

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: SQ15-000757

Topic: NPAH

Hansard page: CA140, 3 June 2015

Senator McLucas, Jan asked:

- (a) Can you give me an understanding of what the reporting arrangements are under the NPAH?
- (b) And what is it proposed that they change to?

Answer:

- (a) Under the 2014-15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), states and territories were required to lodge Project Plans on commencement of the Agreement. Project Plans provide details of the services funded, the initiatives they are funded under, and outputs these initiatives aim to address. Final Project Plans for each jurisdiction are published on the Council of Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) website at <http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/housing.aspx>.

Under the NPAH, client outcomes are reported using the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC), conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and published annually on the AIHW website at www.aihw.gov.au/homelessness-publications. Overall government expenditure on homelessness services is reported annually in the Report on Government Services (RoGS). This report is published on the Productivity Commission website at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

- (b) Under the 2015-17 NPAH, states and territories will be required to lodge Project Plans in two parts. Part One of the Project Plan gives a strategic overview of the implementation strategy for the jurisdiction, the expected level of expenditure under the NPAH and the amount they expect to allocate to domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness. Part Two of the Project Plan provides a list of all initiatives and services funded under the Agreement, as well as the outputs these initiatives will address. Additionally, Part Two will also provide details on the funding allocated to domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness. Once agreed, both parts of the final Project Plans will be published on the CFFR website.

The Commonwealth will also receive an update from states and territories that provides an assessment of progress against their Project Plans in September 2016. A final update will also be provided to the Commonwealth in September 2017 based on the evaluations and reviews of initiatives and/or services delivered by states and territories under the Agreement. Client outcomes will continue to be reported using the SHSC and overall government expenditure on homelessness services will continue to be reporting in RoGS.