

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

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: SQ15-000229

Topic: DSS Grants Process

Hansard page: Written

Senator Brown, Carol asked:

In the Minister's 24 December media release it states that "as a result of developments in the background law and the High Court's Pape and Williams decisions; some programmes will require redesign to ensure conformity with the law. Some grant agreements will be for two years duration as that redesign process takes place".

- a. Which activity, sub-activity and component will need to be redesigned?
- b. Has work commenced on the redesign?
- c. Will the redesign only deal with the Pape and Williams considerations?
- d. Will a further tender process be required once the redesign takes place?

Answer:

a. The following programme activities have been offered two year grant agreements to allow necessary redesign to occur:

- Strengthening Communities (Community Development and Participation - Community Capacity Building, Broadband for Seniors, Multicultural Affairs - Diversity and Social Cohesion, Volunteering)
- Families and Communities Service Improvement (Families and Communities Sector Peak Body Support)
- Financial Wellbeing and Capability (Financial Counselling and Capability; Financial Counselling – Helpline; Financial Counselling – Problem Gambling; Financial Crisis and Material Aid – Emergency Relief, Food Relief)
- Community Mental Health (Early Intervention for Children, Young People and their Families)
- Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support (Disability Representative Organisations)
- Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants
- Families and Children (Adult Specialist Support Services- Forced Adoption Support Services, Find and Connect Support Services).

b. The Department will commence redesign over the course of the coming months. Redesign will be conducted in consultation with the sector and will strive to minimise impacts to service delivery, where appropriate.

The Department will communicate any changes that may impact the sector.

c. Some DSS grant programmes will require redesign to align with Government priorities and to ensure they conform with the law.

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The Department continues to work on achieving Government policy objectives, while monitoring developments in law that may impact our grant programmes, and adjusts programmes where necessary.

These adjustments will not affect existing grants agreements and those recently offered from the 2014 funding process.

d. Programme activities that are redesigned during current grant agreements will be subject to the usual processes to secure ongoing funding at the conclusion of those agreements.