furthermore, the Government has agreed to provide relief for pensioners with Self Managed Superannuation Fund (SMSF) complying pensions who may not be able to provide 'high probability' actuarial certification as a result of the global financial crisis.

Instead of losing the asset test exemption and incurring a significant penalty, the Government has agreed to allow these income streams to become assets tested without incurring the penalty. The decision will allow affected pensioners a choice between keeping the asset test exemption by restructuring into an equivalent retail product or losing the exemption but maintaining their current investments in anticipation of improvements in the global economy.

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In addition, the Government delivered in December 2008 financial assistance of \$4.8 billion to pensioners, carers, seniors and veterans. This included payment of \$1,400 to single pensioners and \$2,100 to couples.

The Government has also announced its \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan. As part of this Plan, a number of self-funded retirees and part-pensioners will benefit from a Tax Bonus of up to \$900 to be paid in April 2009. The lump sum bonus is available to self-funded retirees and pensioners who paid tax in 2007-08 after application of relevant tax offsets and credits.

On 3 October 2008, the Government announced \$3.5 million in funding for 41 community and local government organisations to continue delivering Commonwealth Financial Counselling services to help those affected by the financial crisis.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 148

Topic: Pension Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Are the results from the final report on the pension through the Henry tax review available yet? If not, why not and when will this be available?

Answer:

The final report of the Pension Review was completed and handed to the Government at the end of February 2009. The Review's final report is not yet publicly available, but its findings are helping the Government consider reforms in the context of the May Budget.

The publication of the report is a matter for the Government.

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Output Group: 2.1
Topic: Pensioner Concession Card

Question No: 149

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How will the Government guarantee privacy when the name of both members of the couple will appear on the Pensioner Concession Card?

Answer:

Centrelink are making changes to allow a concession card to be reissued to customers without the partner name being displayed. Dependent children will still be displayed.

All concession cards will be initially issued to a customer with partner details included, if applicable to the type of card issued.

In cases where a customer has requested the reissue of their concession card without the partner name included, they would hold two valid concession cards, one with partner name displayed and one without. In order for a customer to access concessions for their partner (where the partner is not a concession card holder in their own right) they would need to present the card displaying the partner details.

Any customer who would like a concession card reissued without their partner details will be able to do so.

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Output Group: 2.1

Question No: 150

Topic: Pension Review

Hansard Page: CA19-26/2

Senator Scullion asked:

What is the total cost of the pension review to date? Including wages, media, travel, venue hire & hospitality?

Answer:

The total cost of the pension review to the end of February 2009 is: **\$2,278,363**

Included in this total are:

- Employee expenses (inc. salary, superannuation and leave accruals): **\$1,375,457**
- Staff travel: **\$89,645**
- Communications and media (including advertising and printing): **\$152,627**
- Contractors and consultants: **\$581,051**
- Public consultation venue hire and hospitality: **\$18,208**

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Question No: 151

Topic: Pension Review

Hansard Page: CA 20-26/2

Senator Scullion asked:

What is the exact number of submissions provided? If you could table a list of the people who have made submissions?

Answer:

As at 2 February 2009, the Pension Review had received 1880 submissions from the public. This includes submissions from both individuals as well as organisations.

The Department cannot table a list of the people and organisations that made submissions, as it has previously made an undertaking that submissions would be treated as confidential.

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Question No: 152

Topic: Age Pension

Hansard Page: CA22 – 26 February 2009

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you tell me the projected number of people and costs for this financial year for people on part-rate and full-rate age pensions, for singles and couples and for homeowners and non-homeowners?

Answer:

The current estimate of 2008/09 Age Pension expenditure is \$27,843.788 million. This estimate was contained in the Government's Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008/09. This estimate includes estimated expenditure of \$2,468.594 million on Economic Security Strategy payments to age pensioners.

Age Pension customer and expenditure estimates are not constructed at the levels of part rate and full rate, singles and couples, or homeowners and non-homeowners. However, some actual data follows.

The total number of age pensioners at 5 December 2008 was 2,070,084. Some 5,724 of these received an Age Pension delivered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The following proportions relate to the 2,064,360 age pensioners whose Age Pension is delivered by Centrelink:

- full rate age pensioners – 59.1 per cent.
- part rate pensioners – 40.9 per cent.
- single age pensioners – 44.6 per cent.
- partnered age pensioners – 55.4 per cent.
- homeowner age pensioners – 73.4 per cent.
- non-homeowner age pensioners – 26.6 per cent.

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Question No: 153

Topic: Age Pension

Hansard Page: CA22-26/2

Senator Humphries asked:

How many self-funded retirees are expected to now access an age pension because of changes to arrangements around the minimum amount of capital they must withdraw from their account based pensions?

Answer:

The minimum draw down measure affects the level of income that is assessed for social security purposes. While this could increase the number of self-funded retirees who qualify for the Age Pension, a meaningful estimate would be difficult to determine. This would depend on the retiree's individual circumstances, such as the annual amount already drawn down, and the level of other income and assets held by the retiree.

In addition, the measure will have an impact on how much income is assessed under the income test. Many self-funded retirees are not entitled to receive the Age Pension because of the operation of the assets test. That is, the assets they hold exceed the relevant asset test cut out points. For example, as at 20 March 2009, the asset test cut out point for a single homeowner will be \$555,750 and for partnered homeowners (combined) the cut out point is \$882,500.

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Question No: 154

Topic: Pension Loans Scheme

Hansard Page: CA25 – 26/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Please provide a total value or average value of the loans for the 477 cases – broken down between states and territories.

Answer:

The total value of loans is \$16.4 million. The average value of a loan per individual is \$23,685. The loans are broken down by State and Territory in the following table. The 693 individuals with a Pension Loans Scheme (PLS) loan represent approximately 477 cases. This is because couples with a PLS loan are treated as one case.

State	Individuals	Total Amount	Average
NSW	246	\$6,195,677	\$25,186
NT	2	\$13,407	\$6,703
QLD	124	\$3,417,836	\$27,563
SA	37	\$669,017	\$18,082
TAS	40	\$739,659	\$18,491
VIC	167	\$3,766,431	\$22,553
WA	77	\$1,611,843	\$20,933
Total	693	\$16,413,870	\$23,685

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Question No: 147

Topic: Support for the aged

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is being done to support self-funded retirees, particularly now that in a lot of cases some super funds have lost up to 50% of their total value?

Answer:

Many self-funded retirees would have benefited under the \$10.4 billion Economic Security Strategy delivered in December 2008. The Government provided lump-sum payments of \$1,400 to singles and \$2,100 to couples who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). Holders of a CSHC are also entitled to the Seniors Concession Allowance (SCA), which recognises that self-funded retirees are unable to benefit from the concessions that are available to pensioners. From 20 March 2009 the SCA increased to \$518.80 a year.

Self-funded retirees who have a net tax liability in 2007-08 will also be eligible for a Tax Bonus as part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. A Tax Bonus of up to \$900 will be paid to every eligible taxpayer earning \$100,000 or less. The Tax Bonuses will be paid from April 2009. In addition, self-funded retirees will continue to benefit from tax cuts the Government delivered as part of the 2008-09 Budget. On 1 July 2008, the Government increased the 30 per cent threshold from \$30,001 to \$34,001. This threshold will be further increased to \$37,001 in 2010-11. This change benefits those with incomes in excess of \$30,000. In addition, the 40 per cent rate will be reduced to 38 per cent from 1 July 2009 and to 37 per cent from 1 July 2010.

Due to the impact of the global economic downturn, the Government recognises that the current balances of account-based pensions of many self-funded retirees are much lower than when the minimum annual payment amounts were calculated on 1 July 2008. On 18 February 2009 the minimum payment requirement for account-based pensions for the 2008/09 financial year was halved. This change will benefit account-based pension holders, who had faced a reduced risk of selling assets at a loss in order to meet the minimum payment amount requirements for the current year.

Under the existing operation of Australia's retirement income framework, self-funded retirees may become entitled to the Age Pension if their income and assets have been affected by the financial crisis to the extent that they now meet the relevant financial limits. Under the income test, a single person can earn up to \$41,015 a year and couples can earn a combined income of \$68,497 before being disqualified from the pension. In terms of the assets test, the current disqualifying limits for homeowners are \$555,750 (single) and \$882,500 (couple, combined). For non-homeowners, the asset disqualifying limits are \$680,250 (single) and \$1,007,000 (couple, combined).

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#1808 P.001 /001

T3

**Children Accessing EI Services by State/Territory
as at 25/02/09**

State/Territory	Total
ACT	15
NSW	197
NT	6
QLD	150
SA	51
TAS	26
VIC	180
WA	175
Grand Total	800

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2009-2010 10:10

#1810 P.001 /001

Autism Advisor Activity as of 19 February 2009

As of 19 February 2009, Autism Advisors have supported 2059 families across Australia. The breakdown per state and territory is as follows:

State/Territory	Number of families as at 19/2/09
Autism QLD	412
Autism SA	146
ASPECT NSW	556
Autism VIC	515
Autism WA	340
Autism NT	21
Autism Tasmania	33
ACT Autism Aspergers	36
National Total	2059

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NACMH CONSULTATION

Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Perth (29 January 2009)

Participant Organisation

1. Richmond Fellowship of WA
2. RUAH Community Services
3. June O'Connor Centre
4. NCCF Member
5. NCCF Member
6. WA Association for Mental Health
7. NCCF Member
8. Lamp Inc
9. NCCF Member
10. WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies
11. Schizophrenia Fellowship
12. Mental Illness Fellowship of WA
13. Perth Home Care Services
14. Dept of Prime Minister & Cabinet
15. WA Premier's Dept
16. WA Premier's Dept
17. Drug and Alcohol Office WA Dept of Health
18. WA Dept of Health
19. WA Dept of Health
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)
(Scribe)
(PM&C)
(FaHCSIA)
(FaHCSIA)
(DoHA)
(DoHA)

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NACMH CONSULTATION

**Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Brisbane (2 February 2009)**

Participant Organisation

20. QLD Health
21. QLD Aboriginal and Islander Health Corporation
22. Government Relations Branch, Department of Disability Services QLD
23. Open Minds Australia Ltd
24. Centacare Brisbane
25. Centacare Brisbane
26. NCCF
27. Mental Health Branch, Disability Services QLD
28. QLD Alliance of Mental Illness and Psychiatric Disability Groups Inc
29. QLD Health Clinical Nurse
30. QLD Health Clinical Nurse
31. QLD Network on Alcohol and Other Drugs
32. Department of the Premier and Cabinet
33. Strategic Projects, Department of Disability Services QLD
34. Schizophrenia Fellowship of QLD
35. On the Track Program
36. Multicultural Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Inc
37. Stepping Stone Clubhouse
38. NCCF Member
39. Youth and Family Services Inc
40. QLD Health Department
41. Youth Housing Coalition
42. Department of the Premier and Cabinet
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)

NACMH member
NACMH member
(Scribe)
(PM&C)
(FaHCSIA)
(FaHCSIA)
(DoHA)
(DoHA)

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NACMH CONSULTATION

Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Darwin (3 February 2009)

Participant Organisation

- 43. NT Chief Minister's Department
- 44. Northern Territory Health
- 45. Mental Health Association of Central Australia
- 46. NCCF Member
- 47. Centacare NT
- 48. Top End Association for Mental Health
- 49. NT Council of Social Services
- 50. Service Integration Manager, Anglicare NT
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)

NACMH member
(Scribe)
(PM&C)
(FaHCSIA)
(FaHCSIA)
(DoHA)

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NACMH CONSULTATION

Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Sydney (4 February 2009)

Participant Organisation

- 51. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
- 52. New Horizons Ltd
- 53. Belconnen Community Service
- 54. Mental Health Coordinating Council
- 55. Mental Health Community Coalition of ACT
- 56. Centacare Catholic Community Services
- 57. Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn
- 58. Multicultural Mental Health Australia
- 59. Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
- 60. Mental Health NSW
- 61. Mental Health Policy Unit, ACT Health
- 62. Oz Help Foundation
- 63. Arts Access Australia
- 64. Wesley Mission Sydney
- 65. Suicide Prevention Network, Port Macquarie
- 66. Australian Therapeutic Communities Association
- 67. Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT
- 68. National Rural Health Alliance
- 69. Western Sydney Area Mental Health Service
- 70. NCCF
- 71. National Consumer and Carer Forum
- 72. National Consumer and Carer Forum
- 73. National Consumer and Carer Forum
- 74. National Consumer and Carer Forum
- 75. National Consumer and Carer Forum
- 76. The Richmond Fellowship NSW
- 77. Mental Health Council of Australia
- 78. Mental Health Council of Australia
- 79. NACMH Member
- 80. NSW Government
- 81. NSW Treasury
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)
- NACMH member
- NACMH member
- NACMH member
- NACMH member
(Scribe)
- (PM&C)
- (FaHCSIA)
- (FaHCSIA)
- (DoHA)
- (DoHA)

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NACMH CONSULTATION

Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Melbourne (5 February 2009)

Participant Organisation

- 82. Mind Australia
- 83. Mind Australia
- 84. Western Region Community Health Ltd
- 85. Neami Limited
- 86. Psychiatric Disability Services of Victoria
- 87. Mental Health Council of Tasmania
- 88. NCCF
- 89. NCCF Member
- 90. NCCF Member
- 91. Victorian Association of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
- 92. Salvation Army
- 93. ACE – Representing Australia’s Disability Employment Network
- 94. MIF, Victoria
- 95. Colony
- 96. Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia
- 97. GP Divisions Victoria
- 98. Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
- 99. Centacare Adelaide
- 100. Pathways
- 101. Australian Psychological Society
- 102. VIC Department of Health and Human Services
- 103. VIC Department of Health and Human Services
- 104. VIC Premier’s Department
- 105. SA Health
- 106. SA Premier’s Department
- 107. Mental Health Services, TAS Department of Health and Human Services
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)
- NACMH member
- NACMH member
- NACMH member
- (Scribe)
- (PM&C)
- (FaHCSIA)
- (FaHCSIA)
- (DoHA)
- (DoHA)

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NACMH CONSULTATION

**Proposed National Partnership Agreement on Community Mental Health
Special Stakeholder meeting, Melbourne (13 February)**

Participant Organisation

1. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
2. MIF WA
3. QLD Alliance of Mental Illness and Psychiatric Disability
4. Psychiatric Disability Services of Victoria
5. Australian Council on Drugs
6. Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia
7. NMHCCF
8. NMHCCF
9. NMHCCF
10. NT Mental Health Coalition
11. Victorian Government
12. Victorian Government
13. WA Government
14. QLD Government
(Facilitator – NACMH Chair)

NACMH Member

NACMH Member
(PM&C)

NACMH Member
(PM&C)

NACMH Member
(FaHCSIA)

NACMH Member
(FaHCSIA)

NACMH Member
(DoHA)

NACMH Member
(DoHA)

NACMH Member
(DoHA)

NACMH Member
(Scribe)

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STAKEHOLDERS WHO PROVIDED WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Name	Method
Richmond Fellowship of WA	Email
Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drugs	Email
Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT Inc	Email
ACT Health	Letter
Open Minds	Email
Suicide Prevention Network, Port Macquarie	Email
Anglicare	Letter
SA Health	Email
Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health	Submission
Richmond Fellowship Australia	Email / Letter
WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH)	Letter
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Letter
Arts Access Australia	Email
Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies	Submission
Mental Health Coalition, NTCOSS	Submission
WA Office for Mental Health	Submission
Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW	Email

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Senator Siewert asked:

How many enquiries have been fielded by Centrelink since the introduction of Special Disability Trusts?

Centrelink do not keep statistics on general enquiries. However they can advise on the number of enquiries on Special Disability Trusts that progress to assessment and have provided the following figures:

Since October 08 = 33 enquiries
Total since commencement = 468

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T7

Primary School resource kit for young carers – content of kits

The Primary School Kit is a resource booklet that was distributed to Primary school teachers some time ago providing them with information about young carers, how to identify young carers , where teachers can go for assistance and some ideas for the classroom teacher to support young carers, plus a couple of activities e.g. a word search and a crossword.

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 155

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

When were round 1 and 2 announced?

Answer:

Funding Rounds 1 and 2 - Service providers delivering the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program across Australia were announced on 5 April and 13 September 2007 respectively.

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 156

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

When was the call for applications for the latest round?

Answer:

The call for applications commenced in national state and territory-based newspapers on the 14 June 2008. The application period was from 14 June 2008 to 25 July 2008.

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Question No: 157

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

How many applicants applied?

Answer:

A total of 775 applications were received from 175 organisations.

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 158

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Applicants had to apply according to geographical areas/postcodes – what areas were oversubscribed? Were there areas where there were no applicants – where were they?

Answer:

In all sites (with the exception of one), more applications were received than expected. There were no sites/areas that did not receive any applications.

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Question No: 159

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

When these organisations applied back in July of last year – what date were they supposed to be up and running?

Answer:

It was anticipated that service providers would be operational by March 2009.

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Question No: 160

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

When were the successful applicants for round 3 announced?

Answer:

Service providers that were successful in Round 3 of the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program across Australia were announced on Wednesday 25 February 2009.

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Question No: 161

Topic: Personal Mentors and Helpers Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Why has this programme been so significantly delayed?

Answer:

There was an overwhelming response to the PHaMs Round 3, with 775 applications received.

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Question No: 163

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Will FaHCSIA maintain its mental health programmes, or are there plans to move this to another Department such as Health and Ageing, or indeed the States?

Answer:

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to consider a program of reforms to roles and responsibilities for funding and delivery of services to the community. The goals of such reforms will be to deliver more integrated and responsive services for individuals and families, to clarify accountabilities between governments and to improve performance of service systems. COAG requested officials to bring back specific proposals in relation to community mental health, disability services and aged care in 2009 as part of this program. COAG has not yet considered any possible reforms.

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Question No: 164

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The Government put together a Business Directory as part of the launch of Australian Disability Enterprises. How many hard copies have been distributed to date? And to whom?

Answer:

Approximately 1,300 copies of the Australian Disability Enterprise Business Directory have been distributed since its launch on 28 November 2008. Copies have been sent to the following groups of people:

- Chief Executive Officers of Australian Disability Enterprises organisations
- Secretaries, Chief Financial Officers and Procurement Officers of Australian Governments departments and agencies bound by the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines
- Chief Executive Officers of 32 major Australian businesses
- All Senior Executive Service officers in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- People who attended the launch of the Business Directory
- Individuals who have requested copies through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs distribution centre or National Disability Services (peak body)
- Staff within the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- All Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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Question No: 165

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How much in total did it cost to develop and distribute the directory?

What is the breakdown of this funding?

Answer:

The Australian Disability Enterprises directory cost approximately \$52,300 ex GST to develop and distribute.

The breakdown of this funding is as follows:

Design \$18,500 ex GST

Printing \$26,780 ex GST

Distribution \$7,020 ex GST

Total \$52,300 ex GST

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 166

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How did the Department gather the information (eg contacted business services, advertised)?

Answer:

The Department gathered information for the directory from the Australian Disability Enterprises by direct contact.

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Output Group: 2.2

Question No: 167

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Is the directory available electronically?

Answer:

Information about products and services is available electronically at
www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au.

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Question No: 178

Topic: Opportunity Booklet and Disability Confidence Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The Government provided \$40,000 for the production of the Opportunity booklet. Why was the figure of \$40,000 decided upon?

Answer:

The development of the Opportunity booklet was jointly sponsored by Government and the private sector. Co-sponsors included the NSW Government and a number of large corporations.

The total cost of the project was \$103,827, with FaHCSIA providing \$40,000 toward this. In determining the level of funding to be provided for the project, FaHCSIA took into account the value for money this joint project would deliver to promote employment opportunities for people with disability.

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Question No: 180

Topic: Opportunity Booklet and Disability Confidence Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The booklet can be downloaded electronically and hard copies are available for free from the Employers' Network on Disability. How many hard copies of the booklet have been requested since the launch?

Answer:

Initially, 7,000 copies of the booklet were distributed and the Australian Employers' Network on Disability (AEND) has advised that all copies have now been distributed. The AEND has been unable to fulfil all the requests for booklets they have received.

The AEND has advised that there has been high interest from Australian businesses as well as some interest internationally, including some companies in the United Kingdom.

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Question No: 181

Topic: Opportunity Booklet and Disability Confidence Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The Disability Confidence website was launched on the same day as the booklet. Who paid for the development of the website?

How much did the website cost to develop?

How much are the ongoing costs eg maintenance?

Answer:

The development of the website was supported by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The development cost was \$1,470. The time of the web designer was provided in-kind.

The Department is not responsible for any ongoing costs for this website. The website belongs to the Australian Employers' Network for Disability and they are responsible for updating and maintaining it.

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Question No: 182

Topic: Opportunity Booklet and Disability Confidence Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Has the Government received any feedback about the site (eg from businesses, disability sector)?

Answer:

Feedback has been positive with indications the booklet and website are providing useful and accessible information to promote the business case for employing people with disability. The Australian Employers' Network on Disability has advised that demand for the booklet has been high with demand far outstripping the supply of 7,000 booklets and more booklets still being requested.

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Question No: 183

Topic: Disability Investment Group

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

In the October Estimates, it was stated that the Disability Investment Group (DIG) would report to the Parliamentary Secretary by the end of 2008, possibly after the meeting scheduled for 16 December.

- a) Did the meeting take place on 16 December?
- b) Did the DIG provide Mr Shorten with a report?
- c) What progress has the DIG made since October 2008?
- d) When does the DIG plan to meet in 2009?

Answer:

- a) No, the Disability Investment Group meeting scheduled for 16 December 2008 was postponed, due to the unavailability of some members, and rescheduled to January 2009.
- b) The Disability Investment Group has not yet provided its final report to the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Bill Shorten MP. The extension to the reporting timeline of the Disability Investment Group was agreed to by the Chair of the Disability Investment Group and the Parliamentary Secretary.
- c) Since October 2008 the Disability Investment Group has held face-to-face meetings on 30 October 2008 and 27 January 2009 and teleconferences on 14 October 2008 and 27 November 2008. The Group also undertook consultations in Brisbane (27 October 2008), Sydney (29 October 2008), Perth (31 October 2008) and Melbourne (10 November 2008). Additional work has also been undertaken out of session to progress the Group's report.
- d) The Disability Investment Group met on 27 January 2009 and may meet again in 2009.

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Question No: 184

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The estimated budget for the Disability Support Pension has increased by over \$272 million since May's Budget (FaHCSIA Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2008-09, p.27). What has been the reason for this blow-out in spending?

Where has this extra \$272m come from?

Answer:

Expenditure forecasts have increased as reduced outlays for Disability Support Pension (DSP) anticipated from the Welfare to Work package did not occur.

The Disability Support Pension program is a special appropriation that appears in the *Social Security Act 1991*, which appropriates money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose of paying people that meet the eligibility criteria for DSP.

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Question No: 186

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Does the Department expect this blow-out to increase over the next four years?

Does the Government have any immediate plans in place to address this blow-out?

Answer:

As a result of the revision due to the expected reduction in outlays from welfare to work not occurring, Disability Support Pension (DSP) special appropriation expenditure is forecast to increase in the future.

As program managers the Department will continue to monitor Disability Support Pension expenditure/and advise government on trends.

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Question No: 187

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Can the Department tell me how many people received the Disability Support Pension for each month since June 2008 to now? If not, why aren't these figures available? If so, what are these figures?

Answer:

The following table provides Disability Support Pension recipient numbers at a point in time at the end of each month from June 2008 to February 2009.

Month-Year	No.
Jun-08	732,367
Jul-08	733,376
Aug-08	735,149
Sep-08	736,086
Oct-08	737,608
Nov-08	740,212
Dec-08	742,670
Jan-09	745,002
Feb-09	747,470

The numbers are sourced from Centrelink Administrative data and include both current and suspended recipients.

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Question No: 188

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Is it true that the Government has cut funding from the Disability Workers' Union in WA?

Answer:

No. On the expiration of the 2007-08 Funding Agreement a further Funding Agreement was not offered to the Disabled Workers Union to deliver the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) for the 2008/09 financial year.

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Question No: 190

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Mr Shorten also mentions that “there are more general concerns around DWU not meeting additional requirements contained within their existing funding agreement.” What are these ‘general concerns’?

Answer:

In addition to the service not meeting any of the required Disability Service Standards, general concerns in regards to the organisation included the:

- inability to meet reporting timeframes as outlined in the funding agreement;
- incomplete and poor standard of reports when submitted;
- lack of clarity around the use of funding to deliver the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP);
- ongoing viability of the organisation; and
- lack of capacity for staff to deliver under the NDAP when key personnel were not available.

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Question No: 191

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Was there any other reason why the DWU's funding was cut off?

Answer:

As per question 188.

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Question No: 192

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Under what programs did the DWU receive Federal Government funding?

How much did the DWU receive from the Federal Government per annum when it did receive funding?

Can you tell me how much the DWU has received per annum over the last 10 years?

Answer:

- The National Disability Advocacy Program.
- In 2007/08 the DWU received \$60,376 plus GST.
- 1999-2009 funding:

Financial Year	Funding Amount (GST exclusive)	Financial Year	Funding Amount (GST exclusive)
1999-00	\$52,637	2000-01	\$53,525
2001-02	\$56,946	2002-03	\$56,464
2003-04	\$57,706	2004-05	\$58,629
2005-06	\$59,860	2006-07	\$60,000
2007-08	\$60,376	2008-09	\$0

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Question No: 193

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Is the Department currently looking into funding issues related to the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)?

Answer:

Yes. All NDAP agencies have been advised of this by letter. NDAP agencies will be consulted and have the opportunity to provide comment.

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Question No: 194

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

According to a letter from Minister Plibersek to Dennis Jensen (dated 23 January 2009), FaHCSIA has corresponded with the DWU regarding its funding on 'numerous occasions'. On what dates did FaHCSIA correspond with the DWU?

Answer:

Correspondence in regards to standards and funding began in 2006 and finished when the DWU failed to make contact with Department in regards to future funding options. The following dates of contact were primarily by mail. Those with a * were by phone or in person.

26/10/06*	1/11/06*	1/11/06	1/12/06*
30/1/07	30/3/07	25/6/07	30/3/07
26/6/07*	11/3/08	11/3/08 *	3/6/08*
5/6/08	24/6/08	1/7/08*	3/7/08
24/7/08	12/8/08	28/8/08	15/9/08

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Question No: 195

Topic: Disabled Workers Union (DWU) Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

What is the next course of action that the Department will be taking with the DWU?

Answer:

DWU have not acquitted their funding for 2007-08 and the Department is following this up with the agency.

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Question No: 197

Topic: Autism Advisor program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

An answer from Questions on Notice (T6) stated that “before becoming operational, autism associations are required to provide an implementation plan to FaHCSIA that details their requirements to implement the program over the funding period.” Has this process occurred? If so, what are the details of the implementation plans? If not, does that mean that the program has not started yet, leaving families without their promised autism advisors?

Answer:

Yes, each Autism Association has provided an implementation plan to FaHCSIA.

The implementation plans include an outline of the Autism Associations’ proposed service delivery models and strategies for the Autism Advisor Program and their service delivery strategies.

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Question No: 200

Topic: PlayConnect Playgroups

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Two of the ASD playgroups met at the end of October last year, and more playgroups were due to meet before the end of 2008 (according to Bill Shorten's media release). Did these other playgroups meet before the end of 2008?

Answer:

As the national provider for ASD Playgroups, Playgroup Australia committed to delivering ten playgroups by the end of December 2008.

Nine of the ten PlayConnect Playgroups met prior to Christmas. The opening of the PlayConnect Playgroup at Toowoomba was delayed due to severe storms. All ten PlayConnect Playgroups have met again since Christmas.

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Question No: 201

Topic: PlayConnect

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

In Mr Shorten's media release of 7 November, he stated that 50 playgroups were scheduled to be ready before the end of this financial year. Is this Department still aiming for this deadline?

How many of these 50 playgroups will be in rural and remote locations?

Answer:

As the national provider for the ASD Playgroups, Playgroup Australia has committed to delivering fifty PlayConnect Playgroups by the end of June 2009. The sites are currently being identified and suitable venues sourced. The program is expecting to meet the target of fifty PlayConnect Playgroups by June 2009.

Site selection for the PlayConnect Playgroups will be determined by Playgroup Australia based on demand for services. There will be PlayConnect Playgroups in all states and territories including rural and remote locations. In rural and remote areas where there are insufficient children to establish a PlayConnect Playgroup, Playgroup Australia will provide support for the families to attend an existing Playgroup.

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Question No: 202

Topic: Helping Children with Autism Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

On 2 February 2009 the Government announced that eligibility for the package was to be expanded to include children under 6 who attended school (previously they were rendered ineligible once they attended school). What prompted the Government to decide to expand the autism package?

What is the Budget for the expansion of this package?

Where did this funding come from?

When will the funding be available for families to use?

Answer:

Differences between state and territory school starting ages resulted in inconsistencies nationally with some children able to access the funding for significantly longer periods than others. The Government revised the eligibility criteria to allow greater access to the funding and to ensure equity of access nationally.

The funding is from the original allocation of \$190 million. The changed eligibility will have a neutral impact on the funding for the package because expenditure for the early intervention component was lower than originally expected in the first half of the 2008-09 financial year.

The eligibility changes came into effect on 2 February 2009. Funding was available immediately for families of eligible children to access.

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Question No: 203

Topic: Helping Children with Autism Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

I have read of claims (by the Autism Angels organisation) that a Government-approved autism service provider in Victoria has allegedly taken advantage of its monopoly in the area by charging twice the price for its autism services ('Service rip-off claim', Star newspapers online, 17.2.09.)

Bill Shorten stated that he would be investigating the issues raised by Autism Angels.

Is the investigation still in progress?

When will it be concluded?

Has any action been taken against the service provider?

Answer:

The department has completed an investigation.

The Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) program offered by the service provider utilises both clinical and registered psychologists who have specialised training in the assessments and therapy delivered by the organisation. This organisation's therapy service is different to that offered by other providers. As there are no psychologists in Victoria who have the same expertise and experience, a psychologist travels from Western Australia to deliver the program in Victoria as an outreach service, resulting in higher costs for this service.

The organisation advised the department that the cost of providing outreach services in Victoria has not been increased in relation to the FaHCSIA funding and that clients in Victoria had always paid higher fees than those charged by the same organisation in Western Australia due to the outreach service offered.

No action has been taken against the service provider.

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Question No: 204

Topic: PlayConnect

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many playgroups will be located in rural South Australia and at what locations?

Answer:

A number of sites in metropolitan South Australia have been identified. Further work to determine areas of demand, including rural areas is being undertaken.

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Question No: 205

Topic: Autism Advisor Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Will any autism advisors or Government-approved autism service providers be located in rural South Australia?

Answer:

The Autism Advisors are located in Adelaide and are providing an outreach service to rural South Australia.

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Question No: 206

Topic: National Companion Card Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

During the last Estimates (October 2008), I was told that an implementation timetable for the scheme has been set up, which required the disability ministers to “agree to a national framework by December” 2008. Did this occur before the end of 2008?

Answer:

Yes. On 3 September 2008, Community and Disability Services Ministers’ Conference endorsed the national framework developed by a Commonwealth/State Government working group.

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Question No: 208

Topic: National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The Government provided \$25,000 to the Youth Disability Advocacy Service to host the National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable in November 2008. Can you provide me with a breakdown of what the \$25,000 was spent on?

Answer:

A total of \$22,628 (GST Excl) was provided to the Youth Disability Advocacy Service to host the National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable in November 2008.

Breakdown of Expenditure:

Salaries	\$3,649
Travel	\$7,579
Auslan Interpreters	\$640
Attendant Care	\$443
Speakers Fee	\$350
External Venue costs	\$3,535
Administration	\$3,061
TOTAL	\$19,257

The Youth Disability Advocacy Service will return the unspent funds of \$3,371.

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Question No: 209

Topic: National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

About 30 young people attended the Roundtable. What advertising took place to inform people/organisations about the Roundtable?

What was the cost of this advertising?

How were these 30 people selected?

Which states/territories did they come from?

Answer:

Calls from the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) for nation-wide expressions of interest from young people with disabilities were advertised through the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, disability peak organisations and advocacy networks.

There was a nil cost for advertising.

Participants were chosen by a panel comprised of a young person associated with YDAS, the YDAS Coordinator and the CEO of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria.

The Youth Roundtable was held in Melbourne and as a means to limit costs, almost half of the participants (13) came from Victoria, seven of which were from rural or regional areas.

Participants came from the following states/territories:

State/Territory	Participants
Victoria	13
Western Australia	2
Northern Territory	1
Tasmania	1
South Australia	3
Queensland	3
New South Wales	4
TOTAL	27

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Question No: 211

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

At the last Estimates we found that there had been a delay in conducting the NDS consultations. The consultations were to be finished in November and a feedback report based on the outcomes of the consultations and submissions is due for release in “early 2009” (according to the FaHCSIA website). How is this report progressing?

Answer:

There was a strong response to the consultation process, with more than 2,500 people attending nation-wide forums and a total of over 750 written submissions received. Due to the many requests from the public and organisations for extensions, the closing date to lodge submissions was extended from 1 December 2008 to 7 January 2009. This extension, combined with the large volume of submissions to be analysed, has delayed the progress of the consultation feedback report. It will be released in the coming months.

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Question No: 212

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

During the October Estimates I was told that the due date for the feedback report was “around about March.” Has a specific date been decided upon?

Answer:

No specific date has been decided upon, however it is anticipated that the consultation feedback report will be released by the Parliamentary Secretary in the coming months.

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Question No: 213

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Regarding the locations of the consultations, a list I received as an answer to my Question on Notice (question T4) lists the locations, but some of the dates say “to be confirmed.” Is it possible to get a complete list of the locations with all the dates?

Answer:

A list of consultation venues and dates appears below:

- Capital City Consultation Schedule
-

City	Date
Darwin	27 October
Sydney	5 November
Brisbane	6 November
Perth	10 November
Melbourne	12 November
Hobart	14 November
Adelaide	24 November
Canberra	26 November

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Question No: 215

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many calls have been received by the NDS 1800 number (1800 077 765) in total up to today?

How many emails were received by the email address related to the NDS consultation process?

Answer:

In the period 17 October 2008 to 5 January 2009 a total of 904 calls were received via the NDS 1800 number.

In the same period 1,248 emails were received by the email inbox.

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Question No: 217

Topic: National People with Disabilities and Carer Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

I recently came across some concerns that SACID (South Australia Council on Intellectual Disability) had regarding the National People with Disabilities and Carers Council. SACID emailed Minister Macklin and Bill Shorten about these concerns on 27 October 2008. Has the Council or the Department considered the suggestions made by SACID?

Answer:

SACID emailed the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services on 27 October 2008 on behalf of SACID, expressing concern that people with intellectual disability were not represented on the Council. On 21 January 2009, Mr Shorten wrote to SACID to advise that he and Minister Macklin had recently appointed a further member, who is from a non-English speaking background and has personal experience of intellectual disability.

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Question No: 219

Topic: National People with Disabilities and Carer Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many people are on the Council?

How many adults with an intellectual disability or profound severe and multiple disabilities (or their chosen representatives) are on the Council?

What process was used to select the members? (e.g. was there an application process, were nominations received?)

For what length of time do members serve on the Council?

Answer:

There are 28 people on the Council.

One Council member identifies as having a personal experience of intellectual disability. Several members have extensive experience in advocating for the needs of people with intellectual disability as well as those with high support needs. For example, four members of the Council are family carers of a person(s) with intellectual disability.

Careful consideration was given to the membership of the Council by both the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services. Members were personally chosen by Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Shorten based on their individual skills, knowledge and expertise.

Council members represent a diverse range of backgrounds and experience. The Council includes people with disability and their families, carers, industry and union representatives and academics.

Council members have been appointed for three years.

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Question No: 220

Topic: National People with Disabilities and Carer Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Is there any scope for new people to be appointed?

Answer:

Any vacancies which arise may be filled at the discretion of the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services. Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Shorten may also appoint additional members at their discretion.

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Question No: 221

Topic: Services for People with Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

In FaHCSIA's Additional Estimates Statement 2008-09 (p.29), there has been a reduction of \$15m in funding for 'Services for People with Disability'. Why was this money taken out of this and where has this \$15m gone?

Answer:

The reduction in funding of \$15.523m for the 'Services for People with Disability' appropriation reflects the net effect of the following three transfers:

- Disability Assistance Package Older Carers Respite measure (-\$12.605m). This funding has been transferred to Bill 2 to be paid to the States and Territories through the new National Disability Agreement.
- Disability Assistance Package Targeted Support Services (-\$4.472m). This funding has also been transferred to Bill 2 to be paid to the States and Territories through the new National Disability Agreement.
- Disability Services Local Government Authorities (LGA) (+\$1.554). This funding has been transferred from Bill 2 to the 'Services for People with Disability' appropriation.

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Question No: 225

Topic: Younger People with Disability Living in Aged Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

In FaHCSIA's Additional Estimates Statement 2008-09 (p. 29), there appears to have been a reduction of \$14m funding for the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care program. Why has this occurred? Where has the \$14m gone? Were service providers and individuals informed about this cut in funding?

Answer:

There has been no reduction in funding of the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program for the 2008-2009 financial year. The budget for the YPIRAC Program for the 2008-2009 financial year is \$28.367m. As at 31 December \$14.183m has been expended.

As of 1 January 2009, the remaining funding of \$14.184m for 2008-2009 financial year (and funding for subsequent years of the five year YPIRAC Program), was rolled into the base of the new National Disability Agreement.

State and Territories will continue to receive funding for the Program as previously specified in bilateral agreements, however, payments are made through the Department of Treasury instead of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, in accordance with the recent reforms to Specific Purpose Payments.

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Question No: 228

Topic: National Disability Agreement

Hansard Page: CA31-26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Provide a breakdown by States of the \$5.3 billion in funding.

Answer:

The following is a breakdown by jurisdiction of the \$5.3 billion in funding provided by the Australian Government through the National Disabilities Services Specific Purpose Payment. This funding covers the period 2008-09 to 2012-2013.

NATIONAL DISABILITIES SERVICES SPP									
\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
TOTAL	1740.1	1239.8	1019.7	478.8	498.9	154.1	79.0	56.9	5267.1

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Question No: 229

Topic: CSTDA and NDA

Hansard Page: CA31-26/2

Senator Bernardi asked:

Can you confirm whether the funding under the CSTDA and the NDA are not actually related?

Answer:

- The previous CSTDA expired on December 31 2008.
- The new National Disability Agreement came into effect on 1 January 2009. This Agreement supersedes the previous Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.
- The new Agreement was developed under a new framework for Commonwealth and State financial relations as agreed by COAG on 29 November 2008.

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Question No: 230

Topic: Allen Consulting Group report

Hansard Page: CA33 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Please provide a copy of the report.

Answer:

The Allen Consulting Group report *International Review of Future Planning Options* is not yet publicly available.

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Question No: 232

Topic: Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres

Hansard Page: CA34 – 26/2

Senator Parry asked:

Has there been any request for the Northwest Tasmanian Centre to be relocated to another part of Tasmania?

Answer:

No request has been received to relocate the North West Tasmanian centre to another part of Tasmania.

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Question No: 235

Topic: Residential Aged Care

Hansard Page: CA69- 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

At what stage are the facilities now? Have tenders been let? Have development applications been approved?

Answer:

Under the bilateral agreements there is no requirement to only build new facilities. COAG agreed that State and Territory Governments would manage the program on a day to day basis, as agreed in signed bilateral agreements made with the Australian Government.

The objectives of the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program are to move young people out of residential aged care into more appropriate accommodation, divert those at risk of admission to residential aged care, and provide enhanced services to those who remain in residential aged care.

Program activity across jurisdictions is occurring at different stages, reflecting the widespread dates on which bilateral agreements were signed with States and Territories and when implementation of Programs began.

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Question No: 162

Topic: Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

How have you communicated this delay to the applicants who submitted over 7 months ago – if so how and when? Have they had a chance to re-submit their applications given the significant delay?

Answer:

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Round 3 selection process webpage stated ‘Applicants are expected to be advised of the outcomes of the Round 3 selection process in November 2008.’ The expected outcome advice was then updated to January 2009.

Advice about the outcome of the funding process was provided on the FaHCSIA website on 25 February 2009.

It was not necessary for applicants to re-submit their application.

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Question No: 168

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

A redesigned Disability Enterprises website is due to start from March 2009. Does the Department know if this means the start of March or the end of March (eg when exactly will the website be ready)?

What is the budget for this website?

What will this website contain?

Is the Government planning to advertise this website, to let businesses know about it?

If so, how much is this expected to cost?

Answer:

The Australian Disability Enterprises website (www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au) is now available.

The budget for the website is as follows:

Design = \$10,000 inc GST
Database Development = \$77,700 inc GST

Total = \$87,700 inc GST

Recurrent costs for maintaining the website address are estimated at around \$2,500 inc GST per annum.

The website contains extensive information about the products and services that are available for purchase from Australian Disability Enterprises as well as their contact details. The website also contains some generic information about Australian Disability Enterprises, including the business directory.

Plans to advertise the website are still to be finalised. No cost estimate can be given at this stage.

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Question No: 169

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

In the 9 Feb 2009 issue of disAbility e-news, it says that “the Department is providing free promotional material for all enterprises,” to promote the branding of the new Australian Disability Enterprises. This material will be delivered in April. How much is the Department spending on the design, production and distribution of this free material?

Where has this money come from?

What does this material include? (eg posters, flyers etc)

How many enterprises will receive the material?

Will all enterprises receive the material before the end of April?

Answer:

The marketing strategy for Australian Disability Enterprises is being finalised. It will include promotional materials for all Disability Enterprises to use. At this stage all 352 Australian Disability Enterprises’ outlets have received 2 posters each at a total cost of \$3,089 (inc GST) for design, printing and distribution.

Four pull up banners featuring the new Australian Disability Enterprises logo and tag-line have been produced at a cost of \$2,156 inc GST. These will be made available on loan to Australian Disability Enterprises for trade fairs and expos.

The money being used for the marketing strategy is from within the existing appropriation.

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Question No: 179

Topic: Opportunity Booklet and Disability Confidence Website

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Was the \$40,000 just for the development of the booklet or does it also include ongoing costs (eg reprinting, distribution)?

Can you provide me with a breakdown of what the \$40,000 was spent on?

Answer:

The provision of the funding was to partly fund the development of the Opportunity booklet, along with the accompanying website (www.disabilityconfidence.org.au). No funding was provided for ongoing costs such as reprinting, maintaining the website or distribution of the booklets.

The total cost of this work was \$103,827 with additional funding support from the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC), Westpac, McDonalds, Sparke Helmore Lawyers and KPMG.

The funding from FaHCSIA was spent on:

Task	Cost
Writing	\$ 9,230.77
Publishing	\$19,384.62
Project coordination*	\$11,384.62

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Question No: 189

Topic: Disabled Workers Union Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

According to a letter from Bill Shorten (dated 29 September 2008), the reason given for the cut in funding is that the DWU had failed to comply with the National Disability Services Standards under its funding agreement and the Disability Services Act 1986. Can the Department clarify exactly what parts of the Services Standards the DWU have failed to comply with?

Answer:

The DWU was not offered a funding agreement for 2008/09 because they were not meeting the national Disability Service Standard 1 – 8 plus Standard 12. See answer to question 190.

In addition to the service not meeting any of the required Disability Service Standards, general concerns in regards to the organisation included the:

- Inability to meet reporting timeframes as outlined in the funding agreement;
- Incomplete and poor standard of reports when submitted;
- Lack of clarity around the use of funding to deliver the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP);
- Ongoing viability of the organisation; and
- Lack of capacity for staff to deliver under the NDAP when key personnel were not available.

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Question No: 196

Topic: Autism Advisor Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

During estimates in October last year, the Department stated that 32 full-time equivalent autism advisors were expected to be available from 27 October 2008. An answer from my Question on Notice (Question Number T6) states that only 18 autism advisors were available on 27 October. And on 10 November only 26 advisors were available. Why wasn't the target met?

How many autism advisors are available now?

Is 40 autism advisors still the aim?

When are all the autism advisors expected to be available to families of children with ASD?

Answer:

The Program started from 27 October 2008, with the 32 full time equivalent (FTE) autism advisor positions to be filled progressively from this date. The Autism Associations advised that this number of Advisors was needed to meet the anticipated need across Australia. The recruitment of 26 Advisors within 2 weeks was an excellent achievement for the Autism Associations.

As of 30 April 2009, there are 30.5 FTE Autism Advisor positions employed throughout Australia, including both permanent and casual staff. Queensland is currently recruiting 3 permanent FTE positions to be filled by late May 2009. FaHCSIA is closely monitoring the staffing levels and will make recommendations for change accordingly.

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Question No: 198

Topic: Autism Advisor Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

Are families able to access autism advisors now? If so, is the Department aware of how many families have thus far utilised the autism advisors? If not, why not?

Answer:

Families are able to access an autism advisor in every state and territory across Australia. As at 30 April 2009, 3351 families have been seen by an autism advisor.

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Question No: 199

Topic: Workshops

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

The workshops for families of children with ASD were due to start this month. Have the workshops started? If not, on what date will they be starting? If so, what has been the progress of the workshops that have been conducted?

Answer:

The Early Days workshops commenced on 26 February 2009, in Dingley, Melbourne.

The workshops, coordinated by the Parenting Research Centre (PRC), are delivered by a range of local childhood early intervention service providers in each state and territory.

As of 30 April 2009, Early Days workshops have been conducted in Victoria, South Australia, NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and ACT. Positive feedback has been received on these sessions.

As of 30 April 2009, 106 participants across Australia have accessed the 16 Early Days workshops that have been held to date with 25 further workshops planned nationally.

PRC is working with workshop providers to ensure workshops take place in every state and territory as soon as possible.

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Question No: 207

Topic: National Companion Card Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How is the National Companion Card scheme progressing?

Answer:

The National Companion Card scheme is progressing as planned. The scheme originated in Victoria in 2003 and currently operates in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are also working towards implementing companion card schemes.

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Question No: 210

Topic: National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

What were the outcomes from the Roundtable?

Is a report available about what was discussed during the Roundtable?

Answer:

The Youth Disability Advocacy Service produced a report titled: '*National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable Report*.' This report outlines some of the issues and barriers faced by young people with disabilities in Australia. It also describes some of the actions and solutions that young people with disabilities are seeking to be included in the National Disability Strategy, including:

Recommendation 1: A National Disability Insurance Scheme

Recommendation 2: A Non-Means Tested Disability Allowance

Recommendation 3: Establishment of a National Advocacy Council for Young People with Disabilities

The report is available on the FaHCSIA National Disability Strategy webpage (go to <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>).

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Question No: 216

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Is the NDS still due for release before the end of this financial year?

Answer:

The National Disability Strategy is expected to be released in mid 2010.

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Question No: 224

Topic: Younger People with Disability Living in Aged Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many younger people with disability who were at risk of admission into aged care have been diverted to other accommodation since the program began? What is the breakdown by State?

Answer:

As at December 2008, 129 younger people who were at risk of admission into aged care have been diverted to other accommodation. See below for jurisdictional breakdown.

Objective 2 – Divert from entering residential aged care	
State/Territory	Achieved as at December 2008 (Cumulative data)
NSW	2
VIC	41
QLD	35
SA	19
WA	16
TAS	3
NT	7
ACT	6
TOTAL	129

Source: State and Territory, Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Programs.

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Question No: 226

Topic: National Disability Agreement

Hansard Page: CA26 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Give an update on the timelines.

Answer:

At their meeting on 6 March 2009, Disability Ministers agreed to a series of timelines to develop national standards to implement the National Disability Agreement:

- A national model to estimate demand will be developed by mid 2010;
- A National Population Benchmarking Framework will be developed, and initial population benchmarking of disability services, based on information available, will be achieved by mid-2010;
- A National Disability Quality Framework will be developed to introduce a national approach to quality assurance and continuous improvement of disability services by mid-2010;
- A national workforce strategy will be developed to address qualifications, training and establish the disability sector as an ‘industry of choice’ by the end of 2010; and
- An Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy will be developed by mid-2011.

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Question No: 227

Topic: Early Intervention and Prevention and Life Long Planning

Hansard Page: CA 27 - 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide a copy of the timelines, timetable and details.

Answer:

An Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy will be developed by mid 2011.

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Question No: 231

Topic: Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres

Hansard Page: CA34 – 26/2

Senator Parry asked:

Have there been any successful tenderers appointed?

Answer:

Three successful applicants were announced on 2 April 2009 for the Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres in Melbourne, Adelaide and South Western Sydney. They are:

Adelaide - The Daphne Street Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
Anglicare SA Inc, in partnership with the Autism Association of South Australia and Flinders University.

Melbourne - La Trobe University Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
La Trobe University in partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital.

South Western Sydney - the KU Marcia Burgess Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre
KU Children's Services, in partnership with the Benevolent Society, Sydney South West Area Health Service and the University of New South Wales.

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Question No: 214

Topic: National Disability Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

As of 11 November, I understand that there were 622 registrations. Are the registrations related to just the 1800 number or are emails included?

Answer:

Individuals registered for the consultations via email and the 1800 number.

2,500 people attended capital city forums and regional focus groups.

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Question No: 233

Topic: Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres

Hansard Page: CA35 – 26/2

Senator Parry asked:

Which two sites will be operational by the end of the financial year?

Answer:

One site will be operational by the end of the financial year. This site is being established by Anglicare SA Inc, in partnership with the Autism Association of South Australia and Flinders University.

The Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre in Adelaide is scheduled to open by 30 June 2009. The centres in Melbourne and South Western Sydney are scheduled to be open by 30 June 2010. The Department will closely monitor progress towards the achievement of the scheduled opening dates.

The remaining three centres are expected to be operational in the 2009-10 financial year. The achievement of this goal is dependent on the outcome of the negotiations and open selection processes.

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Question No: 185

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

The Updated Economic Fiscal Outlook (p.44) states that DSP expenses will amount to \$101m (in 2008-09) and \$166m (in 2009-10) due to higher than expected beneficiary numbers.
How many people are expected to claim DSP in these years?

Answer:

Based on current Disability Support Pension (DSP) new claim rates it is estimated that there will be 130,000 claims in the 2008-09 financial year and a similar number in 2009-10.

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Question No: 222

Topic: Younger People with Disability Living in Aged Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many people with disabilities under 65 are now living in residential aged care?

Answer:

As at January 2009, **6,611** people with disability under the age of 65 years were living in residential aged care.

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Question No: 223

Topic: Younger People with Disability Living in Aged Care

Hansard Page: written

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many people, since the program started, have been moved out of residential aged care to other accommodation? What is the breakdown by State?

Answer:

As at December 2008, 70 younger people had moved out of residential aged care. See below for jurisdictional breakdown.

Objective 1 – Move out of residential aged care	
State/Territory	Achieved as at December 2008 (Cumulative data)
NSW	2
VIC	19
QLD	25
SA	17
WA	3
TAS	1
NT	1
ACT	2
TOTAL	70

Source: State and Territory, Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Programs.

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Question No: 234

Topic: \$244 million COAG Program

Hansard Page: CA36-26/2

Senator Fielding asked:

Where has the money been spent so far and what are you looking at spending the rest on?

Answer:

Funding for the Young People in Residential Aged Care Program (YPIRAC) Program has been spent on accommodation and support; community access; respite; community support; assessment services; program development, implementation and support; and enhancement services including community access, aids and equipment, transport assistance, case management, holiday support, therapy and other supports such as gym membership, massage and in home support.

States and Territories are responsible for the delivery of specialist disability services and are responsible for the management of the YPIRAC program on a day to day basis.

All future funding for the YPIRAC Program will continue to be spent on delivering these services and supports.

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Question No: 236

Topic: Better Support for Carers Inquiry

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

Has a reporting date been set for the Inquiry? If so, what is the date?

Answer:

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth launched its *Report in the inquiry into better support for carers – Who Cares?* on 1 May 2009.

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Question No: 239

Topic: Women's leadership and development

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the current number of leadership projects being funded?
 What is the breakdown of this funding, including staff salaries?

Answer:

There are 25 current leadership projects, funded under the Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants:

The list of grant recipients and a breakdown of funding is below.

Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
UNIFEM Australia	Young Women's Leadership Forum	\$68,500
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Facilitating the Preparation and Participation of NGOs in the Development of Australia's National Action Plan on United Nations Security Resolution 1325	\$100,000
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Points of Departure: Immigrant and Refugee Women's Leadership and Advocacy Project	\$99,058
Young Women's Christian Association	Non-English Speaking Background Women's Community Leadership Development and Mentoring Project	\$94,808
Australian Federation of Medical Women	Bridging Leadership Barriers	\$89,000
Muslim Women's National Network of Australia	SILC - Organisational Development Program	\$99,991
UNIFEM Australia	Gender Analysis Training Workshops for National Women's Non-government Organisations	\$100,000
Australian Breastfeeding Association	National Implementation of Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Projects	\$99,949
International Women's Development Agency	Global Youth Impact	\$91,360
Older Women's Network	Older Women Make Wise Leaders	\$99,996
The Maternity Coalition	Strengthening Women's Ownership of Childbirth: Organisational Development of the	\$46,800

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Organisation	Project title	Funding (ex GST)
	Maternity Coalition	
Australasian Council of Women and Policing	Fitting in or Standing Out - Surviving Your First Years. A Guide for Women Entering the Policing Profession	\$40,000
Young Women's Christian Association	CEDAW Shadow Report	\$94,651
Women in Adult Vocational Education	Minmaku Palyantja: Waltja Women Leaders' Project (Value Women's Good Work)	\$87,675
National Council for Single Mothers and Their Children	Social Inclusion and Capacity Building for Marginalised Single Mothers	\$90,000
Girl Guides Australia	Young Women - Taking the Lead	\$85,250
Women in Adult Vocational Education	Women on Track: Addressing Skills Shortages in Transport and Construction Industries	\$42,580
Women's Services Network	VirtualWESNET - Website Redesign and Professional Forum	\$64,070
Fitted for Work	Consolidating a National Service	\$89,550
National Council of Women of Australia	Building the Capacity of Aboriginal Women to Create a Thriving Community in Oodnadatta	\$97,300
Australian Women in Agriculture	Step Out, Aspire and Reflect (SOAR) with Support Project	\$100,000
Australian Local Government Women's Association	Implementation of the National Framework for Women in Local Government - The Way Forward	\$67,400
Australian Women in Information Technology and Science Entity	WIT Connections	\$100,000
Australian Womensport and Recreation Association	National Sport Leadership Training	\$100,000
The Association of Women Educators	AWE-SOME WOMEN - The Association of Women Educators Leading Social Change	\$85,000
TOTAL		\$2,132,938

In 2008-09 the Office for Women also contributed \$230,000 funding for the Sports Leadership Grants for Women Program, a joint initiative of the Office for Women and the Australian Sports Commission. 144 grants were allocated to support women's participation in sports leadership through accredited training in coaching, officiating, governance and management. Recipients cannot be named for privacy reasons.

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As with most programs administered by FaHCSIA, the level of staff involvement varies from time to time throughout the grant life cycle and depends on the requirements of specific tasks, for example development and administration of the program, media and communications, financial reporting and IT system administration. Therefore it is not possible to provide figures on specific departmental staff salaries allocated to administer these programs. Most of the contract management however occurs within the Office for Women staffing levels.

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Question No: 240

Topic: Women's Leadership and development

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is done to communicate with women and girls in Australia the options available to them? Do you have a budget for this? Can you provide a breakdown for this?

Answer:

The Office for Women is a policy advisory unit that works to ensure that Government policies, services and initiatives take account of and reflect women's needs.

Each department and agency has responsibility for communicating options available to women and girls through their own mechanisms.

The Office for Women primarily communicates options available for women through its website, Ministerial media releases and events, and the National Women's Alliances, which:

- work collaboratively to provide informed and representative advice to government on policy issues, development and implementation relevant to the diverse views and circumstances of women;
- represent the diverse views of women through consultation with the women's sector, their own constituencies and other groups and organisations relevant to women's concerns;
- act as a conduit for the exchange of information between Government and the women's sector; and
- undertake specific policy analysis on individual areas of organisational expertise and concern.

These communication activities are not budgeted for as separate items, as they form part of a broader, integrated work program for the Office. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of communication costs.

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Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 241

Topic: Women's leadership and development

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Does this program also focus on different cultural backgrounds to ensure every woman is given an opportunity?

Answer:

Yes.

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Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 237

Topic: National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

As part of its election platform, the government committed to establishing a National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and tasked the Council to develop a National Plan of Action. The Council was to report to the Minister for Status of Women Tanya Plibersek in December last year. The Minister was expected to make the draft available to stakeholders, who participated in the consultation, in early February.

Considering this has yet to occur, when are we expecting to see the draft plan? Will the commitment to deliver and fund a National Plan be met this term?

Answer:

The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children presented an early copy of *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* to the Minister for the Status of Women on 18 March 2009.

The Minister has advised she requires a short period to review the Council's Plan before publishing their report.

The Minister has confirmed she will publish the Council's report on the Office for Women website: http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/reducing_violence/index.htm

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Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 242

Topic: Office for Women Work Plan

Hansard Page: CA 114-26/2

Senator Brown asked:

Is it possible to provide your work plan?

Answer:

The work plan of the Office for Women is designed to deliver against the Government's priorities for women. These are: (a) improving women's economic outcomes and financial independence; (b) ensuring women's voices are heard at all levels of the decision-making; and (c) reducing violence against women.

Key highlights of the 2008-09 work plan are:

- Support the National Council to progress A National Plan to Reduce Violence against women and their Children;
- Provide \$1 million funding for the White Ribbon Campaign, and \$2 million to assess community attitudes to violence;
- Finalise Australia's Combined 6th and 7th Report to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and present the report to the Committee, support development of shadow Report and Australia's accession to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
- Support the Minister's attendance at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in 2009, and a side event to show the efforts of women from Fitzroy Crossing to reduce alcohol and violence;
- Support a Rural Women's Summit in mid 2008;
- Refocus the Women's Alliances to establish a more inclusive, responsive and informed women's sector;
- Establish a Women's Inter Departmental Committee to provide whole of Government coordination on women's and gender equality issues;
- Secretariat Support for the Commonwealth, State, Territory & New Zealand Ministers' Conference on the Status of Women (MINCO);
- Support the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group (NATSIWG) to identify and provide advice to Government on Indigenous women's issues;
- Administer the Support for the Victims of People Trafficking Program and manage the handover of contract arrangements to the new provider; and
- Develop a strategic research plan that supports the strategic priorities of the Office for Women and the broader research directions of FaHCSIA.

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Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 238

Topic: National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

In Australia domestic violence alone cost \$8.1 billion annually and 57% of women have experienced either physical or sexual violence. Australia's current funding to address violence against women is significantly below international standards.

Will the Government commit to providing adequate and sustainable funding in the 2009 budget?

Answer:

In March 2009 the Government received the report from the independent expert body, the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. In providing its initial response to the Council's report *Time for Action*, the Government announced that, starting in 2009, it would fund a new package of actions to reduce violence against women with an initial investment of \$42 million. Included in the package are:

- Investing \$12.5 million for a new national domestic violence and sexual assault telephone and online crisis service. The new service will be run by professional staff and make active referrals to follow up services. The new service will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Investing \$26 million for primary prevention activities including \$9 million to improve the quality and uptake of respectful relationships programs for school age young people and \$17 million for social marketing focused on changing attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence.
- Investing \$3 million to support research on violence against women with a particular focus on perpetrator treatment.
- Working with the States and Territories through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to:
 - Establish a national scheme for the registration of domestic and family violence orders – when implemented, this scheme will allow orders to be enforced across State and Territory borders.
 - Improve the uptake of relevant coronial recommendations.
 - Identify the most effective methods to investigate and prosecute sexual assault cases.

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- Developing a multi-disciplinary training package for lawyers, judicial officers, counsellors and other professionals working in the family law system, to improve consistency in the handling of family violence cases.
- Establishing the Violence Against Women Advisory Group to advise on the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women.

Category C - Lower need postal areas. These sites have been selected using the over 65 population, their education and income levels and the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) score. Please note that these postal areas have been given a 'best-fit' postcode as a postal area often covers a wider area than a postcode area.

[see following pages listing the postcodes]

0800	2071	2229	2579
0810	2072	2230	2581
0812	2073	2234	2584
0820	2074	2258	2585
0828	2075	2260	2588
0832	2076	2278	2600
0835	2077	2291	2601
0837	2079	2297	2602
0838	2080	2300	2603
0840	2081	2302	2604
0841	2082	2311	2605
0845	2083	2312	2606
0847	2084	2331	2607
0854	2085	2339	2609
0860	2086	2342	2611
0862	2087	2344	2612
0880	2088	2345	2614
0885	2089	2353	2615
0886	2090	2355	2617
0899	2092	2356	2618
0998	2093	2359	2619
2000	2094	2361	2621
2006	2095	2369	2622
2008	2096	2379	2623
2009	2097	2381	2624
2011	2101	2386	2625
2015	2102	2387	2626
2021	2103	2395	2627
2022	2104	2397	2628
2023	2105	2399	2629
2024	2106	2401	2631
2025	2107	2403	2633
2026	2108	2405	2645
2027	2110	2406	2651
2028	2118	2408	2655
2029	2119	2409	2659
2030	2120	2410	2668
2031	2121	2411	2681
2033	2122	2415	2699
2034	2125	2421	2702
2037	2126	2424	2703
2038	2127	2426	2706
2039	2128	2465	2707
2041	2135	2475	2721
2047	2136	2476	2725
2050	2140	2479	2726
2060	2154	2490	2727
2061	2155	2515	2733
2062	2156	2545	2734
2063	2157	2555	2735
2064	2158	2556	2736
2065	2159	2559	2737
2066	2172	2563	2738
2067	2174	2568	2739
2068	2221	2569	2745
2069	2224	2576	2748
2070	2225	2578	2755

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2757	2911	3123	3269
2758	2912	3124	3270
2773	2913	3125	3271
2774	2914	3126	3274
2776	2998	3127	3275
2778	2999	3128	3276
2782	3000	3129	3277
2783	3002	3133	3278
2784	3003	3141	3279
2785	3004	3142	3281
2786	3005	3143	3283
2791	3006	3144	3285
2792	3008	3145	3286
2793	3010	3146	3287
2797	3016	3149	3289
2798	3026	3150	3292
2803	3027	3159	3293
2805	3036	3160	3294
2806	3041	3161	3301
2807	3045	3162	3302
2808	3050	3179	3303
2809	3052	3182	3310
2823	3053	3183	3312
2828	3054	3184	3314
2831	3062	3185	3317
2833	3079	3186	3319
2836	3084	3187	3321
2839	3086	3188	3322
2842	3090	3191	3323
2843	3091	3193	3324
2846	3093	3204	3325
2849	3094	3206	3328
2864	3095	3207	3330
2865	3096	3211	3332
2867	3097	3217	3333
2868	3099	3225	3334
2873	3101	3227	3335
2874	3102	3228	3341
2875	3103	3230	3345
2876	3104	3231	3357
2878	3106	3232	3360
2879	3107	3235	3361
2898	3108	3236	3375
2900	3109	3238	3379
2902	3111	3239	3384
2903	3113	3240	3387
2904	3114	3242	3388
2905	3115	3243	3391
2906	3122	3251	3392

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3395	3562	3712	3852
3396	3563	3719	3854
3407	3566	3720	3856
3412	3567	3725	3857
3413	3570	3726	3859
3420	3571	3727	3865
3423	3573	3728	3869
3427	3575	3732	3870
3428	3581	3733	3874
3431	3586	3735	3878
3434	3588	3738	3886
3437	3589	3739	3887
3438	3590	3740	3889
3440	3591	3744	3890
3441	3594	3746	3891
3442	3595	3749	3892
3446	3597	3750	3895
3447	3599	3753	3896
3448	3614	3754	3898
3453	3618	3758	3900
3462	3622	3759	3902
3464	3623	3761	3904
3468	3624	3763	3913
3469	3633	3766	3916
3475	3634	3767	3920
3482	3635	3770	3921
3485	3637	3775	3923
3487	3639	3778	3926
3491	3640	3779	3927
3494	3641	3781	3928
3501	3646	3783	3929
3507	3649	3785	3930
3509	3659	3786	3933
3512	3662	3787	3934
3515	3664	3788	3937
3516	3665	3789	3938
3520	3670	3791	3942
3521	3673	3792	3943
3522	3682	3800	3944
3529	3687	3807	3946
3530	3688	3808	3951
3531	3694	3809	3954
3533	3695	3812	3958
3540	3697	3813	3959
3542	3698	3821	3964
3544	3701	3822	3965
3546	3705	3832	3966
3557	3709	3833	3975
3559	3711	3835	3978

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3987	4213	4427	4627
3988	4217	4428	4662
3991	4218	4454	4673
3992	4226	4462	4674
3999	4228	4465	4676
4000	4229	4467	4678
4005	4230	4468	4694
4006	4270	4474	4695
4007	4271	4475	4699
4008	4272	4477	4705
4009	4275	4478	4706
4010	4287	4480	4707
4011	4307	4481	4709
4025	4345	4482	4711
4030	4346	4486	4712
4035	4347	4488	4713
4037	4354	4489	4716
4055	4358	4491	4717
4059	4359	4492	4718
4060	4360	4493	4719
4061	4363	4494	4722
4064	4364	4496	4723
4065	4365	4497	4724
4066	4371	4498	4726
4067	4373	4504	4727
4068	4374	4509	4728
4069	4377	4512	4731
4070	4381	4517	4732
4072	4382	4520	4733
4073	4383	4521	4736
4074	4388	4552	4738
4101	4400	4554	4739
4104	4402	4556	4742
4111	4403	4557	4743
4113	4404	4562	4744
4116	4407	4564	4745
4117	4408	4566	4746
4128	4411	4567	4750
4130	4412	4569	4753
4151	4416	4571	4756
4153	4417	4572	4757
4154	4418	4574	4798
4155	4419	4581	4799
4156	4420	4600	4801
4169	4422	4601	4802
4171	4423	4608	4803
4174	4424	4612	4808
4209	4425	4613	4809
4212	4426	4620	4813

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4819	5111	5272	5470
4821	5117	5278	5471
4822	5126	5279	5472
4823	5131	5301	5473
4824	5132	5302	5480
4828	5133	5303	5481
4829	5134	5304	5482
4830	5136	5306	5483
4852	5137	5307	5485
4855	5138	5308	5490
4856	5140	5309	5495
4857	5141	5311	5502
4858	5142	5320	5510
4859	5144	5321	5520
4874	5151	5322	5521
4876	5152	5331	5550
4877	5153	5332	5552
4878	5154	5340	5555
4879	5155	5342	5560
4884	5156	5344	5570
4886	5157	5346	5572
4890	5160	5350	5577
4891	5170	5354	5580
4999	5172	5356	5601
5000	5174	5357	5603
5006	5201	5360	5604
5020	5202	5371	5609
5034	5210	5372	5631
5040	5213	5381	5632
5049	5221	5400	5633
5050	5222	5401	5642
5051	5231	5410	5650
5052	5232	5411	5652
5061	5233	5413	5653
5062	5234	5415	5654
5063	5236	5416	5655
5064	5237	5418	5661
5065	5240	5419	5670
5066	5242	5420	5671
5067	5243	5421	5720
5068	5250	5432	5722
5069	5252	5434	5724
5072	5259	5440	5725
5076	5261	5451	5730
5081	5262	5452	5731
5089	5265	5454	5732
5091	5266	5460	5733
5094	5269	5462	5734
5106	5270	5464	5950

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5998	6149	6321	6426
5999	6150	6322	6427
6000	6151	6323	6429
6004	6152	6326	6431
6005	6153	6328	6434
6008	6154	6335	6435
6009	6155	6336	6436
6010	6156	6337	6437
6011	6158	6338	6438
6012	6159	6341	6440
6014	6161	6343	6442
6015	6165	6346	6443
6019	6171	6348	6445
6020	6173	6350	6448
6022	6174	6352	6460
6023	6175	6353	6461
6025	6176	6355	6462
6028	6207	6356	6463
6029	6213	6358	6465
6031	6214	6359	6468
6032	6218	6361	6470
6033	6221	6363	6472
6034	6224	6365	6473
6036	6226	6367	6475
6038	6227	6368	6476
6041	6228	6369	6477
6042	6229	6370	6479
6043	6236	6372	6484
6044	6237	6373	6485
6067	6244	6375	6487
6068	6251	6383	6488
6069	6253	6385	6489
6070	6254	6386	6490
6071	6256	6390	6501
6072	6260	6391	6502
6073	6262	6392	6505
6074	6275	6394	6507
6076	6281	6396	6511
6081	6282	6397	6513
6082	6284	6398	6514
6083	6285	6405	6515
6090	6286	6407	6517
6106	6288	6409	6518
6121	6306	6411	6519
6122	6309	6418	6521
6123	6311	6420	6522
6124	6316	6421	6528
6126	6318	6423	6537
6148	6320	6425	6556

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6558	7000	7291
6560	7004	7292
6562	7005	7302
6567	7007	7305
6568	7012	7331
6569	7020	7466
6572	7021	7468
6575	7022	7469
6603	7023	7470
6606	7024	7998
6608	7025	7999
6609	7026	9998
6612	7027	
6616	7050	
6620	7052	
6623	7053	
6627	7054	
6630	7055	
6635	7113	
6638	7117	
6640	7155	
6642	7162	
6646	7163	
6705	7170	
6707	7177	
6710	7178	
6713	7179	
6714	7180	
6716	7182	
6718	7184	
6720	7185	
6721	7186	
6722	7209	
6723	7211	
6726	7212	
6740	7213	
6743	7214	
6751	7254	
6753	7255	
6754	7258	
6758	7259	
6760	7261	
6765	7263	
6770	7264	
6798	7265	
6799	7267	
6907	7268	
6998	7276	
6999	7277	

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 130

Topic: Income Management Evaluation

Hansard Page: CA12 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

When will that (Income Management in the Northern Territory) evaluation be done and can we see the framework for that evaluation?

Answer:

The Evaluation Report on Income Management in the Northern Territory should be completed early in the 2009-10 financial year.

The evaluation framework has not been publicly released at this stage.

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Question No: 131

Topic: Evaluation Framework

Hansard Page: CA15 – 27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide a copy of the evaluation framework being used to evaluate the various dimensions of the evaluation work being done on income management.

Answer:

The evaluation framework has not been publicly released at this stage.

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Question No: 132

Topic: Numbers of Income Management Customers by Community

Hansard Page: CA15 – 27/2

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide a table showing numbers of people on income management by communities? (for both NT and QLD)

Answer:

At 6 March 2009, there were 15,268 people on income management as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). Table 1 includes a breakdown of these numbers by NTER community.

At 6 March 2009, there were 25 people being income managed as part of the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials. Due to the low numbers, a breakdown by community has not been provided. The customers are located in Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, and Mossman Gorge.

Table 1

Community	Number on Income Management
ACACIA LARRAKIA	8
ALI CURUNG	153
ALPURRURULAM	137
AMANBIDJI	11
AMOONGUNA	123
AMPILATWATJA	169
ANGURUGU	353
FINKE	70
AREYONGA	124
ATITJERE	64
BARUNGA	108
BELYUEN	55
BESWICK	181
BINJARI	137
BULLA	24
BULMAN	82
DAGURAGU	28
ENGAWALA	39
GALIWINKU	461
GAPUWIYAK	306
GUNBALANYA	319

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GUNYANGARA	28
HAASTS BLUFF	79
IMANGARA	26
IMANPA	73
JILKMINGGAN	79
KALKARINDJI	120
KALTUKATJARA	194
KINTORE	228
KYBROOK FARM	21
LAJAMANU	240
LARAMBA	148
MANINGRIDA	671
EVA VALLEY (MANYALLALUK)	35
MILIKAPITI	125
MILINGIMBI	498
MILYAKBURRA	80
MINIYERI	123
MINJILANG	82
MOUNT LIEBIG	61
MUTITJULU	114
NAUIYU	78
NGUIU	454
NGUKURR	306
TI TREE	66
HERMANNSBURG	186
NUMBULWAR	285
NYIRRIPI	112
CANTEEN CREEK	56
NGANMARRIYANGA	97
PAPUNYA	215
PEPPIMENARTI	21
PIGEON HOLE	15
PIRLANGIMPI	83
PMARA JUTUNTA	65
RAMINGINING	336
RITTARANGU	22
ROBINSON RIVER	16
SANTA TERESA	207
TARA	32
TITJIKALA	108
UMBAKUMBA	169
WADEYE	602
WALLACE ROCKHOLE	33
WARRUWI	121
WEEMOL	20

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WILLOWRA	90
WILORA	29
WUTUNUGURRA	72
YARRALIN	53
YIRRKALA	153
YUELAMU	91
YUENDUMU	306
Sub Total	10,476
Town Camps and Outstations	4,792
Total	15,268

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Output Group: 3.1
Topic: Baby Bonus

Question No: 243

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bernardi asked:

During the October 2008 Estimates, I was told that the ‘Claim for Bereavement Payment’ form would be changed on 1 January 2009, to ensure that the Baby Bonus could not be claimed for late-term abortions.

Can you please explain the changes made to the form and whether these changes address the fact that a loophole existed that allowed women to be eligible for the baby bonus if they had a late term abortion?

Answer:

The Government has amended the Claim for Bereavement Payment (FAO008 form) to provide greater clarity to health professionals about Baby Bonus eligibility.

From 1 January 2009, the proof of birth declaration on the FAO08 form requires the doctor or midwife to expressly certify that a stillborn child has been “delivered”. This information, along with the weight and gestation of a stillborn child, allow a claim for payment to be determined according to the statutory definition of a stillborn child in the family assistance legislation. In order to receive the Baby Bonus, parents must lodge a claim form with this certification completed by a doctor or attending midwife.

The Government is satisfied that the change made to the form ensures that eligibility for the Baby Bonus is determined in accordance with the family assistance legislation.

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Question No: 244

Topic: School Enrolment and Attendance Measure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

- Please give an update on the current Cannington trial?
- Has the trial begun, as there was talk of the Western Australian government blocking it?
- If it has started, what feedback has been received from both parents and Centrelink in relation to the trial?
- Was there much advertising or information for the families involved?
- Is there any plan to roll out similar trials in the future?
- If it hasn't started, what plans are there to ensure this program is started?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government has not received formal notification from the Western Australia (WA) Government regarding agreement for Cannington to be a participating site in the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) trial. Discussions are continuing between the Commonwealth and the WA Government on this matter.

Subject to finalisation of the discussions between the Commonwealth and WA Government, families living in Cannington who may potentially become subject to the SEAM measure will be provided with information about the trial. Consistent with the approach already taken in the Northern Territory (NT), information to parents living in the trial locations receiving income support payments with children of compulsory school age would be delivered through a Centrelink letter and local community engagement sessions.

The trial commenced in the NT at the beginning of term one 2009. As yet, there has not been any feedback in relation to this trial.

Any further roll out of similar trials is a matter for Government consideration.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 254

Topic: Voluntary Income Management

Hansard Page: CA76 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you provide a list of the communities where there actually is voluntary income management?

Answer:

Voluntary Income Management has been implemented in Halls Creek, Kununurra, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham, Broome and Derby and all areas across the Kimberley, along with the Cannington district in Metropolitan Perth.

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Question No: 255

Topic: Voluntary Income Management

Hansard Page: CA76 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Is it generally the case that they are going on once they have had the financial counselling, or are they deciding they want to go on and then they are getting the counselling?

Answer:

As an individual commences voluntary income management, they are referred to financial counselling services.

Feedback so far indicates that there may be individuals attending financial management services first, at which time they have been encouraged to request voluntary income management agreements. Some individuals are attending financial management services after commencement on income management. However, it is too early in the trial to confirm what the predominant referral pathway is.

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Question No: 256

Topic: Auditing Department for Child Protection (DCP) Services

Hansard Page: CA79- 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Are DCP providing those services and are you auditing to make sure that they are providing those services?

Answer:

In the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australian, it was agreed that FaHCSIA and the Western Australia DCP would jointly monitor and evaluate the initiatives.

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Question No: 257

Topic: Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP)

Hansard Page: CA79 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Are any of them producing manual reports? And why would they have to collect the AG's ones separately?

Answer:

No, Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) have been supplying their information on an ongoing basis via an electronic medium (via email) since their implementation.

Since July 2007 all of the information requirements have been implemented into FRSP Online. 50 of the 65 FRCs are currently using FRSP Online to enter their data and FaHCSIA is working with the other 15 to enable them to transfer the information from their systems.

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Question No: 258

Topic: Family Relationship Services Program

Hansard Page: CA80 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Are they doing a manual process and the online process?

Answer:

As per the response to ‘Question on Notice 257’.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 259

Topic: Financial Relationship Services Program

Hansard Page: CA80 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you resend the form so that I have the latest version?

Answer:

The latest “Form 1” - Client Registration Details is attached.

CONSENT FOR THE FRSP ONLINE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION

Senate Community Affairs Committee

The services provided by us are funded, partially funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Family Relationship Services Program (**FRSP**) through the Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (**FaHCSIA**) and/or the Attorney-General's Department (**AGD**).

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As part of our funding agreement, the Commonwealth Government requires us to enter data onto the FRSP Online national data collection system (**FRSP Online**). This data will assist FaHCSIA and AGD gather information on whether our services are useful and helpful to groups of people like you. Your participation in FRSP Online is very important and completely voluntary.

FaHCSIA, AGD and its contracted service providers are bound to protect the privacy of individuals under the *Privacy Act 1988*. We will only disclose personal information you have provided to us to a third party if we are required or authorised by law to do so, for example, to protect someone from harm.

If you give your consent, details provided by you and our practitioners on the attached forms (and marked with an asterisk or shaded area) and/or information collected by our clinical staff on other forms about the services you receive will be entered onto FRSP Online.

To protect your privacy we will create a unique code from the answers you write on this form so that your information can be used in a way that does not identify you. FaHCSIA, AGD and agencies engaged to conduct research or evaluation will be required to use the unique code. Using this unique code it is possible to link all the services that a person has received but not to know who the person was that received them.

When we enter your first name, last name and date of birth into the FRSP Online Data Collection system, it searches for any possible matches to that information. If a match is found then the following further details are displayed, based on information that you have previously supplied, including gender, country of birth, indigenous status, main language, ancestry and year of arrival in Australia.

YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE USED BY FaHCSIA AND AGD FOR STATISTICAL AND EVALUATION PURPOSES ONLY.

NO INFORMATION WILL EVER BE PUBLISHED WHERE YOU COULD BE IDENTIFIED.

I consent to the information provided by me on the attached forms being stored by [SP Name],

Consent

Tick one only

Do not consent

I consent to the information referred to above being entered into FRSP Online,

Consent

Tick one only

Do not consent

I consent to being contacted by [SP Name] on behalf of FaHCSIA, AGD and/or their agents, at a later date to participate in follow up, research, or program evaluation activities.

Consent

Tick one only

Do not consent

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Signature

Date

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Client Registration Details

* Your First Name: _____ * Your Last Name: _____

* Your Full Date of Birth: _____
dd/mm/yyyy

* Or Your Age: _____
If date of birth unknown

* Today's Date: _____
dd/mm/yyyy

* Gender: (tick one box only)

Male Female

* Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin: (tick one box only)

No Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both

* What country were you born in: (tick one box only)

Australia New Zealand Vietnam Greece
 England Italy Scotland Other

If 'Other' country, please specify here

* If you were not born in Australia, in what year did you arrive:

YYYY

* What is your ancestry, if other than Australian: (provide one ancestry only)

English Italian Chinese Greek
 Irish German Scottish Other

If 'Other' ancestry, please specify here

* What is the main language you speak at home: (tick one box only)

English only Greek Arabic Mandarin
 Italian Cantonese Vietnamese Other

If 'Other' language, please specify here

* If the main language you speak at home is NOT English, please rate your ability to speak English: (tick one box only)

Very Well Well Not Well Not at all

Admin Use Only: FRSP Online
Client ID Number: _____ Agency Client Code: _____

* Client has been placed on a waiting list Data has been entered into FRSP Online Date Entered: _____

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Client Details

Client ID: _____

Client Activity No.: _____

* Your Marital Status: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Never Married	<input type="checkbox"/> De Facto Separated	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Stated
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Separated but not divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Relationship	
<input type="checkbox"/> De Facto	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - person aged under 15 years	

dd/mm/yyyy

Date of Separation (Must be completed for de facto separated, separated but not divorced and divorced)

* Your Highest Education Level: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Primary	<input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Post Graduate	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Stated
<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary - Year 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Never Attended School	
<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary - Year 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary - Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A Client is under school age	

* Your Current Employment Status: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Employed - including self employed	<input type="checkbox"/> Student
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed - actively looking for a job	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - person aged under 15 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Not in the labour force (e.g. stay at home parent, volunteer, not looking for a job etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not stated

* Your Current Earnings per week before tax and deductions: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Negative income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - \$399	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 - \$1299	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2000+
<input type="checkbox"/> Nil income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400 - \$599	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1300 - \$1599	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – person aged under 15 years
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$149 (incl. pensions or Centerlink Payments)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600 - \$799	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1600 - \$2000	<input type="checkbox"/> Not stated
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - \$249 (incl. pensions or Centerlink Payments)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800 - \$999		

* Where do you currently live:

Suburb

State

Postcode

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This information is optional and is not given to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs or the Attorney-General's Department

OPTIONAL

Street

Business hours phone

After hours phone

Mobile phone

Preferred Practitioner Name: (If known) _____

Practitioner gender preference: _____

Male Female Either

Confidentiality needs: _____

Interpreter Required: Yes No

- None
- Leave no message
- Do not ring work
- Do not ring home
- Do not reveal agency contact
- Contact details are confidential
- Okay to send mail

Disability needs: _____

- Intellectual
- Physical
- Wheelchair
- Sensory
- Other

Time and day preferences: _____

- Monday Daytime
- Tuesday Lunchtime
- Wednesday After hours
- Thursday Any combination
- Friday

OPTIONAL

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Client Presenting Details

Client ID: _____

Client Activity No.: _____

Clinical Staff use only (in consultation with client)

* Who referred the client to this service: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability service	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Carer Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Education service (not school)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Magistrates Court
<input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink	<input type="checkbox"/> Employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Court including post-filing	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health service
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Agency - change of assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Court - referral	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Agency - general referral	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Court - with an order	<input type="checkbox"/> Other FRSP service provider
<input type="checkbox"/> CSA client through Family Relationships Advice Line (FRAL) - general referral	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Relationships Advice Line	<input type="checkbox"/> Other family relationships service (not funded under the FRSP)
<input type="checkbox"/> CSA client through Family Relationships Advice Line (FRAL) - change of assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Relationship Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Police
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Celebrant	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Relationships Online	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Legal Practitioner
<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friend/Neighbour	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional at this service
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Legal Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Magistrates Court with an order	<input type="checkbox"/> Respite Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Community organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Magistrates Court referral	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrective services	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial counsellor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow/White Pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Court Counter Officer pre-filing, non-certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambling service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence service	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Practitioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol service	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing service	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	

* What are the client's family membership living arrangements: (tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Lives alone	<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in an 'other' family e.g. with siblings, grandparents or extended family
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a relationship (without children)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lives with other members of the community e.g. shared house
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a relationship (with children)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in other special accommodation e.g. Nursing home, hostel etc
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a sole parent family with children (adult client only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transient living arrangements
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a two parent family (child client only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in accommodation for the homeless/emergency accom.
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives in a one parent family (child client only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not stated
<input type="checkbox"/> Separated under same roof (without children)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Separated under same roof (with children)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult living separately	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult dependent children	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/s and adult non-dependent children	

* What is the main relationship this client has with others attached to this activity: (tick one box only)

Example 1: Mum, Dad and two children are attending the centre - Each child will have 'Child' ticked on the form, the dad will have 'Father' ticked and the mum will have 'Mother' ticked

Example 2: Mum and her new partner, Dad and his new partner and two children from the first relationship are attending the centre - Each child will have 'Child' ticked on the form, the dad will have 'Father' ticked and the mum will have 'Mother' ticked. Each of the new partners will have 'Step father' and 'Step mother' ticked respectively.

<input type="checkbox"/> Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Step mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Aunt	<input type="checkbox"/> School counsellor
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Cousin	<input type="checkbox"/> Not stated
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Brother	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand father	<input type="checkbox"/> Niece	<input type="checkbox"/> No association (course)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Nephew	<input type="checkbox"/> School teacher
<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Step father	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncle		

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Client Presenting Details Continued

Client ID: _____

Client Activity No.: _____

Professional and/or Organisational Staff use only

* What are the presenting needs of the client: (tick as many boxes as required)

Children	Health/Addictions	Violence/abuse
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Separation of parents <input type="checkbox"/> Step parents <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparents <input type="checkbox"/> Siblings <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosed Mental illness <input type="checkbox"/> Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety <input type="checkbox"/> Stress <input type="checkbox"/> Eating related difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Self-harm <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidality	<input type="checkbox"/> Family violence <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood sexual abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood physical/emotional abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood neglect <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sexual abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Adult physical/emotional abuse
Relationship		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Establishing a relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing a relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with relationship difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship breakdown <input type="checkbox"/> Re-partnering <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Family formation <input type="checkbox"/> Family maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Family separation	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol/substance abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Health <input type="checkbox"/> Carer's	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial difficulty <input type="checkbox"/> Communication issues <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Grief/Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> Employment issues <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Isolation <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Marginalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Fly in/Fly out <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Parenting		
<input type="checkbox"/> Parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Post separation parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Step parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparenting <input type="checkbox"/> Succession Planning - care of adult child with severe disability <input type="checkbox"/> Child protection issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Payments <input type="checkbox"/> Breach of post separation parenting agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal charges and/or conviction <input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated (Apprehended) Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Order (AVO) <input type="checkbox"/> Restraining Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other Legal Issues	

Admin Use Only:

Data has been entered into FRSP Online

Date Entered: _____

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Question No: 412

Topic: Stronger Families Projects

Hansard Page: CA88 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you tell me about projects that would be transferring into Family Support?
Can you tell me who is under which banner and how long their contracts are?

Answer:

The Family Support Program brings together eight existing family, children and parenting programs that all share a common interest in supporting Australian families, parents and children. These programs are:

- Family Relationship Services Program (Early Intervention Services)
- Strengthening Families Program funded under the National Illicit Drug Strategy
- Communities for Children Initiative
- Invest to Grow Program
- Child Care Links
- Responding Early Assisting Children (REACH) Program
- Indigenous Children Program
- Playgroup Program

The new Program will consist of two core service delivery streams:

- family and parenting services for the general population - to respond flexibly and provide connected service delivery. This is to facilitate engagement of families in Australian social and economic life.
- intensive, targeted and coordinated services - for disadvantaged communities and families, and at risk families and children.

The Family Support Program commenced in February 2009 and will have a two year transitioning period while the Department and community sector work in partnership to develop and implement the program. A consultation process will be undertaken with the sector over the next few months.

The majority of the services' contractual arrangements will remain the same during the transition period. Communities for Children funding agreements are subject to negotiation during late March and April to meet and focus on the requests on the new program.

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Question No: 423

Topic: Regional towns in WA that are currently subject to income management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide an updated list of the regional towns in WA that are currently subject to Income Management trials as at 20 February 2009 or which are proposed for introduction in 2009?

Answer:

Income Management has been implemented in Halls Creek, Kununurra, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham, Broome and Derby and all areas across the Kimberley.

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Question No: 424

Topic: Voluntary Income Management in WA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide details of Perth suburbs and other regional towns in WA that will be become part of these trials within the next 12 months?

- a) What are the numbers of people who have agreed to participate in Voluntary Income Management in WA?
- b) Please provide a further breakdown of these numbers by Centrelink regions in WA?

Answer:

The implementation of income management in areas agreed between the Commonwealth and WA Government was completed on 23 February 2009.

Implementation covered the Cannington District and the full area of the Kimberley. There are 42 suburbs which make up the area referred to as the 'Cannington district' by the Western Australian Department for Child Protection, these are listed below. Also listed are the major towns in the Kimberley.

Cannington district

Airport (Perth)
Ascot
Beckenham
Belmont
Bentley
Bull Creek
Burswood
Canning Vale
Cannington
Cannington East
Carilla
Carlisle
Cloverdale
Como
East Cannington
East Victoria Park
Ferndale
Karawara
Kensington
Kewdale

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Langford
Lathlain
Leeming
Lynwood
Manning
Mount Henry
Newburn
Parkwood
Queens Park
Redcliffe
Riverton
Rivervale
Rossmoyne
Salter Point
Shelley
South Perth
St James
Victoria Park
Waterford
Welshpool
Willetton
Wilson

Kimberley area

Broome
Derby
Fitzroy Crossing
Halls Creek
Wyndham
Kununurra

Any additional locations would be a matter for the Commonwealth and WA Governments.

As of 13 March 2009, there were 115 customers with VIM agreements in place. The numbers of individuals on income management are still low and it would not be appropriate to provide disaggregated data at this stage.

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Question No: 425

Topic: Income Management Trials

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Have any non-government community service organisations been contracted to provide services? If so, what are the organisations, the nature of these services to be provided and the level of funding provided to these organisations for the delivery of these services?

Answer:

FaHCSIA has funded eight non-government organisations to deliver additional money management and financial counselling support services to people in the Kimberley and Cannington WA Child Protection trial areas. These organisations provide budgeting support, financial literacy education, financial counselling and appropriate referrals to other support services as needed. One organisation has also been funded to build the capacity of the money management services and their workers in the Kimberley region through mentoring and training. Funding for non-government organisations totals \$1.5m in 2008-09. The following organisations have been funded to provide these services:

Ngunga Women's Group Aboriginal Corporation
Joongari House/Wyndham Family Support Inc
Jacaranda Community Centre Inc
Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation
Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation
Broome Circle
Kullarri Employment Services Pty Ltd
Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council
Matrix on Board Pty Ltd

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Question No: 426

Topic: Welfare Payments Reform Initiatives Baseline Data

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the nature of the baseline data that is being used to assess the effectiveness of the trials?

Answer:

Income Management in the Northern Territory

Baseline information includes sources of income, patterns of expenditure, money management practices, the results of Government Business Manager Surveys and the results of interviews with community store owners.

Child Protection Scheme of Income Management (CPSIM) and Voluntary Income Management (VIM)

Due to the case by case focus of both CPSIM and VIM, baseline data will be collected from the participating individual.

Cape York Welfare Reform

The partners to the trial (Australian Government, Queensland Government and Cape York Institute), together with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) are developing baseline indicators and are collaborating on producing a baseline report. This includes social and economic indicators aligned with the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report, and will draw on data from a range of sources including the ABS Census and administrative data from across the Australian and Queensland governments. Detailed work is currently underway on specifying and collating the data in an appropriate format to accurately report on each of the four communities.

School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM)

Aggregate data about enrolment rates at schools does not identify a pre-implementation group comparable to the SEAM target group.

Baseline data for the purposes of assessing effectiveness would have required the identification of a comparable group before the trials were implemented. Such data was only created with the introduction of the trials.

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Question No: 427

Topic: Evaluation of Welfare Payments Conditionality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What evaluation process will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the trials?

Answer:

Income Management in the Northern Territory

In the NT, evaluation will assess the impact of the interventions at the individual, family and community level in the prescribed communities and assess the effectiveness of the implementation.

The evaluation will include:

- incorporation of baseline information collected;
- analysis of administrative data collected by Centrelink on income management clients in the NT;
- key stakeholder focus groups with government and community sector service providers and client leaders and stakeholders; and
- interviews with income management customers.

Child Protection Scheme of Income Management and Voluntary Income Management

To assess the effectiveness of income management as a tool to improve children's wellbeing, the evaluation will assess the impact of the intervention at the individual and family level and assess the effectiveness of the implementation.

Quantitative analysis will be undertaken of administrative data provided by the Western Australian Department of Child Protection (only for the Child Protection Scheme of Income Management initiative), Centrelink and FaHCSIA.

Client interviews will be conducted; either face to face or by telephone and focus groups will be conducted with government and community sector service providers and client leaders and stakeholders.

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Cape York Welfare Reform

The Cape York Welfare Reform Project Board, which includes the Australian Government, Queensland Government and Cape York Institute, agreed to an evaluation framework at its meeting of 15 December 2008. The agreed framework consists of three key public reports including: (1) an implementation review of the Family Responsibilities Commission, due for completion in late 2009; (2) a progress report covering implementation issues and early progress in achieving outcomes, due for completion at end of 2010; and (3) an outcome report synthesising results, due for completion at end of 2011. Further work is currently underway on the design and implementation of this framework in an ethically appropriate manner, including options for tendering. Tendering is expected to commence shortly.

School Enrolment Attendance Measure

The evaluation of the SEAM pilots will assess:

- reduced levels of non-enrolment (of children legally required to be enrolled);
- increased levels of attendance; and
- appropriate compliance of parents to improve their child's attendance – ie parents are meeting their attendance plan.

Monitoring information will provide evidence about the achieved levels of school enrolments and attendance. Qualitative research involving focus groups or in-depth interviews of parents, school authorities and school, and on site discussions with Centrelink officers will provide evidence about whether the achieved outcomes have been an improvement for targeted parents and that parents have undertaken all appropriate steps to ensure their children attend school.

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Question No: 428

Topic: Cost of implementing income management trials

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the anticipated total cost of implementing each of the trials? Please provide a breakdown of the anticipated total cost of implementing each of the trials including personnel and evaluation costs?

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$18.9 million over two years to implement the trial of income management for child protection and voluntary income management in selected locations in Western Australia. The breakdown of funding includes:

- \$15.3 million for Centrelink to implement income management;
- \$1.5 million to supplement financial counselling and money management training services in Western Australia;
- \$0.7 million to provide the BasicsCard to people who are income managed in Western Australia; and
- \$1.3 million to FaHCSIA to implement the initiative.

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Question No: 260

Topic: Family Relationship Services Program

Hansard Page: CA81 – 26/2

Senator Siewert asked:

What have been the trends in the last 12 to 18 months?

Answer:

In the 12 month period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 the total number of clients seen by service providers under the Family Relationship Service Program (FRSP) was 231,423 (180,808 registered clients and 50,615 unregistered clients).

In the 6 month period from 1 July 2008 and to 31 December 2008 a total of 149,490 clients were seen (107,391 registered clients and 42,099 unregistered clients).

If the rate of clients seen by service providers continues until 30 June 2009, this would see a projected 29 percent increase in clients seen from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

It is worth noting that the FRSP saw an increase in funding for 2008-09 as part of the rollout of the ‘A New Family Law System’ reforms of \$36,274,000 (which equates to 17.6 percent of the total FRSP funding for 2008-09). This was for 75 additional services across Australia (14 of which did not commence until October 2008) and therefore there was a significant capacity increase.

Based on the data available in the FRSP Client Outcome Management System, the top two presenting needs are *Post Separation Parenting* and *Dealing with Relationship Difficulties*.

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Question No: 249

Topic: Safe Houses

Hansard Page: CA38-27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Is it correct there are some issues with the one in Yuendumu? I have been told that people do not want to use that one because of its location. It was near where somebody unfortunately passed away.

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government has advised that there was conflict in the community over the weekend of 21-22 February and that some injuries were reported.

The Northern Territory Government, after consulting the traditional owners, decided to delay the opening which was originally planned for 26 February.

The Northern Territory Government will seek advice from traditional owners before opening the Safe Place.

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Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 250

Topic: Safe House Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA38-27/2

Senator Siewert asked:

Why has that not appeared?

Answer:

\$5.71 million was paid on 27 February 2009.

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2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement

GRANT ALLOCATIONS BY YEAR

Prepared 6 February 2008

(\$'000)

2003-04 (a)	Base Funding	Aboriginal Rental Housing Program	Crisis Accommodation Program	Community Housing Program	Total Commonwealth	State Matching Funds
NSW	239,388	17,777	13,372	21,578	292,115	117,178
VIC	175,929	3,638	9,827	15,858	205,252	86,115
QLD	134,579	27,598	7,518	12,131	181,826	65,875
WA	69,629	18,177	3,889	6,276	97,971	34,083
SA	54,690	8,926	3,055	4,930	71,601	26,770
TAS (b)	21,189	696	951	1,534	24,370	10,372
ACT	16,747	0	647	1,044	18,438	8,197
NT	13,079	24,188	396	639	38,302	6,402
TOTAL	725,230	101,000	39,655	63,990	929,875	354,992
2004-05 (a)						
NSW	241,180	17,987	13,469	21,735	294,371	118,055
VIC	177,681	3,680	9,923	16,013	207,297	86,973
QLD	137,897	27,900	7,701	12,428	185,926	67,499
WA	70,708	18,364	3,949	6,372	99,393	34,611
SA	54,991	9,025	3,071	4,956	72,043	26,917

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TAS	21,401	696	963	1,553	24,613	10,476
ACT	16,777	0	647	1,044	18,468	8,212
NT	13,138	24,420	399	643	38,600	6,431
TOTAL	733,773	102,072	40,122	64,744	940,711	359,174
2005-06						
NSW	243,465	18,235	13,593	21,936	297,229	119,173
VIC	180,158	3,731	10,059	16,232	210,180	88,185
QLD	141,161	25,885	7,881	12,718	187,645	69,097
WA	71,974	16,271	4,019	6,485	98,749	35,231
SA	55,389	8,557	3,093	4,990	72,029	27,112
TAS	21,604	696	973	1,570	24,843	10,575
ACT	16,885	0	652	1,052	18,589	8,265
NT	13,235	19,964	404	652	34,255	6,478
TOTAL	743,871	93,339	40,674	65,635	943,519	364,116
2006-07						
NSW	245,255	18,451	13,691	22,092	299,489	120,049
VIC	182,145	3,774	10,168	16,407	212,494	89,158
QLD	144,240	26,194	8,052	12,993	191,479	70,604
WA	73,137	16,464	4,083	6,588	100,272	35,800
SA	55,746	8,659	3,112	5,022	72,539	27,287
TAS	21,753	696	980	1,582	25,011	10,648
ACT	16,991	0	657	1,061	18,709	8,317
NT	13,366	20,201	412	664	34,643	6,542
TOTAL	752,633	94,439	41,155	66,409	954,636	368,405

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2007-08 (c)						
NSW	246,530	18,760	13,757	22,199	301,246	120,674
VIC	185,771	3,837	10,366	16,728	216,702	90,933
QLD	148,605	26,638	8,292	13,381	196,916	72,740
WA	74,841	16,741	4,176	6,739	102,497	36,634
SA	56,670	8,804	3,162	5,103	73,739	27,739
TAS	21,902	696	987	1,592	25,177	10,721
ACT	17,292	0	675	1,089	19,056	8,464
NT	13,613	20,543	427	688	35,271	6,663
TOTAL	765,224	96,019	41,842	67,519	970,604	374,568

- (a) Funding for ARHP for 2003-04 and 2004-05 includes additional funding, announced in the 2001 Budget, of \$10m for each year.
- (b) Tasmania only received \$351,000 of their ARHP allocation as there was no agreed Indigenous Housing Plan for ARHP for 2003-04.
- (c) State breakdowns for Base Funding, CAP, CHP and State matching for 2007-08 are based on ABS December 2006 population figures. State breakdowns for ARHP are calculated on a needs basis. Breakdowns are **estimates only** as the CSHA provides for funding to be withheld or redistributed in the event that a state fails to meet all of its obligations under the CSHA.

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**Total Allocation over five years of the Agreement
(\$'000)**

	Base Funding	ARHP	CAP	CHP	Total Commonwealth	State Matching	Total Commonwealth and State
NSW	1,215,818	91,210	67,882	109,540	1,484,450	595,129	2,079,579
VIC	901,684	18,660	50,343	81,238	1,051,925	441,364	1,493,289
QLD	706,482	134,215	39,444	63,651	943,792	345,815	1,289,607
WA	360,289	86,017	20,116	32,460	498,882	176,359	675,241
SA	277,486	43,971	15,493	25,001	361,951	135,825	497,776
TAS	107,849	3,480	4,854	7,831	124,014	52,792	176,806
ACT	84,692	0	3,278	5,290	93,260	41,455	134,715
NT	66,431	109,316	2,038	3,286	181,071	32,516	213,587
National Total	3,720,731	486,869	203,448	328,297	4,739,345	1,821,255	6,560,600

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 262

Topic: National Affordable Housing Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the National Affordable Housing Agreement include any funding towards programs that have home ownership as their goal? Do any of the outcomes of the NAHA mention home ownership?

Answer:

- a) The States and Territories may direct funds distributed under the NAHA to home ownership and home ownership assistance programs.
- b) Yes.

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Output Group: Social Housing Initiative

Question No: 263

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many of the 20,000 dwellings will be delivered using the spot-purchase method of purchasing house and land packages in existing and new private housing estates?

Answer:

It is expected that all dwellings approved for funding under this element of the package will be for new construction. Some of the dwellings can be purchased using spot-purchasing of house and land packages 'off the plan'.

State and Territory Governments will develop procurement plans that will be provided to the Australian Government for approval. The procurement plans will outline how particular jurisdictions will purchase or construct housing. Until these procurement plans are settled an estimate of the proportion of the 20,000 houses to be purchased through any particular method can not be made.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 264

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the Department aware of a HIA proposal (floated at the Senate's Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the Government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan) regarding the operation of the National Partnership Agreement? What is the preferred proportion of spot purchases of new developments (residential housing estates and apartment buildings) that will be taken up by State Government housing authorities? 20%, 25% or 30%.

Answer:

Yes. State and Territory Governments will develop procurement plans that will be provided to the Australian Government for approval. The procurement plans will outline how particular jurisdictions will purchase or construct housing. It is expected that the procurement strategies of some State and Territory Governments will make provision for some spot-purchasing of house and land packages or purchasing 'off the plan' in housing estates and purchasing 'off the plan' in some planned apartment buildings. Until these procurement plans are settled an estimate of the proportion of the 20,000 houses to be purchased through any particular method can not be made.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 267

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

The National Partnership Agreement divides the social housing proposal into 2 elements (New Construction and Repair/Maintenance). Stage 1 of the New Construction element is the housing that is already in the pipeline and can be brought forward immediately.

How many public housing projects have current development and building approval by state/territory and a figure for the entire nation?

Answer:

Decisions about stage 1 social housing construction under the NBJP have been made by the Housing Minister. Initial analysis of proposals received from State and Territory Governments shows that most dwellings have development approval.

Table shows the number of dwellings posed under stage 1 that have development approval, or do not require further approvals, and those that are seeking development approvals.

Jurisdiction	Approved or Not Required	Seeking Approval	Total Dwellings
NSW	658	193	851
Vic	595	72	667
Qld	124	278	402
WA	134	149	283
SA	246	0	246
Tas	26	39	65
ACT	26	30	56
NT	4	18	22
Total	1,813	779	2,592

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 269

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What assumptions have been made regarding the cost and construction timeframe for public housing projects to support the estimates of projected expenditure for the delivery of 20,000 public housing dwellings? This question goes to the varying costs and construction timeframes that are evident in the construction industry. If the information sought above has not been available prior to announcement of the stimulus package on 3 February 2009, would such additional information have provided more reliable advice to the Government in proposing its stimulus package expenditure of more than \$6 billion on social housing?

Answer:

The average cost of construction is estimated at \$300,000. It is estimated that 75% of dwellings constructed under the package will be completed by 30 December 2010. The estimates are based on information provided by State and Territory public housing authorities, and estimates of capacity within the private housing construction sector based on falling residential development approvals over the past 12 months.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 270

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Given that the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs had between five and seven weeks to provide advice on proposed stimulus package spending, was any of this basic information on construction costs and timetables sought or obtained from the States and Territories to ensure that more robust costings could be undertaken?

Answer

Information was obtained from State and Territory governments about social housing construction costs and timeframes.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question: 272

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Where will new public housing dwellings be located? If no consideration has been given to this question, how will the Commonwealth Government ensure that social housing is located to best meet the needs of future occupants (in terms of access to social services)?

Answer:

Social housing projects will be spread throughout urban and regional areas in all jurisdictions. State and Territory Governments will seek approval for dwellings that match the needs of people on their public and social housing waiting lists. The Commonwealth has indicated that all dwellings should be situated close to public transport and work opportunities for tenants.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 273

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the Department confirm media speculation that the State Governments will be bypassing environmental planning laws and regulations in order to provide for the timely development of the 20,000 dwellings? Will the Commonwealth be funding new housing in environmentally sensitive areas, bushfire prone or flood prone areas?

Answer:

The dwellings to be built are expected to meet the environmental laws that apply in the relevant jurisdictions, and other measures outlined by the Australian Government. For instance, where possible, dwellings should meet a 6 star energy efficiency rating. The locations of dwellings are yet to be determined, but the Australian Government does not intend to place restrictions that go beyond local, State or Territory planning approval processes.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 274

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the Department aware if any design standards (building code) will be set aside to facilitate rapid construction?

Answer:

All dwellings are expected to comply with Australia building code and other building regulations in the relevant jurisdictions.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 275

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many of the proposed 20,000 dwellings have already commenced construction? Can you confirm that the purchase of existing housing provides less economic stimulus compared to new construction?

Answer:

It is expected that all dwellings approved for funding under this element of the package will be for new construction.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 276

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Given that the Prime Minister was able to announce the 17 cities for Defence Housing Australia construction under this stimulus package, what discussions were undertaken by FAHCSIA with the States and Territories to determine the location of social housing from the stimulus package prior to the announcement of the package?

What additional administrative capacity will be required to implement this programme in the timeframes put forward by Government at State, Territory and Federal levels? What is the timeframe for increasing this capacity, what will be the cost, who will bear these costs and are any such costs included in the funding allocated for this package?

Answer:

Information from State and Territory officials was used to assist the Department in providing policy advice to the Government. Discussions about the particular locations of the 20,000 dwellings had not taken place at the time of the announcement of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

Additional costs for implementation of the social housing initiatives in the Nation Building and Jobs Plan are outlined in Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements No. 2 2008-09 – Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2008-2009. That Bill seeks \$8.429 million over the next four years to administer the package in the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

State and Territory Governments will meet their own costs.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 277

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Will there be a ceiling on the number of dwelling units that can be provided in any one location. If so, what is the ceiling number and does this vary by state and territory?

Answer:

There is no ceiling on the number of dwellings in a location, however, the Commonwealth in consultation with each jurisdiction will ensure an appropriate balance of social housing in each location. This funding will not be used to create large scale public housing estates. One of the objectives of the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan and the social housing schedule of that agreement is to reduce concentrations of disadvantage to create mixed communities and improve social inclusion.

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Question No: 278

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department confirm that the option of spot-purchases of existing house/land will be used as an alternative to a new construction program based on progress towards achieving the target numbers of residential dwelling-houses? This was suggested to the Senate Committee on Finance and Public Administration on 5 February 2009.

Answer:

It is expected that all dwellings approved for funding under this element of the package will be for new construction. Some of the dwellings can be purchased using spot-purchasing of house and land packages 'off the plan'.

State and Territory Governments will develop procurement plans that will be provided to the Australian Government for approval. The procurement plans will outline how particular jurisdictions will purchase or construct housing.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 279

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What procedures will be employed to select and acquire the spot-purchase of house and land packages in existing and new private housing estates? Will there be criteria or guidelines put in place to regulate these actions?

Answer:

It is expected that all dwellings approved for funding under this element of the package will be for new construction. Some of the dwellings can be purchased using spot-purchasing of house and land packages 'off the plan'.

The Australian Government is developing guideline that will require State and Territory Governments to develop procurement plans that will be provided to the Australian Government for approval. The procurement plans will outline how particular jurisdictions will purchase or construct housing.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 280

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Apart from Defence Housing, will the Commonwealth Government be a bidder on the housing market for existing dwellings or new house/land packages?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government will not directly bid on housing in the residential property market.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 281

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What information and disclosure will be provided to existing owners and prospective purchasers of house and land packages in new and existing private residential estates about the purchase of the packages for public housing purposes by any agency acting as part of this programme?

Answer:

All dwellings will be built in accordance with the planning and approval process that will apply in each State and Territory. The Commonwealth will not impose any specific additional requirements.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 282

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What will be the right of objection to existing owners of property in these estates to the purchase of lots in their estate for the purpose of public housing under this scheme?

Answer:

All dwellings will be built in accordance with the planning and approval process that will apply in each State and Territory. The Commonwealth will not impose any specific additional requirements.

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Question No: 283

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What will be the role of community housing and other not for profit organisations in the delivery of these 20,000 new public housing dwellings?

Answer:

Community housing organisations and other not for profit organisations will be able to submit proposal to States and Territories Government to be considered along with other proposal. These organisations are also likely to have a role to play in the management of dwellings owned by the States and Territories.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 285

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Was the national waiting list a factor when the Government was formulating the \$6.4 billion figure for stimulus package spending?

Answer:

Yes.

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Output Group: 4.1

Question No: 286

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is it possible that social housing will be purchased from existing private residential stock, as one-off spot purchases in as-yet undetermined locations? Is the Commonwealth aware of how the State Governments will implement this component of the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan?

Answer:

It is expected that all dwellings approved for funding under this element of the package will be for new construction. Some of the dwellings can be purchased using spot-purchasing of house and land packages 'off the plan'.

State and Territory Governments will develop procurement plans that will be provided to the Australian Government for approval. The procurement plans will outline how particular jurisdictions will purchase or construct housing.

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Question No: 288

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What discussions have been undertaken between the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Treasury, specifically in relation to resolving the needs of people on the public housing waiting list by encouraging them into private sector housing?

Answer:

There has been ongoing discussion between FaHCSIA and Treasury over the past 18 months regarding all aspects of the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

The vast majority of applicants for public housing assistance are already in private rental or temporary accommodation.

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Question No: 290

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many people are envisaged to benefit from the 20,000 new social housing and 2,500 upgraded houses?

Answer:

We expect more than 50,000 people to benefit from the package.

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Question No: 292

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What discussions have the Commonwealth Government had with private housing developers about buying part or all of new private housing developments for use as public housing? If the Federal Government has had no direct discussions with developers, will it specifically seek details of any such discussions between State or territory authorities with developers?

Answer:

The Department has had regular discussions with key housing industry bodies including the Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Australia, and the Residential Development Council of the Property Council of Australia about the implementation of the package. The Department is directly engaging with builders, developers and community housing sector providers with State and Territory Governments through information sessions. The Department is not negotiating with individual builders or developers about their projects.

State and Territory Government officials have had direct discussions with housing developers and housing developers and builders will be able to submit proposals through the procurement processes that the States and territories are running.

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Question No: 294

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Element 2 of the National Partnership Agreement is for repair and maintenance of existing public housing - to bring it up to a standard where it can be habitable once more. The National Partnership Agreement requires State and Territory Governments to have provided their funding proposals to the Commonwealth Government before 15 February 2009. Was this deadline met by the State and Territory Governments? Will the Commonwealth Government achieve its approval deadline of 1 March 2009 in relation to this element of the NPA?

Answer:

All jurisdictions provided their Repairs and Maintenance proposals before 15 February 2009. The Housing Minister made decisions on the proposals before 1 March 2009.

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Question No: 295

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

It is understood that the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will commence on 1 July 2009. Is this correct? Why is there a six month delay after the commencement of the National Affordable Housing agreement (NAHA)?

Answer:

The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will commence on 1 July 2009. This allows time for states to formulate their proposals for the new funding made available under this agreement. The NAHA incorporated existing funding, previously provided under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program V Agreement, and so could be implemented more quickly.

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Question No: 298 - Amended

Topic: Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

The Government's "A place to call home" initiative was included in the 2008-09 budget and provided \$150 million funding for 600 new homes for individuals and families that experience homelessness. How does this funding differ from the funding in NAHA for social housing? Will the target occupants be the same group? Will the funding provided in the Nation Building and Jobs Plan for 20,000 social housing be rolled together with the "a place to call home" funding or will these be kept as distinct funding packages? Why is this the case if they have similar objective? What will be the impact of the new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness on the existing Commonwealth and State administered homelessness programs? Will there be any changes to the way these programs operate?

Answer:

The National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) is one of a number of new National Agreements under the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Federal Financial Relations. From 1 January 2009, the NAHA incorporated and replaced the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

Under the new National Agreements, States and Territories are required to spend their funding in the area covered by the Agreement and to achieve agreed outcomes, but are responsible for decisions regarding the allocation of funds within the agreed area.

In addition to the National Agreements, National Partnership (NP) Agreements have been negotiated to support the delivery of specified outputs or projects. The NPs directly relevant to housing and homelessness include the Social Housing NP, the Homelessness NP, the Remote Indigenous Housing NP and the Nation Building and Jobs NP.

The total funding provided by the Australian Government for housing and homelessness to all states and territories over the next five years under the IGA, the NPs and the Nation Building and Jobs Plan is \$15.49 billion and includes:

- \$6.20 billion for social housing and homelessness under the National Affordable Housing Agreement
- \$400 million under the Social Housing NP
- \$400 million for homelessness support services under the Homelessness NP
- \$150 million for capital construction under the Homelessness NP (A Place To Call Home initiative)

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- \$1.94 billion under the Remote Indigenous Housing NP
- \$6.40 billion for social housing under the National Building and Jobs Plan NP

In addition, under the Homelessness NP, States and Territories will contribute matching funding of \$400 million for support services and \$150 million for A Place To Call Home. This brings the combined total of Australian, State and Territory Government funding for social housing and homelessness to \$16.04 billion.

The Nation Building and Jobs NP provides funding for capital construction and refurbishment of housing stock, with the dual aims of significantly increasing social housing stock, and rapidly delivering economic stimulus measures to support employment and growth.

The Homelessness NP contains a number of agreed outputs aimed at reducing homelessness across Australia. States and Territories have responsibility for the allocation of funding for homelessness services within their jurisdiction, but must achieve agreed outputs.

The A Place To Call Home program is incorporated as one of four core outputs of the Homelessness NP. The initiative will increase social housing stock, but has different operating arrangements and timeframes to the Nation Building and Jobs and Social Housing NPs.

A Place To Call Home differs from other capital construction funding arrangements because support for tenants is built into the funding model. Australian Government funding is provided for the capital component of the A Place To Call Home program. States and Territories are matching Australian Government funding to provide land, construction or refurbishment of dwellings, and support services – the mix depends upon program implementation arrangements in each jurisdiction.

Some jurisdictions are implementing innovative supported housing models, including Foyer models to provide young people with safe housing while they participate in education or work, and Common Ground models to provide long term housing and support for older people who have been chronically homeless. These more complex housing models require a longer planning and lead time for delivery than is acceptable under the National Building and Jobs NP.

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Question No: 301

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What has been the stakeholder response to the Government's White Paper?

Answer:

The government has sought feedback through peak bodies such as Homelessness Australia, through the White Paper Implementation information sessions and have received significant support in correspondence to the Minister. The feedback has been positive with the community sector and governments supportive of the Australian Government taking initiatives with housing and homelessness.

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Question No: 302

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What progress has been made by the Government to implement the recommendations set out in the White Paper? (For example; the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness, the establishment of the Bea Miles Foundation, and the development of implementation plans?)

Answer:

Some White Paper commitments have already been delivered such as the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness with State and Territory governments which funds most of the direct service delivery, and the announcement of the construction of a 60-place residential aged care facility for homeless older people in Dandenong, Victoria.

A detailed implementation plan for the 50 actions of the White Paper has been agreed by the Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek. Effort is underway on all aspects of the plan and some priority actions have been agreed for the first six months. Progress against the plan will be reviewed regularly.

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Question No: 303

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What is the preferred outcome for NRAS?

- A) invest in regional and outer metropolitan areas and therefore reduce the number of renters that area experiencing ‘house stress’ by reducing their rents to a point where they are no longer in “housing stress” (ie. paying less than 30% of their income on housing costs; or
- B) invest in inner city and middle ring suburbs and therefore provide some relief to renters by lowering their rents but not lifting them out of “housing stress” (ie. they still pay more than 30% of their income towards housing costs).

Answer:

No preference is given under the Scheme to dwellings that are in regional/outer metropolitan areas or inner/middle metropolitan areas.

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Question No: 305

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What progress has been made by the National Housing Supply Council since the last round of Senate Estimates held in October 2008? The Minister has indicated that the State of Supply report is likely to be published this month or next month. Will this timeframe still be met?

Answer:

The first National Housing Supply Council 'State of Supply' report was published in February 2009 and launched on 11 March 2009 at Parliament House Canberra by the Minister of Housing the Hon. Tanya Plibersek.

The Council has commenced preparations for the 2009 report.

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Question No: 306

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have there been any further meetings of the Council since October 2008? What issues have been discussed by the Council (ABS data on housing construction, COAG finalisation of NAHA? FHOG boost)?

Answer:

Yes. Two meetings of the National Housing Supply Council have occurred since October 2008; those being 11 November 2008 in Adelaide and 11 March 2009 in Canberra. The first 'State of Supply' Report was launched on 11 March 2009.

The Council has discussed the implications and other relevant housing supply and demand trends and Government initiatives. The key findings of the Council are presented in the 'State of Supply' report launched in March 2009.

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Question No: 307

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written.

Senator Payne asked:

Was the NHSC consulted as part of the allocation of funding under the COAG agreement (particularly the National Partnership Agreement for Social Housing)?

Answer:

No.

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Question No: 308

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has the Council visited any specific locations during the 4 months since the last round of Senate Estimates?

Answer:

Other than the locations reported in response to QON 306 the Council has not visited any specific locations.

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Question No: 312

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What discussions have been held with the States and Territory Governments to encourage them to reduce their tax and charging regimes as a contribution that can be made to improving housing affordability? Have any such discussions focused in particular on infrastructure and utilities charges, stamp duties and land taxes.

Answer:

Under the National Affordable Housing Agreement the Commonwealth and the States and Territories have committed to the achievement of a number of outcomes to ensure all Australians have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing. States and Territories are responsible for a range of measures that impact on housing affordability including housing-related State and Territory taxes and charges that influence housing affordability.

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Question No: 314

Topic: Housing Affordability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is it correct that when Commonwealth and State/Territory incentive payments are added together, that the total first home owner incentives (existing homes) vary from between \$14,000 in the ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania – up to \$29,242 in Western Australia? Also for newly constructed homes, the incentives vary between \$21,000 in the ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania up to \$36,242 in Western Australia. What action is being taken to encourage those States and Territory governments with lower levels of commitment to first home buyers to improve their contribution as well as helping to reduce the costs they impose on home buyers?

Answer:

Concessions for first home purchasers vary across jurisdictions and may include reduced stamp duty payments for First Home Buyers as well as cash grants. The assistance offered to first home buyers in a particular jurisdiction is a matter for individual state or territory governments.

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Question No: 315

Topic: Housing Affordability and Mortgage Stress

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

A recent report released by Deloittes (December 2008) found that 50% of respondents acknowledged that they were experiencing mortgage stress, with more than 30% of their gross household income going to mortgage repayments. Are these findings consistent with data available to the Commonwealth Government?

Answer:

The Department does not dispute the results of the Deloittes survey report.

Since the survey was undertaken, the official interest rate has reduced significantly. More recent assessments of the situation by the HIA indicate that more than 485,000 households have stopped experiencing housing stress since August 2008.

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Question No: 319

Topic: Foyer Model

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What proportion of the social housing NP will be directed towards specialist accommodation models (such as the Foyer model for young people)?

Answer:

States and Territories are being encouraged to consider a range of accommodation models to meet the needs of specific client groups. Models such as Foyer for young people will be eligible for funding provided it meets the key requirements for the initiative.

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Question No: 320

Topic: Foyer Model

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will each State going to be eligible for a Foyer for young people?

Answer:

States and Territories are being encouraged to consider a range of accommodation models to meet the needs of specific client groups. Models such as Foyer for young people will be eligible for funding provided it meets the key requirements for the initiative.

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Question No: 321

Topic: Common Ground model of accommodation for adults

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Is each State going to be eligible for a 'Common Ground' model of accommodation for adults?

Answer:

States and Territories are being encouraged to consider a range of accommodation models to meet the needs of specific client groups. Models such as Common Ground accommodation type for adults will be eligible for funding provided it meets the key requirements for the initiative.

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Question No: 322

Topic: Homelessness Programs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How is funding for current Federally-funded programs, in particular Reconnect and HOME Advice, going to be administered under the Government's new approach to homelessness? Will current funding for these programs be given to States and Territories from the Homelessness NP?

Answer:

The Reconnect and HOME Advice programs are funded as continuing programs, which the Australian Government will continue to administer.

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Question No: 326

Topic: Homelessness Legislation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will the categories of who is eligible for assistance from specialist homelessness services remain the same under the new Act?

Answer:

The Australian Government will work with specialist homelessness services and state and territory governments to review the Supported Accommodation Assistance (SAA) Act 1994 in considering new legislation.

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Question No: 327

Topic: Homelessness Legislation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

The SAAP Act provides that a person has to be of school leaving age before they are eligible to be assisted by specialist homeless services, is this retained in the new Act?

Answer:

The Australian Government will work with specialist homelessness services and state and territory governments to review the Supported Accommodation Assistance (SAA) Act 1994 in considering new legislation.

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Question No: 328

Topic: Homelessness Legislation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will the new legislation to support the implementation of the White Paper be broader in focus than specialist homelessness services? Will it also include, for example, service standards for people who are homeless accessing mainstream programs?

Answer:

The Australian Government will work with specialist homelessness services and state and territory governments to amend the Supported Accommodation Assistance legislation and will ensure people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness receive quality services and adequate support.

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Question No: 330

Topic: Reducing Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will the target be measured using the Census count?

If so, does this mean that the target will be measured against the 2011, 2016 and 2021 Censuses?

Answer:

Yes the target will be measured using the Census count. Work is under way to examine other collection possibilities to supplement the Census collection.

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Question No: 331

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

The White Paper states that under COAG ‘...achievement of improved outcomes [for homeless Australians] will not be narrowly confined’, also stating that ‘...tighter controls [will be] placed on the achievement of improved outcomes for homeless Australians....’ Can you clarify the meaning of this statement?

Answer:

Under the COAG reform arrangements improved outcomes for homeless Australians will be measured across a range of social inclusion indicators such as education, employment and housing. Outcomes will be achieved by a range of both mainstream and specialist providers.

The States and Territories will be required to report annually on performance indicators to COAG, as set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. The Intergovernmental Agreement of Federal Financial Relations provides a clear process to ensure transparent public reporting for all National Agreements and Partnerships.

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Question No: 332

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

The “turning off the tap” initiative focuses on delivering evidence-based services across the country to stop people becoming homeless yet the White Paper states that the current evidence base is weak and contains significant gaps.

Is the Government intending to strengthen the evidence base before proceeding with reducing homelessness?

Answer:

The government is intending to proceed with reducing homelessness while strengthening the evidence base.

A national homelessness research strategy is being developed to support the White Paper, building on existing research and data collection efforts.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics will develop a richer data base across mainstream and specialist services.

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Question No: 333

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

When does the Government seek to have a credible evidence base by?
For example, when will the national homelessness research strategy identified in the White Paper be finalised?
When will research funded under the strategy commence?

Answer:

The improvement of the evidence base will be an ongoing process beginning in 2009 and enriched by the national homelessness research strategy.

Funding of the national homelessness research strategy will commence from July 2009. Research will commence as soon as practicable after this.

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Question No: 335

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How is the Government ensuring cost-effectiveness of its response?

Answer:

Progress will be monitored carefully. There will be benchmarking of costs and outcomes achieved from different delivery models over the life of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. A case mix pilot will enable benchmarking between States and Territories.

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Question No: 336

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Generally, how will the ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy operate? For example, what types of programs is the Government expecting States and Territories to provide to support this policy?

Answer:

The ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy is supported by a commitment by the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness to provide assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities, to access and maintain stable, affordable housing.

The assistance provided will depend on each individual’s circumstances: it may include temporary accommodation, transport assistance to access accommodation with friends and family; tenancy support, and intensive case management.

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Question No: 337

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy operate in situations where services may only be provided for a short period of time, such as a hospital?

Answer:

It is recognised that even a short period of hospitalisation, for example, may result in homelessness for people whose accommodation arrangements are precarious. It is expected that the initial focus of the ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy will be on those in institutional or other forms of care for longer periods (for whom the challenge of maintaining accommodation is greater than for those in short term care).

At an individual level, the assistance provided will depend on each person’s circumstances: it may be temporary accommodation, help with transport to access accommodation with friends and family; tenancy support; and intensive case management.

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Question No: 339

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What policies are being contemplated to prevent the discharge of a person into short-term or unsustainable accommodation in these circumstances?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments have committed to provide assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities, to access and maintain stable, affordable housing.

States will need to put in place policies with mainstream and specialist providers to provide those discharged with the right support and accommodation.

The assistance provided will depend on each individual's circumstances. It may be, for example, short-term accommodation with intensive case management support or longer term accommodation and tenancy support.

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Question No: 340

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What provision does the ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy make for people who have a home, but are at risk of losing that home, upon entry to care or custody?

Answer:

The States and Territories are responsible for tenancy support to prevent homelessness under the National Partnership on Homelessness.

We recognise that going into care can result in losing tenancy. The White Paper does not prescribe strategies but provides flexibility through brokerage and tailored tenancy support solutions.

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Question No: 341

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Are there policies being designed that would assist a person to maintain their housing, for example, during, medical treatment or custody?

Answer:

Medical treatment or custody may in some circumstances pose a risk to sustaining a tenancy.

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments have committed to provide assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities, to access and maintain stable, affordable housing. It is an important step in ensuring that institutional care does not contribute to homelessness.

The assistance provided will depend on each individual's circumstances: it may be for example, cost effective to assist some people to maintain their tenancies while they are in short term care and to offer priority assistance for new accommodation to people who are in longer term care.

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Question No: 342

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How does the soon to be released National Child Protection Framework support for the ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy for children leaving state care?

Answer:

The National Child Protection Framework is still under development in consultation with the States and Territories and the non- government sector and is complementary to the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the White Paper on Homelessness. Once agreed it will be considered by COAG.

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Question No: 343

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the White Paper link in with other related national initiatives such as the National Child Protection Framework and the National Plan to Reduce Violence against women and their children?

Answer:

The draft National Child Protection Framework is linking with other COAG and Australian Government reforms that support the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and families, such as the Homelessness White Paper and the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. It is seeking to complement, rather than duplicate, work in related reform areas.

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Question No: 344

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What will joined-up service delivery mean for community service providers currently providing distinct services pursuant to several state and Federal Government agreements?

Answer:

The intention of joined up service delivery is to achieve better collaboration between mainstream and specialist homelessness services to prevent people falling into homelessness.

National Partnership Agreement negotiations are underway with States and Territories. As part of this process, the Australian Government will work with each State and Territory government to develop state and regional homelessness action plans to improve collaboration between mainstream and specialist homelessness services.

These plans will include mechanisms for community service providers to engage in cross-agency case assessments, case management and case planning as well as service protocols which will improve the way services are delivered to the client.

On the ground, improved collaboration between services will mean that there will be ‘no wrong door’ into the service system for a person who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There will be multiple entry points to services: any entry point will be the right entry point for people who are homeless or “at risk” to be assessed and receive appropriate assistance.

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Question No: 345

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will joined-up policy and service delivery be facilitated at a Government level?

Answer:

Joined up policy and service delivery will be facilitated through various intergovernmental mechanisms.

Joined up policy will be one of the primary responsibilities of the proposed new Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group that will report to Housing Ministers Council and the Community and Disability Services Ministers Council. This working group will drive the national reform agenda set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, share progress and good practise between states, and provide a multilateral forum for policy discussion.

Within each State, most jurisdictions are proposing a cross government approach to ensure better connections between a mainstream and specialist services. This will be complemented by regional level planning, service network meetings and outcome focussed performance reporting across agencies.

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Question No: 346

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

A general person needing homelessness support would access income support through the Federal Government, public housing through a state government, and tenancy support through a community organisation. How does the Government plan to manage joined-up service delivery across jurisdictions and organisations?

Answer:

Specialist and mainstream services will be joined-up in a number of ways. Responses will vary across jurisdictions depending on different service systems but are likely to include:

- systemic links - such as the homeless flag on the Centrelink system to improve referrals to both Australian Government and State Government providers;
- regional planning across mainstream and specialist services;
- top down measures such as CEO groups, whole of government planning approaches; and
- case management - where specialist providers will work with mainstream services to deliver a individualised care plan.
- co-location of some services in some locations to make it easier for clients to access services such as State housing agencies in some Centrelink offices

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Question No: 347

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How does the White Paper seek to better integrate specialist and mainstream services? Is it a state-by-state initiative?

Answer:

Specialist and mainstream services will be integrated in a number of ways within jurisdictions and across States. Responses will vary across jurisdictions depending on different service systems but are likely to include:

- systemic links - such as the homeless flag on the Centrelink system to improve referrals;
- regional planning across mainstream and specialist services;
- top down measures such as CEO groups, whole of government planning approaches; and
- case management - where specialist providers will work with mainstream services to deliver a individualised care plan.

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Question No: 348

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Have discussions already begun? If so, in discussions with State and Territory governments, what are some of the issues that have been identified about how to build capacity across such a broad range of services, funded by several different Departments?

Answer:

Discussions have already begun with State and Territory governments about how to build capacity across services and government. Some of the issues raised include:

- how to make the system easier for homeless people to navigate; and
- how to develop an understanding amongst mainstream providers of the debilitating impact of homelessness on the sustainability of their outcomes e.g. health, justice, child protection
- move from inputs to achieving interim and long term outcomes for clients;
- how to share information and servicing strategies;

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Question No: 349

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What is the timeframe for the integration process? Is it a staged process?

Answer:

It will be a rolling process of reform, which has already started in many states and territories and in the Commonwealth.

Preliminary discussions with State and Territory governments through the National Partnership negotiations will set out time frames for initial efforts in this area. State and Territory implementation plans should detail this and are due to be agreed by 31 March 2009.

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Question No: 350

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Is the 'case-mix' pilot trial to be rolled out in multiple locations?
If so, has a state or territory been selected?

Answer:

The Commonwealth will work with the States and Territories to develop the trial. Details have not yet been decided.

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Question No: 351

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

When will this be completed?

Answer:

No dates have yet been set.

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Question No: 352

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the findings be used in program design?

Answer:

The result will be made available to the State and Territory Governments which have responsibility for funding homelessness services.

It is the Commonwealth's intention the result will also be publicly available.

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Question No: 353

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How does the White Paper address the needs of people with people with alcohol and other drug issues, particularly where those issues coexist with mental health issues?

Answer:

Governments will introduce or expand tenure-neutral tenancy support services. This will help people with mental health and substance abuse issues sustain their tenancies.

A ‘no exits into homelessness’ policy will be implemented to ensure people are not discharged into homelessness when exiting hospital, mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Around \$20 million will be provided under the fourth round of the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program (PHaMS) in early 2009 to deliver additional community based mental health services to difficult to reach groups of Australians such as people who are homeless who would benefit from mental health services.

New funding models will be tested for specialist homelessness services that reflect the costs of delivering services to clients with complex needs.

An assertive outreach program will be introduced to find rough sleepers (many of whom are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse issues) and connect them to sustainable long-term housing and health services.

The needs of this cohort will also be addressed through the National Partnerships on Social Housing, Remote Indigenous Housing and the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

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Question No: 354

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Can the money in the Homelessness NP be allocated to increasing the funding of existing specialist homelessness services?

Answer:

Yes. As long as agreed outputs across mainstream services are achieved, States and Territories have responsibility for the allocation of funding for homelessness services within their jurisdiction.

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Question No: 355

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will children accompanying an adult in specialist homelessness services be accounted for separately in homelessness funding?

Answer:

Yes, the National Affordable Housing Agreement distributed funding for specialist homelessness services on the basis of each jurisdiction's proportion of the national homeless population, including homeless children.

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Question No: 356

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Do you have any existing examples of the different types of support for children that are going to be funded through homelessness services?

Answer:

There are numerous examples of good practice in supporting children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness currently in operation. These include: the “Bright Futures” project conducted by Merri Outreach Support Service Inc in Melbourne in 2006 and 2007 which provided a specialist and flexible case management service and therapeutic group work program for children in homeless families; and, The Hanover Welfare Services Consortium, “Improving Education Outcomes for Children Experiencing Homelessness Project” currently underway which seeks to improve education outcomes for children experiencing homelessness in the middle years of schooling by enhancing support practices between support workers, the homeless sector and local schools. Both projects are funded under the National Homelessness Strategy administered by FaHCSIA.

Measures which the White paper identified as examples of child focussed intervention that the States and Territories may wish to consider implementing under the Homelessness National Partnership include:

- Regional child development workers to develop and coordinate formal relationships with services, counsellors and schools
- Brokerage funding for homelessness services to purchase specialist advice and resources to meet the specific needs of children
- Closer links between homelessness services and child protection services
- Tenancy support to enable them to sustain tenancy
- Models such as A Place To Call Home (APTCH)

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Question No: 357

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

When are the National Accreditation systems to be operational?

Answer:

A wide consultation process on the accreditation system with the sector and State and Territory governments will be held in the latter part of 2009.

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Question No: 358

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Who will be in charge of managing compliance? State/Territory or Federal Governments?

Answer:

Details of the accreditation system are yet to be developed. Consultations will be held with State Government and the sector during 2009.

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Question No: 359

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the national system link with current State systems?

Answer:

Some States and Territories have existing systems for accrediting components of the homelessness service system and these will be carefully considered in developing a complementary system at the Australian Government level.

A national system will ensure a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and State jurisdictions to ensure that there is no duplication of effort required by the introduction of the national accreditation system.

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Question No: 360

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the specialist homelessness sector be consulted?

Answer:

A consultation process about the accreditation system, and will include discussion with the sector will be held in the latter part of 2009.

Where appropriate the government will also use the services of peak bodies such as Homelessness Australia. The Homelessness Clearinghouse may also be used for gaining input, for the specialist homelessness sector.

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Question No: 361

Topic: Community Engagement Officers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

The White Paper says there will be a national network of 90 Community Engagement Officers (CEO). These will 'expand and replace the existing Community Contact Officer network'. How will the CEOs relate to the currently existing Community Contact Officers?

How many Community Contact Officers are there at present?

Is the funding for Community Engagement Officers to come out of the Homelessness NP or the Community Contact Officers funding?

Answer:

There are currently 60 Community Contact Officer (CCOs). Thirty three of these are funded through Centrelink's base funding and 27 are funded through internal Centrelink resources. These CCOs will be renamed Community Engagement Officers (CEOs) and their numbers will be increased from 60 to 90. The additional CCOs will be funded through internal Centrelink resources.

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Question No: 364

Topic: Weekly Benefit Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Who will be eligible to access weekly benefit payments under the proposed system?

Answer:

Income support recipients will be eligible to access weekly payment arrangements if they are assessed by a Centrelink Social Worker as being particularly vulnerable and likely to benefit from weekly payment arrangements.

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Question No: 367

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

The White Paper notes that assertive outreach programs are going to form a part of the new response to homelessness. Are these programs going to be rolled out in every state and territory?

Answer:

Yes, assertive outreach programs are one of the core outputs that the States and Territories will have to implement under the National Partnership on Homelessness.

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Question No: 368

Topic: Bea Miles Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will the Bea Miles Foundation be an independent charity or will it be Government-controlled?

If independent, how will its original board be selected?

Answer:

The Foundation will be established by the Australian Government.

Businesses, the philanthropic sector and the community through donations and volunteering are already significant contributors to the response to homelessness. These contributions will be most effective if they are consistent with government policies and programs on homelessness.

The model for the Foundation is being developed.

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Question No: 369

Topic: Bea Miles Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the Government be accountable for the operation of the Foundation?

Answer:

Details of the Foundation's governance are still being finalised.

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Question No: 370

Topic: Bea Miles Foundation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Is the Foundation bound to the same prioritisation of goals as the Government?

Answer:

The Foundation will sponsor innovation and research to support the goals set by the Government in the White Paper. Governance arrangements for the Foundation are yet to be agreed.

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Question No: 372

Topic: Homelessness Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

When will the review of awards to create 'advanced practitioners' be completed?

Who will conduct this review?

What percentage of staff will fit into this category?

Answer:

Discussions are underway with the States and Territories on the best way to support development of the advanced practitioner model.

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Question No: 373

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

What is the Government's policy towards improving the conditions for the rest of the specialist homelessness sector workforce?

Answer:

Vulnerable clients need access to quality services delivered by skilled and well trained staff. While wages and conditions are determined by employers, the Australian Government supports the development of appropriate training, skills recognition and career structures in specialist homelessness services. The Australian Government will work the States and Territories to support the development of workforce capacity.

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Question No: 374

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Who will be on the Australian Council on Homelessness?

Answer:

Preliminary discussion about the Prime Minister's Council is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made about membership.

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Question No: 375

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will it be similar to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness and only include secretaries (and equivalents) of key Federal Government agencies?

Answer:

Preliminary discussion about the Prime Minister's Council is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made about membership.

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Question No: 376

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will it include community peak organisation representatives?
How will they be selected?

Answer:

Preliminary discussion about the Prime Minister's Council is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made about membership.

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Question No: 377

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will it include any homelessness service representatives?
How will they be selected?

Answer:

Preliminary discussion about the Prime Minister's Council is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made about membership.

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Question No: 378

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

Will the equivalent bodies in the states and territories be included?

Answer:

Preliminary discussion about the Prime Minister's Council is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made about membership.

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Question No: 379

Topic: Australian Council on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlum asked:

How will the Council coordinate with existing state and territory bodies dealing with homelessness?

Answer:

The Council will drive the goals of the White Paper at a national level. The States and Territories will be bound to the specific measures set by COAG, the National Partnership on Homelessness and their State or Territory implementation plan.

Preliminary discussion regarding the Council's reporting and terms of reference is underway. At this stage no decisions have been made.

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Question No: 380

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The White Report was released stating that homelessness will be halved by '2020' What plans have been put into place to ensure this happens?

Answer:

The major White Paper commitments around better service delivery have been transferred with appropriate funding to States and Territories under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership (NP) on Homelessness. States now have the flexibility to take decisions on the distribution of funding under the NAHA. States are required to submit Implementation Plans for the NP by 31 March 2009.

The States and Territories will be required to report annually, as required under the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership on Homelessness. The Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations sets out a clear process for public reporting of all National Agreements and Partnerships.

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Question No: 381

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What response has been received by the support groups in relation to this?

Answer:

Support groups have reacted positively to the setting of targets and States and Territories accountability for outcomes.

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Question No: 382

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide a breakdown as to how the \$800 million will be spent, that will be contributed to halving the homeless numbers in Australia?

Answer:

Funding under the Homelessness National Partnership (NP) Agreement is being distributed to States and Territories according to 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics census data on the number of people who are homeless in each jurisdiction. States and Territories are matching this contribution. Each jurisdiction will outline their approach to achieving the agreed core and additional outputs of the Homelessness NP in individual State and Territory Implementation Plans.

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Question No: 383

Topic: National Rental Affordability Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In relation to the National Rental Affordability Plan, what realistic goals are being looked at in relation to housing more people?

Answer:

The National Rental Affordability Scheme aims to stimulate the supply of up to 50,000 new affordable rental dwellings. The Scheme does not prescribe the number of people to be housed as this is dependent on the types and sizes of dwellings in the Scheme.

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Question No: 385

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In relation to introducing a policy of 'no exits into homelessness' from hospitals, mental health and drug and alcohol services and statutory care, how is this going to be monitored?

Answer:

Collection of performance indicator data is the responsibility of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics and they are currently working with the Commonwealth and the States and Territories to develop what will be collected.

As the no exits policy will be achieved by mainstream and specialist services working together, information will come from a broad range of sources. The AIHW and ABS are working with the States and Territories and the Commonwealth to develop a data collection system. It may be up to two years before reliable data is available. States will detail what policies they will implement to achieve no exits into homelessness as part of their Implementation Plan. Interim data may be collected for this indicator in the next year or two depending on the complexity of agreed data and method of collecting it.

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Question No: 387

Topic: Public Housing Tenants

Hansard Page: CA40 – 26/2

Senator Fielding asked:

Please confirm if the current profile of public housing tenants is about 55% that are either aging or with disability?

Answer:

Yes. Based on the data available, the profile for public housing tenants that are either aging or with disability is around 55%.

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Question No: 389

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA43 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

How many of the Round 1 projects have commenced construction?

Answer:

This information will not be available to the Department of Families Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs until Round 1 participants in the National Rental Affordability Scheme have input data about their proposed dwellings to the FaHCSIA Online Financial Management System (FOFMS). The process is expected to be finalised by mid-June 2009.

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Question No: 390

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA43 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Could it get to 12 months before the department tells the government it is not rented?

Answer:

Participants in the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) are required to submit an annual statement of compliance for each approved rental dwelling by 13 May. The statement must include details of any period in the preceding NRAS year (1 May – 30 April) during which the dwelling was vacant. The financial Incentives under the Scheme relate to an organisation having properties available for rent and tenanted in order to generate a rental income. Incentives will not be payable for more than 91 vacant days per NRAS year.

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Question No: 391

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA46 – 26/2

Senator Ludlum asked:

Is the low income housing being put on the outer edges of cities or is it being scattered within urban areas?

Answer:

Approved rental dwellings for the National Rental Affordability Scheme are located/to be located in areas identified as meeting the affordable housing priorities of the relevant State or Territory Government.

National Rental Incentives offered to date have been for a mixture of dwellings in capital cities and regional areas and cover both “greenfield” and “infill” developments.

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Question No: 392

Topic: Edmondson Park

Hansard Page: CA48 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Could you indicate to the committee how it is envisaged that that is going to improve housing affordability in that particular development?

Answer:

Funding will be used to rebate infrastructure charges, such as sewer trunk mains, water mains and storm water with savings from these rebates being passed on the end purchaser.

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Question No: 393

Topic: Renwick Project in the Southern Highlands

Hansard Page: CA48 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide further information on ‘leading infrastructure to deliver 600 dwellings’?

Answer:

Lead-in infrastructure such as water, sewerage, transport, and open space will enable development of the land for production of the 600 residential dwellings. This will generate savings which will be passed on to the home buyers.

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Question No: 396

Topic: Housing Affordability Fund

Hansard Page: CA49 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Can you advise the committee what consultation there is in the process of allocating projects under the Housing Affordability Fund with Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

FaHCSIA does not explicitly require input from Infrastructure Australia in assessment of project bids under the Housing Affordability Fund.

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Question No: 397

Topic: Payments

Hansard Page: CA52 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide the committee with a list of payments that were made to the states and territories under the 2003 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (July 2003 to December 2008), broken down annually and by state and territory. And then can it be broken down to the allocated purpose for each state and territory as well, that is split the base funding for the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the component that was for the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program, the component for the Crisis Accommodation Program and community housing.

Answer:

The attached table shows the funding paid annually to each State and Territory for each of the above programs for the period of the 2003 CSHA (July 2003 to December 2008).

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2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement Grant Payments By Year (\$'000)

2003-04 (a)	Base Funding	Aboriginal Rental Housing Program	Crisis Accommodation Program	Community Housing Program	Total Commonwealth	State Matching Funds
NSW	239,388	17,777	13,372	21,578	292,115	117,178
VIC	175,929	3,638	9,827	15,858	205,252	86,115
QLD	134,579	27,598	7,518	12,131	181,826	65,875
WA	69,629	18,177	3,889	6,276	97,971	34,083
SA	54,690	8,926	3,055	4,930	71,601	26,770
TAS (b)	21,189	351	951	1,534	24,025	10,372
ACT	16,747	0	647	1,044	18,438	8,197
NT	13,079	24,188	396	639	38,302	6,402
TOTAL	725,230	100,655	39,655	63,990	929,530	354,992
2004-05 (a)						
NSW	241,180	17,987	13,469	21,735	294,371	118,055
VIC	177,681	3,680	9,923	16,013	207,297	86,973
QLD	137,897	27,900	7,701	12,428	185,926	67,499
WA	70,708	18,364	3,949	6,372	99,393	34,611
SA	54,991	9,025	3,071	4,956	72,043	26,917
TAS	21,401	696	963	1,553	24,613	10,476
ACT	16,777	0	647	1,044	18,468	8,212
NT	13,138	24,420	399	643	38,600	6,431
TOTAL	733,773	102,072	40,122	64,744	940,711	359,174
2005-06						
NSW	243,465	18,235	13,593	21,936	297,229	119,173
VIC	180,158	3,731	10,059	16,232	210,180	88,185
QLD	141,161	25,885	7,881	12,718	187,645	69,097
WA	71,974	16,271	4,019	6,485	98,749	35,231
SA	55,389	8,557	3,093	4,990	72,029	27,112
TAS	21,604	696	973	1,570	24,843	10,575
ACT	16,885	0	652	1,052	18,589	8,265
NT	13,235	19,964	404	652	34,255	6,478
TOTAL	743,871	93,339	40,674	65,635	943,519	364,116
2006-07						
NSW	245,255	18,451	13,691	22,092	299,489	120,049
VIC	182,145	3,774	10,168	16,407	212,494	89,158
QLD	144,240	26,194	8,052	12,993	191,479	70,604
WA	73,137	16,464	4,083	6,588	100,272	35,800
SA	55,746	8,659	3,112	5,022	72,539	27,287
TAS	21,753	696	980	1,582	25,011	10,648
ACT	16,991	0	657	1,061	18,709	8,317
NT	13,366	20,201	412	664	34,643	6,542
TOTAL	752,633	94,439	41,155	66,409	954,636	368,405
2007-08						
NSW	246,530	18,760	13,757	22,199	301,246	120,674
VIC	185,771	3,837	10,366	16,728	216,702	90,933
QLD	148,605	26,638	8,292	13,381	196,916	72,740
WA	74,841	16,741	4,176	6,739	102,497	36,634
SA	56,670	8,804	3,162	5,103	73,739	27,739
TAS	21,902	696	987	1,592	25,177	10,721
ACT	17,292	n/a	675	1,089	19,056	8,464
NT	13,613	20,543	427	688	35,271	6,663
TOTAL	765,224	96,019	41,842	67,519	970,604	374,568
17/08-31/12/08						
NSW	124,471	9,519	6,944	11,205	152,139	60,927
VIC	94,267	1,947	5,259	8,486	109,959	46,143
QLD	75,978	13,518	4,238	6,839	100,573	37,190
WA	38,288	8,494	2,136	3,447	52,365	18,741
SA	28,605	4,467	1,596	2,575	37,243	14,002
TAS	11,030	348	497	802	12,677	5,399
ACT	8,723	0	342	551	9,616	4,270
NT	6,889	10,424	218	352	17,883	3,372
TOTAL	388,251	48,717	21,230	34,257	492,455	190,044

(a) Funding for ARHP for 2003-04 and 2004-05 includes additional funding, announced in the 2001 Budget, of \$10m for each year.

(b) Tasmania only received \$351,000 of their ARHP allocation of \$696,000 as there was no agreed Indigenous Housing Plan for ARHP for 2003-04.

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Question No: 399

Topic: Breakdown of dwellings

Hansard Page: CA59 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide a breakdown of the funding per state, which corresponds to numbers of dwellings?

Answer:

The Repairs and Maintenance package has been approved by the Minister for Housing. The table below sets out the funds per jurisdiction and the number of dwellings anticipated to be repaired.

Jurisdiction	Funds	Dwellings
New South Wales	\$130,402,000	31,146
Victoria	\$99,152,000	5,600
Queensland	\$80,096,000	9,458
Western Australia	\$40,488,000	397
South Australia	\$29,980,000	391
Tasmania	\$9,324,000	516
Australian Capital Territory	\$6,442,000	243
Northern Territory	\$4,116,000	136
Total	\$400,000,000	47,887

The following table provides expected construction funding by stage for each jurisdiction. These figures are estimates only and will vary with updated population data that will be available before the allocation of stage 2 funding. Actual decisions will be made by the Minister for Housing on final funding and numbers of dwellings approved for construction, when proposals are made and considered. These numbers are therefore only indicative.

Jurisdiction	Stage one funds	Stage two funds	Dwellings
New South Wales	\$225,594,000	\$1,726,511,000	6,507
Victoria	\$171,532,000	\$1,312,765,000	4,948
Queensland	\$138,565,000	\$1,060,462,000	3,997
Western Australia	\$70,044,000	\$536,066,000	2,020
South Australia	\$51,866,000	\$396,940,000	1,496
Tasmania	\$16,131,000	\$123,448,000	465
Australian Capital Territory	\$11,147,000	\$85,303,000	322
Northern Territory	\$7,121,000	\$54,505,000	205
Total	\$692,000,000	\$5,296,000,000	19,960

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Question No: 400

Topic: ESS Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA59 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Where is the \$6 billion of the Commonwealth's money in a \$42 billion stimulus package actually going in terms of what is going to be built?

Answer:

As part of the stimulus package, \$6 billion will be used to fund the building of around 20,000 new social housing dwellings.

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Question No: 401

Topic: COAG Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Are the reports that they make going to be available publicly or tabled in the parliament?

Answer:

It is expected that the reports will be available on the COAG website – www.coag.gov.au.

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Question No: 265

Topic: National Affordable Housing Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What was the average completion time for the construction of new dwellings for projects completed in the five years to June 30, 2008 (inclusive and exclusive of the development approval process)? Please indicate numbers by State and a total figure for the Nation as a whole.

Answer:

The previous Commonwealth State Housing Agreement did not require States to report on average construction times. The Government has required monthly reporting as part of the Nation Building and Economic Stimulus Plan including reporting on construction.

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Question No: 266

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Was this information (Question 14) known to the Government at the time it determined the amount proposed for expenditure on social housing in the stimulus package?

Answer:

The Department did not previously collect data on the construction, planning and development approval processes and timeframes for each State and Territory Government on social housing construction under the previous Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

State Housing Authorities will purchase ready to build homes from builders and developers as well as administering construction contracts with builders for new home construction on their own land.

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Question No: 268

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

268: Although the NPA states that the State Governments are required to provide details funding proposals to the Commonwealth by 15 March 2009, can the Government provide an indicative list of these projects by location and total number of dwelling units?

Answer:

The Housing Minister has reviewed the proposals from all jurisdictions and made decisions on the dwellings to be funded via the stage one construction element of the Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan. The table below provides the number of dwellings and funding by jurisdiction.

State	Funding 08/09 \$ millions	Funding 09/10 \$ millions	Total funding \$ millions	Number of dwellings in construction projects / proposals to be funded by Cwth
NSW	\$19,560,000	\$206,034,000	\$225,594,000	851
Vic	\$14,873,000	\$156,659,000	\$171,532,000	667
QLD	\$12,014,000	\$126,551,000	\$138,565,000	444
WA	\$6,073,000	\$63,971,000	\$70,044,000	286
SA	\$4,497,000	\$47,369,000	\$51,866,000	246
TAS	\$1,399,000	\$14,732,000	\$16,131,000	65
ACT	\$967,000	\$10,180,000	\$11,147,000	56
NT	\$617,000	\$6,504,000	\$7,121,000	22
TOTAL	\$60,000,000	\$632,000,000	\$692,000,000	2,637

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Question No: 284

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What is the current National waiting list for public housing? Does the Commonwealth regularly monitor this statistic to gauge the performance of the States and Territories?

Answer:

As at June 2008, there were 177,652 applicants for public housing in Australia.

The States and Territories were required to report the number of people on the public housing waiting list to the Commonwealth annually under the former Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

The new reporting framework for the National Affordable Housing Agreement is being developed and it is expected that national waiting list data will continue to be provided by the States and Territories.

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Question No: 287

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

If the answer above is yes, what will be the criteria for purchases? Will government purchases – Federal or State or Territory – be made on the basis of perceived value for money, or on the basis of building social housing developments in new areas, or is it possible the purchases will be made as quickly as possible regardless of location in order to meet the target of 75 per cent of 20,000 dwellings by the end of next year?

Answer:

Existing and newly completed dwellings are not expected to be purchased as part of the Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan package.

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Question No: 289

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What proportion of the 20,000 social housing dwellings, and of the 2,500 upgraded houses will be allocated to the homeless? How will the recipients of these houses be identified and selected?

Answer:

The new social housing is being built primarily for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are given priority in the States and Territories waiting list.

States and Territories waiting lists for both public and community housing will be used for the identification and allocation of these dwellings to tenants. Those people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are given priority on State and Territory waiting lists. State and Territory Governments will need to report on how many homeless people have been housed as a result of the new housing constructed.

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Question No: 291

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Given that the National Rental Affordability Scheme is designed to move people out of public housing and into private rental accommodation, and given also that the new housing stimulus package is designed to move people struggling in private rental accommodation into public housing, has the government calculated whether there will be a net gain, net loss, or no impact on total numbers of Australians in public housing, as a result of these two initiatives?

Answer:

The National Rental Affordability Scheme will add to the supply of affordable housing, some of which may be occupied by people exiting public housing. The Scheme will build 50,000 new affordable rental properties that must be rented at 20 per cent below the market rate to people on low and moderate incomes. If demand for rental properties is still strong, a further 50,000 properties will be built from 2012 onwards.

The Government's Nation Building and Economic Stimulus Plan will increase the number of social housing dwellings by 20,000 and the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing will provide up to 2,100 additional social housing dwellings.

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Question No: 296

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

It has been reported that \$800 million will be provided over the next 4 years to implement this agreement. What will be the Commonwealth's share of this funding or is it entirely made up of Commonwealth funding?

Answer:

The Commonwealth will contribute \$400 million for services towards this Agreement.

The Commonwealth will make payments to the States totaling \$388.6 million. The Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditure of \$11.4 million is for a national homelessness research strategy to support the White Paper on Homelessness and also to undertake a scoping study to explore information technology options to better integrate homelessness specialist services with each other and with mainstream services.

The states will match the Commonwealth's total funding of \$400 million.

In addition, funding for the A Place to Call Home (APTCH) initiative is also being delivered under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement (NPA). The Commonwealth will provide \$150 million for capital for APTCH. States are required to match this funding with a further \$150, which can be for support services or capital.

Total funding under the Homelessness NPA, including APTCH, is \$1.1 billion.

The Commonwealth is also providing \$400 million under the Social Housing National Partnership Agreement and \$6.4 billion under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan to create additional accommodation for people who are homeless.

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Question No: 299

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What does the new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness mean to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Act, is it proposed to amend the existing Act or draft new legislation? When will new legislation be brought before the parliament? Would such amending legislation include wide consultation with interested stakeholders or would it be pushed through the parliament with a tight deadline?

Answer:

The Act has not changed and is not affected by the NP.

The National Affordable Housing Agreement arrangements do not require the SAAP Act to be repealed but provide an ideal opportunity to develop replacement legislation which retains a strong legislative framework to underpin the new national response to homelessness set out in the White Paper.

The White Paper commits the Government to a new Homelessness Act. This will subsume the provisions of the SAAP Act. The Government intends to replace the SAAP Act once the Homelessness Act is in place.

It is proposed that new legislation will be drafted for 2010 spring sitting in order to allow for stakeholder consultations in 2009-10.

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Question No: 304

Topic: Housing Affordability Fund

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

It is understood that the City of Geelong made an application for funding under the HAF. Firstly, what is the status of their application? And is it a case of more information being sought from the Geelong City Council?

Answer:

City of Geelong did make an application to the HAF and were not shortlisted for funding . They received written notification of the outcome of their application on 24 December 2008. No additional information is being sought on their application.

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Question No: 309

Topic: National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has the Housing Supply Council had any discussions or formal meetings with Infrastructure Australia or the Major Cities Unit (part of Infrastructure Australia), regarding actions that could be taken to release more affordable land for housing? The Minister has indicated that the chair of the NHSC wrote to the chair of Infrastructure Australia in early 2009. What outcomes have arisen from this correspondence?

Answer:

The Chair of the National Housing Supply Council, Dr Owen Donald, wrote to the chair of Infrastructure Australia (IA) in November 2008. The NHSC Chair proposed to meet in 2009 to discuss areas of mutual interest to the work of the NHSC and IA. This meeting has not yet occurred.

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Question No: 311

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Are there any negotiations underway to reduce the reliance of States and Territories on these sources of revenue, as a direct way to improve housing affordability?

Answer:

The Australia's Future Tax System Review Panel is considering a range of taxation arrangements and will make recommendations that enhance overall economic, social and environmental wellbeing, with a particular focus on ensuring there are appropriate incentives for individuals to save and provide for their future, including access to affordable housing. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the review, the panel will consider enhancing the taxation arrangements on consumption (including excise taxes), property (including housing), and other forms of taxation collected primarily by the States.

The review panel is scheduled to deliver its final report to the Treasurer in December 2009.

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Question No: 313

Topic: Housing Affordability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the Department accept the findings of a BankWest study released in December 2008, that stamp duty on home purchases has leapt 59% in five years and that a home buyer in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth must now find more than 20% of their annual income to pay that cost alone? Will this issue be part of future discussions with the States and Territories on ways to improve housing affordability?

Answer:

The Department has no information to suggest the methodology used in the Bank West study is inappropriate.

The greater increase in housing costs is due to undersupply that became chronic in the past decade.

It should also be recognised that most states and territories have introduced exemptions from stamp duty for first home buyers for eligibly priced housing.

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Question No: 316

Topic: Housing Affordability and Mortgage Stress

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Given the easing of house and apartment prices in many parts of Australia, is there evidence of a rise in the number of mortgagees who now find that the value of their asset is less than their mortgage liability?

Answer:

- There is no data on the number of people who hold negative equity in their homes.
- Professor Gavin Wood, RMIT, in his 5 February 2009 report - *Negative equity and house price risk in Australia* has indicated if house prices were to decline by 10 percent an estimated 110,300 mortgagors (that only own their primary residence) would be left with negative equity in their homes.

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Question No: 317

Topic: Housing Affordability and Mortgage Stress

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What actions, if any, have been taken to encourage lenders to help people experiencing mortgage stress to remain in their homes?

Answer:

Interest rate cuts of 4% since September 2008 have rescued over 485,000 households from mortgage stress.

The Commonwealth Government has a number of measures in place to help home purchasers in difficulty. These focus both on reinforcing the capacity of the financial services sector and supporting individual borrowers in distress. In summary:

- The government's guarantee of bank deposits announced last year, together with the underpinning regulatory framework that operates in Australia, means that the difficulties borrowers in other countries face if they need to re-finance will be less of a problem here.
- The Government's investment of \$8 billion in AAA-rated residential mortgage-backed securities from the non-bank mortgage lending sector to increase competition with the major banks may also place further downward pressure on interest rates.
- CoAG has agreed to pass responsibility for consumer credit regulation from the states to the Commonwealth, including mortgages, credit cards and pay day lending. This includes banks, mortgage brokers, trustee companies, non-bank lenders and margin loans. From July 2009, all providers of credit will be required to be licensed by ASIC, with independent dispute resolution available (at present only Approved Deposit-taking Institutions are licensed by ASIC). The Government is proposing to increase the limit below which lenders must consider applications for adjustment to loan terms for those who can't meet their repayments from \$312,400 to, say, \$500,000. . A [public exposure draft of the National Consumer Credit Protection Bill 2009](#) was released for comment on 27 April 2009, it is expected that the legislative changes will take effect from 1 November 2009..
- The Government's Account Switching Package came into effect from 1 November 2008 with banks, credit unions and building societies now offering full listing and switching services to customers. measures that will make it easier for Australians to switch banks include:
 - **A listing and switching service** that requires banks to give customers accurate information on all direct debits and credits to take to a new bank for easier transferral, if they switch. Banks will also have to help new customers re-establish their direct debits and credits.

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- **A single consumer complaints hotline** 1300 300 630 providing a first contact point for all consumer complaints about basic banking products – this service from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.
- **Comprehensive consumer education resources**, including a web site providing detailed advice on how to switch, and the costs and benefits of doing so, through the www.understandingmoney.gov.au site.
- The Government is investing an additional \$20 million over four years in financial counselling and support for people under financial stress.
 - Funding for CFC will increase by \$2.5 million a year – an additional \$10 million over four years.
 - \$10 million (over four years) will also be provided to develop easy to understand and practical financial management information products relating to mortgages, credit cards, hire purchase and the like.
- This measure brings funding for CFC services to \$5.1 million in 2008-09.
- ASIC has recently completed its review of mortgage entry and exit fees. Information on the service will be published on the Australian Payments Clearing Association's website: www.apca.com.au to help borrowers make more informed decisions.

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Question No: 324

Topic: Homelessness Legislation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

Which parts of the current Supported Accommodation Assistance (SAAP) Act of 1994 are going to be retained in the new homelessness legislation?

Answer:

The Australian Government will work with specialist homelessness services and state and territory governments and homeless people to review the Supported Accommodation Assistance (SAAP) Act 1994 in considering changes to the legislation.

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Question No: 325

Topic: Homelessness Legislation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

How will homelessness be defined in the new Act?

Answer:

The White Paper notes the need for an agreed definition of homelessness. This will be developed in conjunction with states and mainstream and specialist homelessness service providers.

The Government has used a broad definition of homelessness in its policy work to date.

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Question No: 329

Topic: Reducing Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

Will the target to reduce homelessness by half by 2020 be measured on a per capita basis or be measured using the total head count?

Answer:

The measurement of homelessness will be on the basis of the rate of homelessness in the community. The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census will be the baseline.

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Question No: 334

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

Has the Department identified how each of the interim targets can be measured? If not, how long will it take for this data to be developed?

Answer:

Providing data to measure the interim targets is the responsibility of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It will take up to two years to develop some data collection for some measures while data collection methods exist for other measures. Interim measures will be used while this development occurs. The Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are currently developing their processes to collect information on new measures in consultation with State and Territories and the Commonwealth.

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Question No: 338

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

Is it likely that hospitals will have to ‘hold’ discharged patients for lack of suitable external accommodation?

Answer:

No. The ‘no exits into homeless policy’ will not require hospitals to hold discharged patients if suitable external accommodation is not available. Hospitals will be required to implement pre-release planning for their patients.

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Question No: 365

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

The White Paper notes that there will be additional services for up to 9,000 young people at risk of homelessness. Is this number the result of negotiations between the states and territories?

Answer:

The figure of 9,000 is indicative. A target of 9,000 was developed with reference to both funds available and the reach of existing youth services.

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Question No: 366

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

Similarly, the White Paper states that additional support will be available for up to 2,250 families at risk of homelessness. Was this number the result of negotiations between states and territories?

Answer:

The figure of 2,250 is indicative. A target of 2,250 was developed with reference to funds available and the reach of existing services that support families.

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Question No: 371

Topic: White Paper on Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

The White Paper sets out that 'increasing staff salaries [at specialist homelessness services] had clear benefits for the quality of services provided'. Is the government planning to provide for higher homelessness staff salaries?

Answer:

Most homelessness staff work under State and Territory based awards. Provided States and Territories achieve specified outcomes, funding can be used to enhance staff salaries.

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Question No: 384

Topic: National Rental Affordability Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide a report as to these goals and how they will be realistically achieved?

Answer:

The National Rental Affordability Scheme aims:

- 1) to stimulate the supply of up to 50,000 new affordable rental dwellings by 2012;
- 2) to reduce rental costs for low and moderate income households by making these dwellings available for rent at 20 percent less than the market value; and
- 3) to encourage large-scale investment and innovative delivery of affordable housing by offering an incentive scheme to eligible investors to enable them to finance the construction of lower-cost rental properties.

To date, Incentives have been allocated to Round 1 applicants for 3,799 new homes.

Offers of 493 Incentives in respect of early Round 2 assessments of applications were made in April 2009. All other Round 2 offers will be made in late July 2009.

The Department is working with industry to target institutional investors to provide large-scale housing development projects to meet the targets above. The third call for NRAS applications is expected to be announced in late May 2009.

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Question No: 388

Topic: National Rental Affordability Scheme

Hansard Page: CA41 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

What is the proportion of completed houses?

Answer:

As at 1 May 2009, 3 799 NRAS Incentives have been allocated to successful Round 1 applicants. FaHCSIA is aware that, to date, 154 of these (i.e. 4.05 per cent) were available for rent and had not been lived in before. Updated information on the completed dwellings is currently being provided by participants and will be available in late May 2009.

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Question No: 398

Topic: White Paper Information Sessions

Hansard Page: CA56- 26/2

Senator Ludlam asked:

Can we get a list of where those consultations are taking place?

Answer:

Information sessions to inform the public of the White Paper Implementation Plan were held in most capital cities during March and April 2009.

Hobart - Wednesday 11 March 2009
Adelaide - Tuesday 17 March 2009
Darwin - Monday 23 March 2009
Perth - Tuesday 24 March 2009
Brisbane – Thursday, 23 April 2009
Sydney – Friday, 24 April 2009
Melbourne – Thursday, 30 April 2009

State Governments were invited to present with us at the sessions. Planning for regional information sessions is underway.

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Question No: 318

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludlam asked:

What proportion of the NAHA funding, including all of the National Partnership payments, will be directed to specialist homelessness services?

Answer:

Under the revised Commonwealth State financial relations framework, the States and Territories are responsible for achieving agreed outcomes and outputs under the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, within the funds provided. States and Territories are likely to fund a mix of homeless specific organisations and projects within mainstream organisations to achieve broader results for people who are homeless.

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Question No: 394

Topic: Housing Affordability Fund

Hansard Page: CA48 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Is there any NSW state government input into the infrastructure components that we are talking about?

Answer:

Yes. The contribution costs need to be met by the NSW State Government and Landcom. Holding costs are born by the developer but ultimately passed onto homebuyers in the form of house prices. A contribution by the State is not a requirement of the Housing Affordability Fund program.

Funding of \$6,000,000 given to develop and subdivide the Renwick Estate subdivisional residential development, 300 residential lots, which will be sold to eligible purchasers, and in addition to the sales, the eligible purchasers of the 300 residential lots are to be provided a rebate of \$25,000 (GST Excl).

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Question No: 395

Topic: Shire of Harvey development

Hansard Page: CA48 – 26/2

Senator Payne asked:

Is there any WA state government or local council contribution to that project?

Answer:

Yes - Local council will fund infrastructure within the development in accordance with standard practice where the developer contributes to shared infrastructure needs.

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Question No: 386

Topic: Homelessness Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce: asked:

With the loss of 1,800 Pacific Brands jobs yesterday, and with more job losses possible, what is being done to ensure more people do not lose their houses through repossession, which could leave them homeless?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to Question No 317.

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Question No: 310

Topic: Housing Affordability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

- a) Does the Department accept that taxes and charges, in particular at the State Government level, comprise at least 25% of the price of an entry-level new house and land package in Sydney?
- b) Does the Department accept that this can amount to \$150,000 on that entry-level house & land?

Answer:

Taxes and charges can be a major component of the cost of a house. The total taxes and charges will depend on various factors such as the size and location of the individual house or land package.

Table A3.6 in that National Housing Supply Council State of Supply Report 2008 shows the component house and land package costs for selected capital cities.

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Triple whammy on taxes

November 9, 2008

State and local charges account for more than \$150,000 of the cost of a basic new house and land package in Sydney, writes Chris Lamont.

SHORTFALLS in revenue - from state taxes and payments from the Commonwealth - are placing unnecessary hardship on new home buyers in NSW.

The unequal distribution of tax revenues from the Federal Government to NSW has fuelled an unfettered state dependence on taxes and charges on property, particularly residential. This reliance has seen thousands of small businesses leave the state, billions of investment dollars move north or to the west coast of Australia and the lowest housing affordability.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics national data on building approvals, released last week, showed shocking results for NSW. The data revealed a seasonally adjusted drop in building activity of 26.4 per cent in the September quarter.

Lending for investment in the state remains very weak. Over the first four months of 2008, investment finance in NSW was 13 per cent lower than over the same period in 2007. Much of the weakness stems from a lack of investment in new residential construction. The economic woes of the NSW economy can be partly explained by the barriers and fixed costs imposed on residential construction.

NSW is paying the price for an onerous and complex taxation and charging regime, which is not only sending more and more key workers interstate but bankrupting the state. More than 25 per cent (or \$150,000) of the price of entry-level new house and land packages in greater Sydney is made up of taxes and charges.

GST is a major contributor but there are also statutory charges and taxes applied by local and state governments in NSW. These include Sections 94 (infrastructure) and 73 (utilities) charges, stamp duty, land tax and other regulatory charges.

These taxes and charges have both compounding and cascading impacts on the price of new homes. The result is that new housing becomes either less affordable or an unviable proposition for prospective purchasers or investors in this state.

It is appropriate that infrastructure directly related to a new residential development be provided and paid for as part of the development.

However, it is fair to object when taxes and charges are applied for infrastructure that has little bearing on the development in question, and where revenue is raised but the investment never occurs.

There is clearly a need for more transparency and equity in the calculation of development contributions. Respected residential construction industry leaders

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have pointed out that many taxes and charges are not set by any reference to the actual cost of providing infrastructure. They are devised by bureaucrats who set taxes and charges on the basis of what they think the industry can afford to pay.

For those looking for a reduction in stamp duty on all property transactions, the sad news is the state can't afford to lose the revenue. This is not to say that reform is not required in the area of stamp duty.

The current method of collecting stamp duty involves triple-counting - a tax on a tax on a tax. Purchasers of new homes believe they're only paying stamp duty on the final purchase price. In reality, the final purchase price includes stamp duty levied on a range of taxes, compounded at each stage by the collection of stamp duty.

There is clearly a need to employ an input tax credit system for stamp duty, similar to that used for the GST, to ensure that stamp duty is not calculated on other taxes and charges. It is also clear that a fiscal stimulus in the NSW economy is desperately needed to kick-start activity. But the effect of any stimulus will be eroded unless taxes on property are reviewed.

High rents, low vacancy rates, falling investment and record low housing affordability - real deterrents for key workers - are in no small part a consequence of an inflated suite of taxes and charges levied on residential construction.

Rather than a short-term year-to-year focus on tax revenues - increasingly being met by property-related taxes and charges - it is time for NSW to consider removing the barriers to economic growth and prosperity.

Taxing business and households to the point that they are forced to leave the state is hardly a strategy that will assist in turning round the state's economic fortunes.

Chris Lamont is chief executive (policy) of the Housing Industry Association.

By Invitation Only is a space for people of influence to have their say. Edited by Kerry-Anne Walsh.

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Question No: 293

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Will extra market demand from government purchases of housing potentially drive up prices and as a consequence adversely affect first home buyers' incentive to enter the market using the First Home Owners Grant Boost?

Answer:

First home owners are entering the market at unprecedented levels with the First Home Owners Boost helping 59,000 first home buyers into their first homes up to March this year.

Building 20,000 new social housing dwellings is expected to increase the number of housing starts rather than divert activity from other market segments. Forecasts predict improvements in housing starts over 2009-10 and 2010-11 which can be partially attributed to the impacts of the first home owner boost and investment in 20,000 new social housing dwellings.

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Question No: 443

Topic: Nation Building and Jobs Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Will these sites be investigated for development as part of the 20,000 social housing dwellings to be provided as part of the Commonwealth's National Building and Jobs Plan?

Answer:

No, procurement processes for the new construction element of the Social Housing Initiative are expected to close before the middle of May 2009. The identified sites will not have attained the relevant planning approvals prior to this time and could not be considered by community housing providers, developers and other organisations when submitting proposals for funding.

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Question No: 271

Topic: National Partnership Agreement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What proportion of the \$6.4 billion for housing related actions will be payments to the States and Territories? Will any allocation of the funding made to FaHCSIA going towards the administration of the National Partnership Agreement?

Answer:

The \$6.4 billion will be allocated to States and Territories. Any ongoing administration, maintenance or co-investment costs associated with the expenditure are to be borne by States and Territories.

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Question No: 438

Topic: Problem Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What, if any, proportion of funds administered by FaHCSIA in 2008-09 will go towards gambling related programs and what will those programs include?

Answer:

- The Department allocates \$500,000 annually for research into problem gambling under the Financial Management Program.
- As States and Territories have statutory responsibility for the regulation of gambling and for the treatment of problem gambling, the Department does not fund treatment programs for problem gamblers. However, it does fund a number of support services which problem gamblers and their families can access, such as Emergency Relief, Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Family Relationship Services.

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Question No: 439

Topic: Problem Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What, if any, research has been undertaken to inform policies to reduce problem gambling?

Answer:

A list of Department research is available from the FaHCSIA website:
<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>

Copies of reports are available from the Ministerial Council on Gambling Secretariat by emailing MCGSecretariat@fahcsia.gov.au

Copies of research undertaken by Gambling Research Australia are available from the Gambling Research Australia website at
<http://www.gamblingresearch.org.au/>

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Question No: 440

Topic: Problem Gambling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What, if any, further research will be undertaken to inform policies to reduce problem gambling?

Answer:

The Department's future research in relation to problem gambling will assist in building the evidence base around the impact of problem gambling on vulnerable families and Indigenous communities, ways to minimise the effects of problem gambling and the role of Commonwealth funded support services.

At the request of the Ministerial Council on Gambling, the Department has commissioned a literature review of current and future trends in Interactive Gambling Activity and Regulation.

Gambling Research Australia has eight projects currently in progress, and three in the procurement phase. Details on these projects are available from the Gambling Research Australia website:

<http://www.gamblingresearch.org.au/>

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Question No: 441

Topic: Commonwealth Financial Counselling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What, if any, proportion of funds administered by FaHCSIA will go towards assisting people who are in financial crisis through the provision of financial counselling services?

Answer:

In 2008-09 \$5.5 million has been allocated for Commonwealth Financial Counselling under FaHCSIA's Financial Management Program. This is in addition to crisis support provided through emergency relief services and financial literacy education through money management services in remote communities.

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Question No: 404

Topic: North Queensland Floods

Hansard Page: CA107 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

How many relief centres with Commonwealth staff involvement are there in North Queensland at the present time (26 February 2009)? Could you give a snapshot of the number of people using them, the number of staff they have and the sorts of issues they are dealing with?

Answer:

Two Community Recovery Centres were established in response to the North Queensland Floods; one in Ingham and one in Townsville. In addition, four outreach teams operated in Townsville and five outreach teams operated in Ingham.

Through the Community Recovery Centres, five Centrelink staff provided a range of assistance to individuals and families affected by the floods including:

- personal support and counselling services to those in distress or requiring assistance through direct intervention by a Social Worker, and /or collaboration with or referral to other local services;
- timely information for individuals on financial assistance measures, including the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, Income Recovery Subsidy and other specialist services and income support assistance.

Individuals seeking assistance at the Ingham Community Recovery Centre, which opened in Ingham on 4 February 2009 and closed on 28 February 2009, peaked at around 500 a day. Centrelink continued to provide community recovery assistance from its office in Ingham after 28 February. The Department of Communities, Queensland also continued to provide assistance within the Ingham community through its outreach services.

The Townsville Community Recovery Centre (CRC) opened on 11 February 2009 and closed on 26 February 2009, peaking at around 300 people a day seeking assistance. The Townsville Disaster District Community Recovery Coordination Centre operated during January and was receiving applicants in Townsville prior to the CRC opening.

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Question No: 402

Topic: Governance Arrangements for the Victorian bushfires

Hansard Page: CA105 26/2

Senator Fifield asked:

For a diagrammatic representation of the governance arrangements for the Victorian bushfires and an understanding of what decision making responsibilities the different bodies held.

Answer:

A detailed outline of the governance arrangements, including committees, their membership and functions and a diagrammatic representation of the interrelations between committees and groups across the Commonwealth and Victoria is at **Attachment A**.

Many of the arrangements and decision making are made under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements which has specific guidelines about decision making process between the state and Commonwealth levels of government.

MINISTERIAL, COMMONWEALTH AND VICTORIAN BODIES GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

On 10 February 2009 the Prime Minister, and the Premier of Victoria jointly announced the establishment of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority with responsibility for coordinating the effort of all Local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies and the many community organisations involved in the recovery and response to the Victorian bushfires disaster.

A diagrammatic outline of the interrelations between committees and groups across the Commonwealth and Victoria is at page 6. A more detailed outline of the Committees that operate under these arrangements, their memberships and functions follows.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires (Ministerial) Taskforce

The Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires Taskforce established by the Prime Minister first met on 11 February 2009. This Taskforce has primary responsibility for coordinating the Commonwealth Government's response to the Victorian bushfires.

The Taskforce was initially chaired by the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, and is now chaired by the Minister for Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP as Minister. Minister Macklin may be supported by the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction. Taskforce Membership includes Ministers, supported by Advisers, and senior officials responsible from the following portfolios:

- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Treasury
- Defence
- Finance and Deregulation
- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Health and Ageing
- Attorney-General's
- Human Services
- Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Meetings were initially held twice daily, then transitioned to daily and, since 19 February 2009, are occurring weekly. The commencement of weekly meetings coincided with the establishment of the Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires Inter-Departmental Committee.

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Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires Inter-Departmental Committee

The Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) commenced operation on 20 February 2009 to oversee the continued development, implementation and cross-Government coordination of the Commonwealth Government's recovery response to the Victorian Bushfires. The establishment of the IDC was a directive of the Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires (Ministerial) Taskforce on 19 February 2009. The IDC's draft terms of reference are at **Attachment B**.

The Chair of the IDC is Ms Glenys Beauchamp, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Membership includes senior Deputy Secretary level representatives from the following Commonwealth Government departments;

- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – Chair
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Treasury
- Department of Defence
- Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Human Services/Centrelink
- Emergency Management Australia – Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The IDC initially met daily, with daily outcome reports agreed and provided to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The IDC is currently meeting weekly.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA)

The VBRRA was established under existing Victorian State legislation and has overall responsibility for coordinating the effort of local, state and Commonwealth Government agencies, as well as community organisations, aimed at helping communities to recover and to rebuild. A copy of the Authority's terms of reference is at page 7.

The head of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority is Christine Nixon. The head of the Authority is responsible to the Premier of Victoria, John Brumby.

The Authority is supported by an Interagency Taskforce that is chaired by the head of the Authority and comprises all relevant state and Commonwealth Government agencies and local government representatives. Community input and consultation will be directed through a Local Community Advisory Group.

Expert Reference Group

A Expert Reference Group will help inform VBRRA's efforts but is not intended to have formal decision making responsibility, its primary functions will be to:

- Reflect the views of key organisations and experts to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, and input views of the community into the recovery process;
- Work with the Authority to tackle specific issues; and
- Assist coordination between the many recovery initiatives being undertaken in the community.

The Expert Reference Group will comprise people representing relevant organisational and sectoral interests, as well as people with local knowledge and expertise relevant to the work of the Authority.

Local Community Advisory Committees (LCACs)

The Authority will have ongoing engagement with each bushfire affected community through Local Community Recovery Committees (LCAC). The committees will be supported by Community Recovery Teams, comprised of a range of Authority and state and local government staff as required. Actions are well underway to design and establish these teams. LCACs are critical to the overall engagement strategy, and the establishment of these is well underway."

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Ministerial Advisory Group

A Ministerial Advisory Group, chaired by Victorian Premier John Brumby has been established, comprising relevant Victorian State Ministers, including:

The Hon Rob Hulls MP, Attorney General
The Hon John Lenders MP, Treasurer
The Hon Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Rural and Regional Development, Skills and Workforce Participation
The Hon Lisa Neville MP Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs represents the Commonwealth Government as the Minister responsible for the Commonwealth's response to the Victorian bushfires disaster. Minister Macklin may be supported in this role by the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction.

Interagency Taskforce

An Interagency Taskforce chaired by Christine Nixon has been established with representatives from key Victorian and Commonwealth Departments. The Commonwealth Departments represented on this Taskforce include:

- The Australian Defence Force (on an 'as needs' basis)
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Australian Federal Police (on an 'as needs' basis)
- Attorney General's Department – Emergency Management Australia, and
- Centrelink.

Secretaries Inter-Departmental Committee

A Secretaries Inter-Departmental Committee has been established to bring together Secretaries of key Victorian and Commonwealth Departments. The Committee is chaired by Ms Helen Silver, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Other Secretaries include:

Jeff Harmer	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Grant Hehir	Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance
Fran Thorn	Victorian Department of Human Services
Penny Armytage	Victorian Department of Justice
Yehudi Blacher	Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel

An Independent Advisory Panel has been established to develop criteria, processes and arrangements for the distribution of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal funds. The Victorian Government is distributing the funds through the Department of Human Services.

The Panel is being chaired by Mr John Landy AC MBE. Other members of the Panel are:

- Professor Glyn Davis AC (Vice Chancellor, University of Melbourne)
- The Hon Pat McNamara (former Deputy Premier of Victoria)
- Cr Lyn Gunter (Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council)
- The Hon Robert Tickner (Chief Executive of Australian Red Cross and former Commonwealth Minister)

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KEY COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
FaHCSIA is the lead Commonwealth agency responsible for disaster recovery across all-hazards and is the agency responsible for administering assistance to individuals and families affected by the Victorian Bushfires including:

- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
- Income recovery Subsidy
- Funeral/memorial Assistance

Department of Human Services (including Centrelink and Medicare)

Centrelink is the service delivery agency responsible for delivering Australian Government assistance measures to individuals and families, and providing on the ground support through social workers and case managers. Centrelink is being assisted by other agencies including CRS Australia, Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Child Support Agency.

Attorney-General's Department (including Emergency Management Australia (EMA))

EMA is responsible for providing support to state and territory governments through the development of emergency management capabilities and disaster mitigation programs. This includes the provision of additional fire fighting capability and the administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) which will provide for 50 percent reimbursement to the Victorian Government, which delivers the assistance, for eligible expenditure on:

- Emergency Personal Hardship and Distress Grants
- Temporary Living and Re-establishment Grants
- Clean up and Recovery Grants for small businesses and primary producers and Concessional loans
- Community Recovery Fund
- Essential public infrastructure restoration

The Australian Federal Police are assisting the Victorian Government with general policing assistance and disaster victim identification.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

- In partnership with Department of Human Services, DFAT is assisting in re-establishing identity through Medicare and Centrelink for people who have lost identity documents as a result of the bushfires.

Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development and Local Government (Infrastructure)

- Infrastructure is reprioritising local government projects to meet community infrastructure needs, and accelerating normal quarterly payment to local governments.

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)

- DoHA is providing additional mental health services including providing primary mental health care services, support to professionals providing services to people affected, additional telephone-based counselling services, and support through community organisations to assist affected communities to reconnect and psychologically recover from the impact of the trauma over the longer term.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR)

- In partnership, DAFF, DIISR and EMA are providing assistance to small businesses and primary producers through clean up and recovery grants and concessional loans.
- DAFF is also providing interim drought assistance to farmers in bushfire-affected areas.

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

- As the Department responsible for protecting and conserving Australia's environment and heritage, DEWHA is providing funding for critical environmental works required after the Victorian Bushfires.

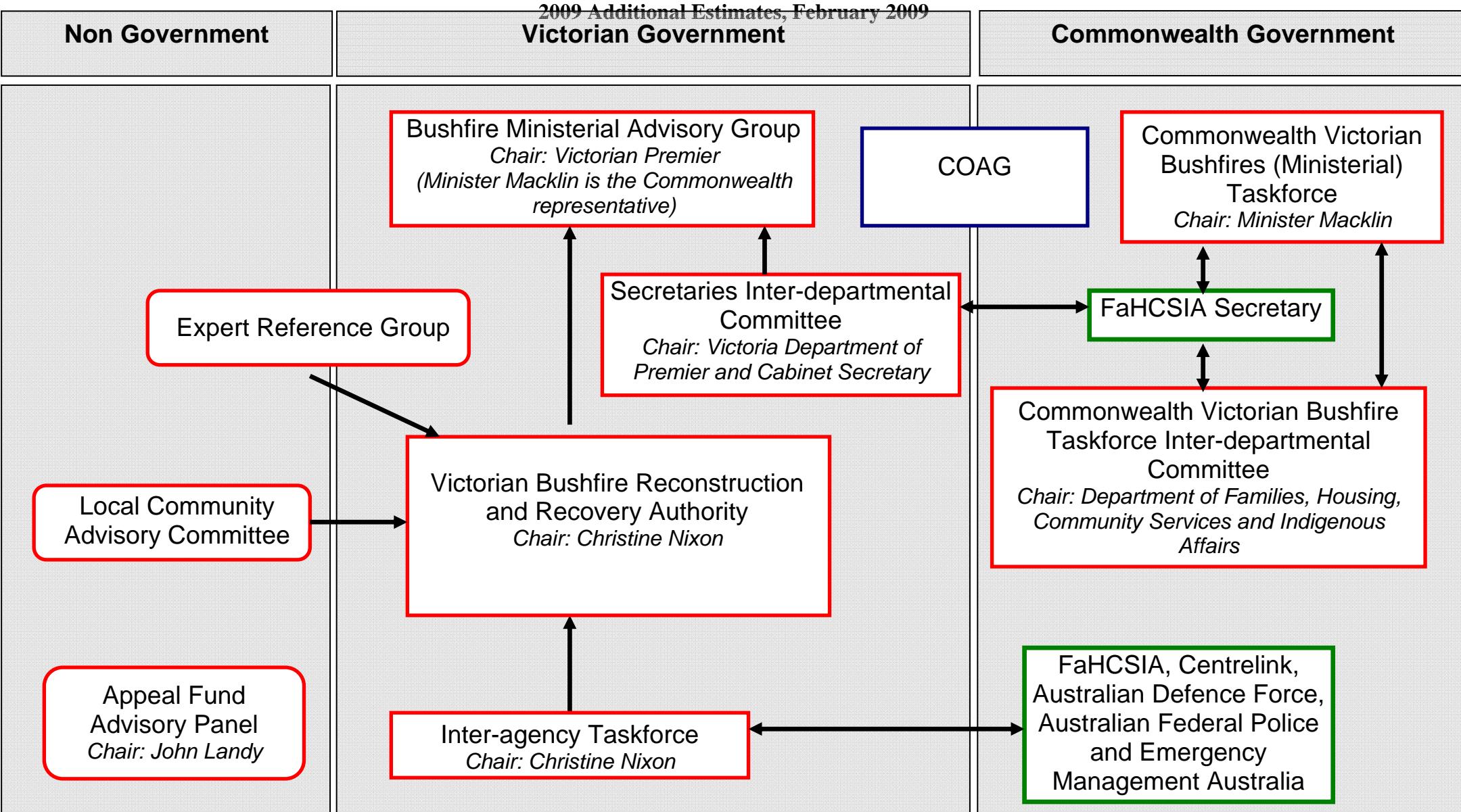
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

- DEEWR is directing funding for education to the construction and repairs of schools damaged by the Bushfires, and providing a Special Child Care Benefit to help cover the cost of child care for people in the affected communities.
- DEEWR has also waived job seeker requirements for volunteers who are helping with the clean up and recovery efforts, or who live in the affected area.

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Victorian Bushfires Governance Arrangements and Inter-relationships



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TERMS OF REFERENCE – VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY

The Authority;

1. Will report to the Premier of Victoria, and consult with the Commonwealth Government as required on reconstruction and recovery efforts;
2. Is to advise Governments, coordinate efforts and develop an overarching plan for the restoration and recovery of regions, towns and communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires;
3. Will work closely with community in the process of rebuilding and recovery, and ensure that individuals and communities are consulted closely – with such consultations to be transparent and sensitive to local needs;
4. Will analyse and advise Governments on the impacts of the bushfires on the communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment in affected areas;
5. Will coordinate activities and the work of relevant organisations to help regions, towns, and individuals to re-establish their communities once it is safe to do so, in a way that is respectful of individual and community needs;
6. Will ensure that services to people affected are easily available and coordinated across all levels of Government and community organisations;
7. Will work with communities to develop coordinated plans to deal with the effects of the disaster on local economies, communities, infrastructure and the environment. These plans should cover the:
 - Immediate recovery requirements; and
 - Longer term development;
8. will have overall responsibility for ensuring that communities are rebuilt and projects are delivered quickly and efficiently;
9. Will work closely with all funding sources, including the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, to ensure effective and coordinated expenditure of funds; and
10. Will report regularly on progress to both communities and Governments.

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Question No: 403

Topic: Victorian Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA 105 - 107

Senator Fifield asked:

What part of government were the suggestions raised by the Hon Fran Bailey, MP in her speech to Parliament on 23 February 2009 referred to, and what actions have been taken to address the following suggestions:

- a) for Major General Cantwell's services to be offered to the Victorian Government for a period of 12 months
- b) that the community of Marysville be given the opportunity to return to the town as a community
- c) that online trading be provided for small businesses
- d) that temporary accommodation be provided for community members near their usual homes
- e) that safe shelters be incorporated into the rebuilding effort
- f) that fuel reduction program be linked to state and local government funding for roads
- g) that assistance be provided to re-establish local industry
- h) that infrastructure be put in place for an early warning system.

Answer:

Suggestion (a)

Suggestion (a) was referred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Australian Defence Force for consideration.

Advice from PM&C and the ADF is that, as part of its assistance to the Victorian Government in the wake of the bushfires, the Commonwealth made available Major-General Cantwell to assist with the recovery effort. This offer was accepted by the Victorian Government and Major-General Cantwell was appointed interim head of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) until Christine Nixon could assume that role. Since then, Major-General Cantwell continued with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority as its Chief Operations Officer until 22 May 2009, when this position was no longer required by VBRRA. The functions of this role have been incorporated into other roles within VBRRA.

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Suggestions (b), (d) and (e)

Suggestions (b), (d) and (e) were referred to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority for consideration as these matters fall within the broad responsibilities of the Victorian Government.

In regards to Suggestion (b), the community of Marysville has been given the opportunity to return to the town as a community. Temporary accommodation is being provided for community members near their usual residence, where possible. Temporary villages are being built at Flowerdale, Marysville and Kinglake. The fire-proofing of housing and other building is being considered within the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission.

Suggestion (c)

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) has advised that the Hon Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy met with the Hon Fran Bailey MP, Federal Member for McEwen, and they discussed various mechanisms for supporting small business, including providing assistance for the technology to trade online.

DIISR's www.business.gov.au website was established to provide information, tools and advice to new and established small businesses to assist planning, starting and running a business. It does not possess a trading or payments function. The Federal Member for McEwen was advised by DIISR. It should be noted that there are a number of non-government web service providers already providing online trading services such as Optus, Telstra, Yahoo, iiNet, Web City and Smart Host. The Government remains in close contact with key stakeholders and the Victorian Government to monitor the situation and identify any other emerging business needs.

Additional Assistance for small businesses is being provided through jointly funded state and Commonwealth clean up grants of \$5,000 for eligible businesses that have been physically damaged and up to \$25,000 where there is more significant damage. Concessional loans of up to \$200,000 at 3.2 per cent interest are available. An income recovery subsidy is also available to individuals or businesses that have suffered a loss of income due to the fires. This is payable for 26 weeks at the same rate as Newstart Allowance and subject to the Newstart disqualifying income limit. A \$10 million tourism package is also being implemented to bring tourism back to the fire affected areas. The Victorian Employer's Chamber of Commerce and Industry is also offering assistance for small businesses suffering a loss of trade as a result of the bushfires through a relief fund.

Suggestion (f)

Suggestion (f) was referred to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Infrastructure) for consideration. Infrastructure has advised that responsibility for road funding is distributed across the local, state and federal government. For a fuel reduction program to be practical, it would best be stipulated through planning and/or construction guidelines at the local or state level.

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The suggestion of fuel reduction being tied to planning and/or construction guidelines was then referred to the Victorian Bushfire Taskforce Reconstruction and Recovery Authority for consideration. It is likely that this be considered within the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission.

Suggestion (g)

Suggestion (g) was referred to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Attorney General's Department. Assistance is available to small businesses and primary producers, as outlined above, through the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), and through other measures such as the Income Recovery Subsidy for individuals (i.e. employees, small business operators and farmers) who have lost an income as a direct result of the bushfires. Assistance is also available through a relief fund operated by the Victorian Employer's Chamber of Commerce and Industry for small businesses suffering a loss of trade as a result of the bushfires. The Government remains in consultation with key stakeholders and the Victorian Government to monitor the situation and identify any other emerging business needs.

Suggestion (h)

Recent Government initiatives on emergency warning systems were outlined by Minister Albanese during the House of Representatives debate on the Telecommunications Amendment (Integrated Public Number Database) Bill 2009, on 23 February 2009 and 26 February 2009.

A Bill to allow Integrated Public Number Database (IPND) data to be disclosed for use in emergency warnings has now passed through both houses of Parliament and is awaiting Royal Assent. In light of the Victorian bushfires, the Government has also made a Regulation to provide interim access to the IPND for systems which are able to make use of it, until the permanent solution is in place.

On 23 February 2009 the Attorney-General and the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy jointly announced that the Commonwealth would make a financial contribution to the establishment of a national telephony-based emergency warning system, if State and Territory Governments reached agreement on a system model.

The Australian Government has also committed to providing \$11.3 million of funding to provide a Location Based Number Store for systems to access IPND data, and for States and Territories to conduct research into the feasibility of developing a capability to issue warnings to mobile telephones on the basis of their location.

At the 2 October 2008 COAG meeting, the Commonwealth achieved agreement from all jurisdictions on National Principles for Emergency Warnings, which guide the development and delivery of such warnings across a range of media.

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Primary responsibility for the protection of life and property, and therefore the provision of emergency warnings to the public, rests with states and territories.

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Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 413

Topic: Playford North Project

Hansard Page: CA88 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

How long has that program been operating and when is it due to finish?

Answer:

The Playford North Project commenced on 29 November 2007 and is due to finish on 30 March 2011.

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Question No: 415

Topic: Funding Agreements

Hansard Page: CA90 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

If this information was being made available to some parliamentarians and not to others, that would seem to be a rather partisan use of your data wouldn't it?

Answer:

The information was provided to the Minister's Office on request.

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Output Group: 4.4

Question No: 416

Topic: Funding Agreements

Hansard Page: CA90 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a list of numbers of successful grants by electorate and unsuccessful grants by electorate?

Answer:

A list of the number of successful grants by electorate is attached.

Details of the unsuccessful grants would have to be manually prepared and is not an efficient use of resources.

Successful grants by electorate

Electorate	Number of organisations funded
Adelaide	23
Aston	23
Ballarat	43
Banks	18
Barker	41
Barton	2
Bass	16
Batman	37
Bendigo	72
Bennelong	15
Berowra	19
Blair	38
Blaxland	6
Bonner	21
Boothby	13
Bowman	12
Braddon	18
Bradfield	15
Brand	14
Brisbane	21
Bruce	17
Calare	81

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Calwell	24
Canberra	20
Canning	16
Capricornia	30
Casey	33
Charlton	18
Chifley	15
Chisholm	32
Cook	7
Corangamite	47
Corio	26
Cowan	19
Cowper	54
Cunningham	33
Curtin	19
Dawson	25
Deakin	26
Denison	31
Dickson	21
Dobell	23
Dunkley	15
Eden-Monaro	70
Fadden	16
Fairfax	32
Farrer	94
Fisher	34
Flinders	30
Flynn	95
Forde	22
Forrest	47
Fowler	3
Franklin	16
Fraser	24
Fremantle	16
Gellibrand	24
Gilmore	89
Gippsland	73
Goldstein	20
Gorton	19
Grayndler	9
Greenway	20
Grey	56
Griffith	16
Groom	26
Hasluck	11
Herbert	12

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Higgins	15
Hindmarsh	10
Hinkler	35
Holt	25
Hotham	20
Hughes	22
Hume	46
Hunter	37
Indi	81
Isaacs	23
Jagajaga	25
Kalgoorlie	30
Kennedy	67
Kingsford	
Smith	8
Kingston	11
Kooyong	18
La Trobe	25
Lalor	35
Leichhardt	42
Lilley	18
Lindsay	14
Lingiari	17
Longman	16
Lowe	10
Lyne	49
Lyons	28
Macarthur	28
Mackellar	12
Macquarie	34
Makin	4
Mallee	171
Maranoa	98
Maribyrnong	12
Mayo	45
McEwen	65
McMillan	86
McPherson	18
Melbourne	29
Melbourne	
Ports	14
Menzies	15
Mitchell	15
Moncrieff	17
Moore	17
Moreton	12

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Murray	110
New England	51
Newcastle	28
North Sydney	12
O'Connor	103
Oxley	5
Page	45
Parkes	115
Parramatta	21
Paterson	46
Pearce	43
Perth	18
Petrie	6
Port Adelaide	13
Prospect	12
Rankin	14
Reid	21
Richmond	26
Riverina	81
Robertson	19
Ryan	34
Scullin	22
Shortland	14
Solomon	12
Stirling	19
Sturt	16
Swan	15
Sydney	20
Tangney	13
Throsby	25
Wakefield	41
Wannon	106
Warringah	11
Watson	13
Wentworth	6
Werriwa	13
Wide Bay	45
Wills	12
	4618

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Question No: 417

Topic: Grants Process

Hansard Page: CA92 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

How many have taken you up on the offer of a debrief?

Answer:

As at 17 March 2009, a total of 729 organisations have taken up the offer of a debrief.

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Question No: 418

Topic: Grants Process

Hansard Page: CA92 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

How many of the grants have been paid to date or to a convenient date?

Answer:

As of 27 February 2009, 4,502 grants have been paid.

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Question No: 419

Topic: Fuel Reimbursement

Hansard Page: CA93 – 26/2

Senator Fifield asked:

What is the range of the amounts of reimbursements for the fuel vouchers?

Answer:

\$1000 - \$2000 is the range of amounts of reimbursements for fuel costs.

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Question No: 420

Topic: Volunteering Australia Secretariat Funding

Hansard Page: CA94 – 26/2

Senator Fifield asked:

And how does that compare with the previous year?

Answer:

Volunteering Australia received \$268,276 in 2008-09 for its secretariat function and \$266,332 in 2007-08.

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Question No: 421

Topic: Kiosks

Hansard Page: CA98-99 – 26/2

Senator Fifield asked:

How much of the \$15 million has been spent and in what way to date?

Answer:

As at 17 March 2009, \$1.5 million has been paid to NEC Australia Pty Ltd for set up costs and equipment.

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Question No: 411

Topic: Stronger Families

Hansard Page: CA87 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Could I get a list of all the projects that are currently funded under the Stronger Families and how long they are funded?

Answer:

All organisations funded under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy are listed on the Department's website www.fahcsia.gov.au under the links Communities for Children, Invest to Grow, Local Answers and Volunteer Grants Program. To provide a list in the format requested would require a significant amount of resources to prepare.

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Question No: 414

Topic: Funding Agreements

Hansard Page: CA89 – 26/2

Senator Boyce asked:

Does information about a project get extrapolated by postcode and then manually sorted by electorates?

Answer:

Yes.

The Department does not collect or report data by electorate. This is prepared manually for requests such as those that come through the Estimates Committee process.