

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

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: SQ15-000012

Topic: Emergency Relief

Hansard page: CA58, 26 February 2015

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

I am interested in where the smaller organisations were, when you talk about mapping against vulnerability. Is it possible to get the information on vulnerability—what information you base that on?

Answer:

Historically, the funding methodology for services which have been broad-banded under the new Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity was based on a range of different service coverage areas, such as Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas and identified communities based on a mixture of Centrelink data.

In the recent Emergency Relief funding round, under the Financial Wellbeing and Capability (FWC) Activity, funding was allocated to specified locations according to levels of need and disadvantage. This was worked out using cumulative scores of Socio-Economic Indexes of Area (SEIFA) disadvantage and populations, at the Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level, and then aggregated up to the Statistical Area 4 (SA4) level. More information on SEIFA is available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/seifa>.

The outcomes of the methodology were then tested with DSS network staff. Adjustments were made based on network advice around local issues, for example select industry closures. A set amount was provided for the Northern Territory, which, notwithstanding its high level of disadvantage, would have otherwise been dramatically reduced due to its small population size.

Related QoN:

Senate Community Affairs Committee, 2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings,
Social Services Portfolio Question No. SQ15-000014