

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

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: SQ15-000206

Topic: DSS Grants Process

Hansard page: Written

Senator Brown, Carol asked:

1. What support will the Department be providing to organisations during the bridging funding period e.g. for transitioning clients and staff to alternative providers, or for other obligations like tenancies?
2. Have any organizations approached the Department with concerns about staff redundancies?
3. Will organisations be able to use any of the bridging funding to pay redundancies for staff or meet any other liabilities?

Answer:

1. The Department has been working with a number of organisations to assist with transition arrangements. Where possible, this includes providing details of new providers to existing organisations to assist with referral of clients. Other support includes providing information about the organisation's obligations under their current agreement and managing client records and assets in line with grant agreement terms and conditions.
2. Organisations have a range of administrative activities to undertake as a result of the changes. Decisions on staff management and tenure are the responsibility of the organisation.
3. No. The Department cannot assist with funding to cover redundancy costs.