

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Better Futures, Local Solutions

Question reference number: HS 74

Senator: Sinodinos

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1) How many job seekers have been assisted by this programme in the 10 communities?
- 2) How were these communities selected?
- 3) How is success of this programme being measured?
- 4) What has been the total funding allocated to date?
- 5) What is the forecast funding for the 2012-13 financial year?
- 6) Is this programme expected to continue into 2013-14?
 - a) If so, what is the total budget allocation?
- 7) When would the next funding round be announced?

Answer:

1. As at 28 February 2013, the core and supporting measures for Better Futures, Local Solutions have assisted more than 6,000 job seekers in the 10 communities.
2. The 10 communities were identified on the basis of around 70 labour market and social indicators, including: high unemployment and youth unemployment; low participation; an upswing in unemployment beneficiaries; and low educational attainment. These indicators are strong determinants of current and future labour market vulnerability and are predictors for the level of social advantage experienced by these regions.
3. Evaluation of the core Better Futures, Local Solutions measures will focus on measurable outcomes and the impact these measures have on addressing social and economic participation in the 10 selected communities.
4. Total funding provided to the Department of Human Services for core Better Futures, Local Solutions measures for the period July 2011 to December 2012 was \$53.8 million.
5. The forecast funding for the Department of Human Services for core Better Futures, Local Solutions measures for the 2012-13 financial year is \$42.2 million.

6. The program is expected to continue in 2013-14 with a budget allocation of \$39.7 million for the Department of Human Services.
7. The second funding round of the Local Solutions Fund is currently underway.