

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ15-000070

Topic: Social Cohesion

Hansard page: CA122 26 February 2015

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

In the Senate on 9 February, the Attorney-General said “We are working to counter the spread of radicalisation within our communities through a \$545 million investment in social inclusion initiatives, our targeted Countering Violent Extremism Intervention Programme, and many other like initiatives. Can you confirm that that is the same \$545 million that was put in the budget on 29 October for initiatives in multicultural communities over four years? Or is that a separate \$545 million that relates to the package about which you have just given us details?”

Answer:

An amount of \$545 million was appropriated to the Department of Social Services in the 2014-15 Budget and out-years for a range of social inclusion programmes including settlement services for refugees and migrants and support for multicultural communities.

This amount is separate to the \$630 million package of measures announced on 5 August by the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General for a range of counter-terrorism initiatives across a number of agencies (see <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-08-26/counter-terrorism-measures-safer-australia>). The \$630 million package does not include funding for the Department of Social Services.