

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 10

Question No: 602

Topic: Building Multicultural Communities Program (BCMP)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Did a Departmental representative call any organisations to inform them their funding needed to be spent by 10 December 2013? If yes, how many organisations were instructed?

Why was a deadline given for spending and why was their funding later withdrawn?

What are the names of these organisations?

Who instructed these organisations to spend their funding?

Were these instructions given via a phone call or in a letter? If via a phone call, why not in writing?

Answer:

Organisations were not called by the Department.

Following the Government review of discretionary grants, the Government decided to reduce the scope of the Building Multicultural Communities Programme. The Department of Social Services gave written notice of the cancellation of funding agreements for Stream 1 grants, effective on 4 February 2014. The Department of Social Services advised all affected parties that reimbursements would be made in respect of expenditure incurred by that date.

The attached list contains the names of these organisation.

The Department instructed these organisations to spend their funding.

The Department provided instructions to each organisation by letter and subsequently emailed a scanned copy to the organisation.