

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

Outcome Number: 2.7 Programme Support for Outcome 2 Question No: SQ15-000266

Topic: Staffing

Hansard page: Written

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Has a new area been established to work on the ‘holistic families package’ repeatedly referred to by Minister Morrison and the Prime Minister? How many staff does this area include? Does it include staff that were previously working on the Government’s Paid Parental Leave Scheme? What is the interaction/overlap – if any – of staff working on the families package and staff working on the Government’s response to the McClure Review and or the Andrew Forrest welfare review?

Answer:

This question was answered at the Estimates Hearings on Thursday 26 February 2015 through the department’s answers to related questions on how many departmental staff are working on the Government’s responses to various reports and reviews (pages 126-127 of Proof Committee Hansard for Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee refer). A summary of the department’s answers to these questions follows.

The department has not allocated specific staff against projects because this work forms part of its mainstream work. The department uses its governance structures to support its policy work and to coordinate the development of proposals for the Government to consider.

Staff in the former McClure Review Taskforce have resumed their roles in the department. This generally occurs when a taskforce has been set up to support such a review and is the normal way that the department handles the ongoing work. Areas of the department are contributing to a variety of policy processes, including working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which has overall responsibility for issues raised in the Forrest Review.