

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ15-000515**

**Topic: Child Support Services**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Brown, Carol** asked:

Please outline that process of consultation the Department undertook with service providers as part of the process of determining what direct services organisations previously funded under the Child Support Advocacy Program provided? Including dates, method of contact and which organisations were involved at each stage.

**Answer:**

The Department contacted all five organisations by telephone between 25 February and 4 March 2015 to advise that the Minister had asked the Department to consult about service delivery under the Families and Children Activity Programme Guidelines. Each organisation was invited to meet with representatives of the Department either in person or by teleconference.

On 4 and 5 March 2015, each organisation was sent by email:

- a link to the Families and Children Activity Programme Guidelines;
- a questionnaire developed to guide the consultations; and
- an invitation to submit any additional information they considered pertinent.

Meetings were held between the Department and each organisation as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Mode of meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Dads In Distress Support Services	Teleconference	10 March 2015
Drummond Street	Teleconference	13 March 2015
Lone Fathers Association Australia	Face-to-face	4 March 2015
National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children	Teleconference	12 March 2015
Shared Parenting Council of Australia	Teleconference	11 March 2015