

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13- 206

OUTCOME: 4

Topic: Funding provided to COTA

Type of Question: Hansard Page 64, 5 June 2013

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Could you take on notice to provide me with a copy of the relevant documents showing that NACA agreed with funding provided to COTA?
- b) Why was there a limited tender rather than an open tender?
- c) What criteria or why did you go through limited tender and not through open tender or pre-qualified tender?
- d) Why did you choose to go through that process?

Answer:

In July 2012 the Department received a proposal from COTA Australia, on behalf of the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA), seeking grant funding to establish and provide secretariat support and services to the Ageing Expert Advisory Group and associated advisory groups to support the implementation of the aged care reforms. A copy of the letter from the NACA secretariat that advises of their agreement for funding to be provided to COTA Australia is provided at [Attachment A](#).

In line with normal Departmental processes an Evaluation Committee was established to assess the proposal. Please note that as this was a grant process in response to receiving a proposal, a targeted non-competitive or procurement tender process is not required. The committee conducted their assessment in accordance with the following criteria:

- the importance of the proposed activity in relation to implementing the aged care reforms;
- how the proposed activities would benefit the aged care sector;
- key activities and project management;
- the meeting objectives of the advisory groups and how COTA Australia will support these objectives;
- COTA Australia's previous project management experience; and
- value for money.

The Evaluation Committee agreed that the proposal represented value for money. On 10 August 2012 the Department entered into a funding agreement with COTA Australia on behalf of NACA (\$973,500 GST inclusive) for three years.

In February 2013 the Department offered COTA a deed of variation to increase the funding by \$580,355 (GST inclusive) bringing the total amount of funding to \$1,553,855 (GST inclusive). The deed of variation was executed on 4 March 2013.

The variation of funding was for additional funds to resource the increasing workload and creation of additional advisory groups in line with work already being undertaken by COTA Australia under the funding agreement.