

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

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness Question No: SQ15-000754

Topic: Homelessness Funding

Hansard page: CA139, 3 June 2015

Senator McLucas, Jan asked:

- (a) What is currently on the ground, funded by the partnership—both state and federal money?
- (b) What are the 12 output categories?
- (c) What is the current service array?
- (d) What proportion of that array can be attributed to those 12 output categories?
- (e) What is the split of the funding across the various specialist homelessness categories at the moment?

Answer:

- (a) Under the 2014-15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), the Commonwealth provided \$115 million, with the requirement for this amount to be matched by state and territory governments. States and territories may direct additional funds for homelessness services under the NPAH.
- (b) The 2014-15 NPAH output categories at clause 10 of the Agreement, are set out below:

Priorities and relative effort applied to the following additional outputs will be established in jurisdictional Project Plans for continuation of:

- a. support services and accommodation to assist older people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- b. support services to assist homeless people with substance abuse issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- c. support services to assist homeless people with mental health issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- d. support services to young people aged 12 to 18 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to re-engage with their family where it is safe to do so, maintain stable accommodation and engagement with education and/or employment;
- e. improvements in service coordination and provision;
- f. support services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, including to stay in their present housing where it is safe to do so;
- g. support services for homeless people, including families with children, to stabilise their situation and to achieve sustainable housing;
- h. outreach programs to connect rough sleepers to long-term housing and health services;

- i. support services for children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness including to maintain contact with the education system;
 - j. legal services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of legal issues including family violence, tenancy or debt;
 - k. workforce development strategies and career progression opportunities for workers in homelessness services; and
 - l. support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counselling and referral services.
- (c) Under the 2014-15 NPAH, state and territory governments have the flexibility to determine where frontline homelessness services are located, which service providers are contracted, and the amount of funding each service provider receives. Individual state and territory Project Plans provide details of the services funded, the initiatives they are funded under, and outputs these initiatives aim to address. The 2014-15 NPAH, and each state and territory's Project Plan, is published on the Council of Federal Financial Relations website at <http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/housing.aspx>.
- (d) (e) The 2014-15 NPAH Project Plans provide details of the services funded, the initiatives they are funded under, and outputs these initiatives aim to address. Based on the way this information is reported in the Project Plans, the Department is unable to disaggregate the information to particular outputs, or specialist homelessness categories.