

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: SQ15-000691

Topic: Healthy Welfare Card

Hansard page: CA53, 4 June 2015

Senator Siewert asked:

In terms of the formality of the process, are there advertisements? Does the consultation involve the whole community? How has that process been undertaken? You have the expertise in this because you have been through a number of versions of consultation on income management/Stronger Futures. Are you doing a similar sort of thing, or is this going into town and having a meeting?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is working closely with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to conduct genuine community consultations to better understand local needs and gauge interest in a trial in several communities.

A number of in person and telephone conversations have occurred between the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, and/or DSS and PM&C officials and a range of key community and government stakeholders. Those consulted include Aboriginal leaders, family violence service providers, family support services, education providers, health providers, rehabilitation service providers, police, local government, State Government agencies, and Commonwealth Department of Human Services local staff. The consultation format has included one-on-one meetings and group roundtables.

Consultations to date have covered a number of issues including seeking advice from community members about the identification of local and cultural protocol and preferred entry points for community discussion. This feedback has informed the development of a thorough consultation plan which will guide multiple discussions with community members over forthcoming months.