

**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: SQ15-000694**

**Topic: Homelessness Services**

**Hansard page: CA138, 3 June 2015**

**Senator Ludlam, Scott** asked:

Does the government intend to close that gap and meet that unmet need; and, if so, what time frame do you have in mind? Have you set any targets? Do you intend to set any targets?

**Answer:**

Homelessness is a complex issue that affects many Australians. It requires a long-term and systematic effort across agencies, sectors and the community. While state and territory governments are responsible for service delivery, the Commonwealth is supporting state and territory governments in their role of providing services to the homeless, or those at risk of homelessness by providing financial assistance through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

The Commonwealth Budget forward estimates did not make any provision for NPAH funding beyond 30 June 2014. The current government provided funding for the NPAH for 2014-15 and 2015-17. Under the 2015-17 NPAH, the Commonwealth Government is providing \$115 million each year, for two years. States and territories will be required to match the Commonwealth's commitment to homelessness funding. The Commonwealth is giving funding priority to services focusing on women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, and homeless youth.

Under the NPAH, states and territories are responsible for determining where frontline homelessness services are located, which service providers are contracted, and the amount of funding each service provider receives.

Future funding arrangements, and the respective roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories in housing assistance and homelessness services will be considered in the context of the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.