

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000159

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Grants

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
2. How are grants applied for?
3. Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
 - a) Can these restrictions be waved? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waved.
4. What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
5. Who is involved in this selection process?
6. Does the minister or the minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
 - a) Has the minister or the minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.
7. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
8. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer:

1. The *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs) require Departments to develop grant program guidelines for all new or significantly revised grant programs. Guidelines are available on the Department of Health's website in accordance with the CGRGs.
2. Applications are submitted electronically to a dedicated mailbox with an option to submit in hard copy by courier or hand delivery to a tender box in the Departments' premises in Canberra.
3. Eligibility criteria are included in the relevant grant program guidelines.

4. All grant applications are assessed in accordance with the key principles outlined in the CGRGs, and against relevant grant program guidelines.
5. The profile of departmental staff involved in the selection process will depend on the nature of the granting activity. Where appropriate, external experts are engaged to either carry out part of the grant assessment or to be part of the selection committee that prepares recommendations for the delegate.
6. The CGRGs outline the requirements for Ministers, Accountable Authorities and Officials when approving the commitment of relevant money in relation to a grant. The CGRGs also set out the requirements for Ministers when approving expenditure under section 71 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
7. All grants, including those awarded since 14 September 2015, are reported on the Department's website in accordance with the CGRGs. This report includes the programme the grant is funded from, the grant recipient (organisation), the grant purpose and key dates, whether it is a variation, the value of the variation and the value of the grant.

The Department's grant management system is not designed to track all stages in the grant lifecycle in a manner that would accurately address the further specifics of the question. To capture and report the information requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

8. As for question 7. above.