

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Local Advisory Groups

Question reference number: HS 5

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard pages 63-65

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 12

Question:

- a) Senator FIFIELD: Are there terms of reference for those groups?
Mr Sandison: We do have terms of reference.
Senator FIFIELD: Could those be tabled?
Mr Sandison: Yes.
- b) Senator FIFIELD: Is there a budget for the local advisory groups as a whole? Is that how it operates, or is it just as—
Mr Sandison: I think they operate independently because they are in place, but we fund them to operate.
Senator FIFIELD: What is the funding for that?
Ms Campbell: We provide funding for the government action leader and the community action leader. That is the primary funding for that function.
Senator FIFIELD: What is the annual cost of that funding?
Mr Sandison: We will take that on notice, but that is the funding around those two individual positions in each of the locations.
Ms Campbell: I think the funding is approximately \$150,000 a year per site for the two positions.
Senator FIFIELD: Are they full-time positions?
Ms Campbell: They are.
Senator FIFIELD: If you could provide a breakdown of those costs and of the program as a whole ...
- c) ...and also if you could provide a list of members of the local groups and the national group as well.
- d) Senator FIFIELD: I appreciate that. Is that advice provided in the form of minutes of the meeting? How is it conveyed?
Mr Sandison: The minutes of the meeting would provide their advice and there would be at times discussions between the chair and the minister.
Senator FIFIELD: If those minutes could be provided—
Senator Kim Carr: If it is advice to government, I do not think we wish to do that.
Senator FIFIELD: The minutes might not be advice to government. They are minutes of a meeting which are provided to the department which the department subsequently may provide to government. In the form of minutes, I do not think they constitute advice to government.

Senator Kim Carr: I see it slightly differently. I spoke to the national group. I have spoken to one of the state based groups. They have a capacity to talk directly to the government. We will have to look at what form these minutes are in.

Senator FIFIELD: If you could. We have to be careful because on that basis if someone collars a minister on the street it could constitute advice to government.

Senator Kim Carr: It does happen on a regular basis.

Senator FIFIELD: Indeed. Take it on notice.

- e) Senator FIFIELD: The National Place Based Advisory Group estimated average cost of meetings was \$7,000?

Mr Sandison: Correct.

Senator FIFIELD: What you have taken on notice will give me costings which include that \$7,000 as well?

Mr Sandison: Correct.

Answer:

- a) The terms of reference for the National Place Based Advisory Group was tabled at the Budget Estimates hearing on 29 May 2012. The terms of reference for the Local Advisory Groups are at **Attachment A**.
- b) Membership of the Local Advisory Group is on a voluntary basis and no fees are payable.
- c) As at 1 June 2012, the National Place Based Advisory Group comprised 10 members:
Tony Nicholson (Chair) – The Brotherhood of St Laurence;
Catriona Noble (Deputy Chair) – McDonalds Australia;
Professor Mark Considine – University of Melbourne;
David Thompson – Jobs Australia;
Lin Hatfield Dodds – Uniting Care Australia;
Narelle Clay – Southern Youth and Family Services;
Gill Callister – Victorian Department of Human Services;
Adrian Beresford-Wylie – Australian Local Government Association;
Deborah Nelson – Yarn'n Aboriginal Employment Services; and
Barry Sandison – Commonwealth Department of Human Services.
- Membership of Local Advisory Groups – refer to **Attachment B**.
- d) Advice to Government by the National Place Based Advisory Group is provided by the Chair in the form of written or verbal briefings to the Minister. Communiqués from the National Place Based Advisory Group meetings are published to the Social Inclusion website: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/australian-social-inclusion-board/>
- Local Advisory Groups provide advice (or recommendations) to Government through the department.
- e) The average cost for the four National Place Based Advisory Group meetings held thus far is \$4,148.33. This covers venue hire, catering, travel and accommodation for some members and minor miscellaneous administration costs.



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Better Futures, Local Solutions

Local Advisory Group Terms of Reference

Version 1.0 – 1 March 2012

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1. Purpose

Better Futures, Local Solutions is an Australian Government initiative that is supporting local communities to identify barriers to employment, strengthen local labour markets and help people to find and keep jobs. *Better Futures Local Solutions* will use a place-based approach that relies on local knowledge and understanding to prioritise local solutions.

Local Advisory Groups will be appointed in ten priority locations to work with the Australian Government, state and local Governments, the business and community sector to implement *Better Futures, Local Solutions*.

The Local Advisory Group will be responsible for leading local engagement and consultation to identify opportunities to reduce disadvantage by improving employment outcomes through improved service delivery, strengthened local labour markets and locally responsive education and training opportunities.

To support its role, the Local Advisory Group will provide advice to Government on the targeting of the Local Solutions Fund with support from the Community Action Leaders and Government Action Leader in each of the selected Local Government Areas.

2. Background

Better Futures, Local Solutions is a new place based approach for addressing disadvantage and supporting economic and social participation at a local level.

Better Futures, Local Solutions has been introduced in the following ten Local Government Areas:

- Bankstown, Shellharbour and Wyong in New South Wales;
- Hume and Greater Shepparton in Victoria;
- Logan and Rockhampton in Queensland;
- Playford in South Australia;
- Kwinana in Western Australia; and
- Burnie in Tasmania.

New community positions and a Local Solutions Fund will be established as part of *Better Futures, Local Solutions*.

A Government Action Leader, Community Action Leader, and a Local Advisory Group will be established in each of the ten Local Government Areas. These roles will help identify and foster innovative local initiatives to boost engagement, capability and social and economic participation among selected groups.

The Local Solutions Fund will provide funding for innovative and creative solutions to improve economic and social participation by supporting projects designed for the local community.

A National Place-Based Advisory Group has also been established by the Minister for Human Services. The National Place-Based Advisory Group provides advice on ways to support the development of effective local solutions with a particular focus on the very long term unemployed, jobless families and young parents. The National Place-Based Advisory Group will provide advice to the Minister of Human Services and identify eligible projects for a \$10 million component of the

Local Solutions Fund, in consultation with Local Advisory Groups and other relevant sources as necessary.

3. Role of the Local Advisory Group

The Local Advisory Group is an important advisory mechanism to improve, coordinate and integrate service delivery initiatives at the Commonwealth, state and local government and community partner level.

The role of the Local Advisory Group is to:

- identify local priorities and drive local initiatives that will strengthen labour markets and help people find and keep jobs;
- identify sustainable local economic development strategies through engagement with the business sector and employers;
- provide advice on how to improve, coordinate and integrate local service delivery between all levels of government and with community partners to assist disadvantaged job seekers join the workforce;
- identify, develop and recommend Local Solutions Fund projects; and
- harness other resources that may be available in the community to support employment outcomes.

The Government Action Leader and Community Action Leader will support the Local Advisory Group to identify and build its role.

4. Membership

The composition and focus of the Local Advisory Group will reflect the employment focus of the *Better Futures, Local Solutions* program.

Membership of the Local Advisory Group may include representation from the:

- employment/business sector;
- education sector;
- community and family support sector;
- the Local Employment Coordinator; and
- a representative of Regional Development Australia.

The Local Advisory Group will also seek input and advice from Commonwealth, state and local government as necessary to undertake its role.

The Government Action Leader and the Community Action Leader are members of the Local Advisory Group. In relation to decision making on expressions of interest and applications for the Local Solutions Fund, their role is limited to providing advice.

The Local Advisory Group is self-managing and membership may change over time. It may co-opt members as it considers appropriate based on its identified priorities. The Group will work to

ensure that it has the expertise and capacity to address the priorities it has identified, consistent with its role (point 3. above).

The members of the Local Advisory Group will appoint a Chair. Membership of the Local Advisory Group is on a voluntary basis and no fees are payable.

5. Meetings and Secretariat

The Local Advisory Group should establish meeting arrangements as necessary to fulfill its role to actively lead community involvement to identify barriers to employment, strengthen local labour markets and help people to find and keep jobs.

The Community Action Leader will provide secretariat support to the Local Advisory Group.

6. Dispute Resolution

Each Local Advisory Group will develop written procedures for dealing with disputes.

7. Conflict of Interest Management

Conflicts of Interest should be managed in accordance with the Local Solutions Fund Conflict of Interest Guidelines. All Local Advisory Group members are required to complete a 'Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest' form and disclose any interest that may preclude them from participating in the Local Advisory Group. Members will also be required to complete a Local Solutions Fund Confidentiality Deed.

ATTACHMENT B

Bankstown Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Cathy	Quinn	The Benevolent Society
LAG member	Mr	Harry	Allie	Aboriginal Elder
LAG member	Ms	Mary	Malak	Bankstown Multicultural Youth
LAG member	Ms	Jenny	Reid	Creating Links
LAG member	Ms	Dale	Donadel	Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre
LAG member	Rev	David	Deal	Heartbeat Community Care
LAG member	Ms	Sulabha	Pawar	The Smith Family
LAG member	Mr	Tony	Smith	Bankstown City Council
LAG member	Mr	David	Puckeridge	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Ms	Therese	O'Dwyer	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Ms	Carol	Gereige	The Smith Family
GAL	Mr	Mile	Musovski	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader				
GAL - Government Action Leader				

Burnie Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Anita	Dow	Burnie City Council
LAG member	Mr	Chris	Lynch	Youth Connections
LAG member	Ms	Kathy	Cameron	Hellyer College
LAG member	Ms	Jodie	Stokes	Mission Australia
LAG member	Ms	Michelle	Purdy	Tasmanian Polytechnic
LAG member	Mr	Lee	Whiteley	Advance Burnie
LAG member	Mr	James	McCormack	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Mr	Mike	Brindley	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Ms	Kellie	Anderson	Centacare Tasmania
GAL	Mr	Brian	Smith	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader				
GAL - Government Action Leader				

Hume Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Mr	Rob	Hudson	Brotherhood of St Laurence Children, Youth and Family Services
LAG Deputy Chair	Mr	Terry	Kennedy	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG Deputy Chair	Mr	Tony	Coppola	Regional Development Australia
LAG member	Mr	Mark	Sullivan	Dianella Community Health Services Inc
LAG member	Ms	Noelle	de Clifford	Salvation Army, Crossroads Network Youth and Family Services
LAG member	Mr	John	Walsh	Bridge of Hope Foundation
LAG member	Ms	Joy	Nunn	Broadmeadows Uniting Care
LAG member	Ms	Rosemary	Kelada	Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
LAG member	Mr	George	Osborne	Hume City Council
LAG member	Mr	Bill	Threlfall	Local Learning and Employment Network
LAG member	Mr	Linc	Yow Yeh	Kangan Institute of TAFE
CAL	Mr	Huon	Damm	UnitingCare Sunshine and Broadmeadows
GAL	Ms	Maria	Axarlis-Coulter	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Kwinana Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Barbara	Powell	Town of Kwinana
LAG member	Mr	Jonathon	Ford	The Medina Aboriginal Cultural Group
LAG member	Ms	Mandy	Grubb	The Smith Family
LAG member	Mr	Peter	Cook	Rockingham Kwinana Division of General Practice
LAG member	Mr	Colin	Kerr	Bridging the Gap
LAG member	Mr	Chris	Oughton	Kwinana Industries Council
LAG member	Ms	Deborah	Hathway	Challenger TAFE
LAG member	Her Worship the Mayor	Carol	Adams	Town of Kwinana
LAG member	Ms	Margaret	Banks	Local Employment Coordinator
CAL	Ms	Christina	Macaulay	The Smith Family
GAL	Ms	Denise	Craig	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Logan Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Cath	Bartolo	Youth and Family Services, Woodridge
LAG member	Ms	Julie	Rogan	Career Keys
LAG member	Mr	Michael	Krafft	Assisting Collaborative Community Employment Support Services (ACCESS)
LAG member	Mr	Tom	Rowe	Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE, Loganlea
LAG member	Ms	Samantha	Wilson	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Ms	Mariae	Crawshaw	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Ms	Debbie	Miscamble	Salvation Army
GAL	Ms	Ellen	Ferris	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Playford Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Mr	Paul	Edginton	Service to Youth Council
LAG member	Ms	Lisa	Osborne	Centacare
LAG member	Ms	Cherie	Jolly	Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide
LAG member	Hon	Lea	Stevens	Northern Connections
LAG member	Ms	Alison	Arblaster	SA Health and Community Skills Board
LAG member	Ms	Sue	Christophers	Anglicare SA
LAG member	Mr	Ken	Daniel	City of Playford
LAG member	Ms	Pippa	Webb	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Ms	Gail	Sulicich	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Mr	Christopher	Reynolds	Anglicare SA
GAL	Ms	Karen	Zola	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Rockhampton Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Sandy	Paton	Regional Development Australia
LAG member	Ms	Melissa	Lawton	Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee
LAG member	Ms	Julie	Irwin	Community Solutions
LAG member	Ms	Min	Seto	Capricorn Division of General Practice Ltd
LAG member	Ms	Camille	Steinberger	Mt Morgan Promotion and Development Association
LAG member	Mr	Nik	Babovic	Central Queensland University
LAG member	Ms	Cassandra	Richardson	Local Employment Coordinator
CAL	Ms	Karen	Gerrard	The Smith Family
GAL	Ms	Deborah	Sear	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Shellharbour Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Ms	Veronica	Bird	Shellharbour City Council
LAG member	Ms	Samantha	Hill	Access Community Group
LAG member	Mr	Tom	Sleigh	Lake Illawarra High School
LAG member	Ms	Lisa	MacLeod	Southern Youth & Family Services
LAG member	Mr	Glenn	Atkins	Stockland Centre Management
LAG member	Mr	John	Murray	NSW Education & Training
LAG member	Ms	Jane	Robinson	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Mr	David	Muscio	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Ms	Carol	Lymbery	Barnardos Australia
GAL	Mr	Robert	Meikle	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader GAL - Government Action Leader				

Greater Shepparton Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Mr	John	Guilmartin	Chamber of Commerce
LAG member	Ms	Mary	Casey	Centacare
LAG member	Mr	Chris	Hazelman	Shepparton Ethnic Council
LAG member	Mr	Roger	Dowsett	Salvation Army Pathways
LAG member	Ms	Felicia	Dean	Rumbalara Cooperative
LAG member	Mr	David	Tennant	FamilyCare
LAG member	Ms	Jill	Hutchison	Primary Care Connect
LAG member	Ms	Julie	Tyndall	Local Employment Coordinator
LAG member	Mr	James	O'Connor	Regional Development Australia
CAL	Mr	Greg	Laidlaw	Centacare
GAL	Mr	Mark	Georgiou	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader				
GAL - Government Action Leader				

Wyang Local Advisory Group				
	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
LAG Chair	Mr	Warren	Welham	Northlakes High School
LAG member	Mr	Andrew	Roach	Regional Development Australia
LAG member	Ms	Vicki	Daley	Uniting Care Burnside
LAG member	Ms	Maggie	MacFie	Youth Connections, Central Coast
LAG member	Mr	Ted	Smeaton	Inspiring Communities – Wyong
LAG member	Ms	Jillian	Hogan	San Remo Neighbourhood
LAG member	Mr	Tony	Mylan	Employment and Training Australia Inc
LAG member	Ms	Cathie	Sinclair	Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Care Centre
LAG member	Ms	Julie	Vaughan	Wyang Council
LAG member	Mr	Jack	Ritchie	Local Employment Coordinator
CAL	Ms	Kylie	Faulder	The Benevolent Society
GAL	Ms	Alison	McEvoy	Department of Human Services
CAL - Community Action Leader				
GAL - Government Action Leader				