

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

**Outcome Number: Cross**

**Question No: SQ15-000208**

**Topic: DSS Grants Process**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Brown, Carol** asked:

The Ministers January 30 release states that he wants to: “make sure that as we work through this process we identify any potential front line service gaps that may emerge in critical areas as we transition from former service providers to new ones. Where potential critical service gaps or other unintended consequences are identified in areas of priority need, I will seek to address them separately where possible while being mindful of the Government’s significant budget repair task”. Has a portion of the funding allocated under each programme been set aside for this purpose?

- a. Has a portion of the funding allocated under each programme been set aside for this purpose?
- b. If yes, can you please provide the remaining funding allocation under each activity, sub-activity and component over each of the out years?
- c. If no, how will any identified service gaps be addressed? Where will the funding come from?

**Answer:**

- a. Funding has not been set aside under each programme to address service gaps.
- b. N/A.
- c. The Minister has asked the Department to identify service gaps including where there is no similar service in the physical location or where there is a reduction or change in the service coverage. The Department will continue to work with community organisations, peak bodies and our State and Territory Office staff to gain early on-the-ground intelligence.

As part of this work the Department will consider if extra funding is required and where the funding will come from.