

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

Outcome Number: 4.2 Affordable Housing

Question No: SQ15-000324

Topic: Affordable Housing

Hansard page: Written

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

The industry is expressing that current levels of funding through the Homeless National Partnership and the National Affordable Housing Agreement fall well short of what is required.

a. Do you have statistics on this current short-fall?

b. Have you projected figures for required funding into the next financial year that you have provided the Government?

Answer:

While primary responsibility for the provision of housing assistance and homelessness services rests with individual state and territory governments, the Commonwealth does provide a significant amount of funding for housing assistance and homelessness services through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

In 2014-15, the Commonwealth will provide funding of approximately \$1.42 billion to support the outcomes of the NAHA and NPAH. This funding includes \$1.306 billion through the National Affordable Housing SPP, which notionally includes \$260 million for homelessness services, and \$115 million through the NPAH, which supports more than 300 homelessness service providers. States and territories agreed to match Commonwealth funding under the current NPAH.

Under current arrangements, states and territories are responsible for deciding funding allocations and for the management of housing assistance and homelessness services in their jurisdictions.

In terms of projected figures, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations outlines the agreed growth factor for the National Affordable Housing SPP. Funding for the NAHA in 2015-16 is estimated to be around \$1.33 billion.

On 23 March 2015, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Social Services, announced that the Australian Government will commit up to \$230 million over two years from 1 July 2015 to renew the NPAH. States and territories are expected to match Commonwealth funding.

Longer-term funding arrangements will be considered as part of the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.