

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross Outcome - Across Programs

**Question No:** 93

**Topic:** Reviews

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

Since 7 September 2013, how many new departmental or ministerial reviews have been commenced?

Please list them including:

- a. the date they were ordered
- b. the date they commenced
- c. the minister responsible
- d. the department responsible
- e. the nature of the review
- f. their terms of reference
- g. the scope of the review
- h. whom is conducting the review
- i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j. the expected report date
- k. if the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

**Answer:**

Since 7 September 2013, the Minister for Social Services appointed a Reference Group to conduct a review of the welfare system.

- a) 27 November 2013
- b) 17 December 2013
- c) The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Social Services
- d) Department of Social Services
- e) The review is being undertaken by an external Reference Group, supported by a small taskforce within the department.
- f) To provide options that ensure Australia's welfare system is sustainable, effective and coherent, and encourages people to work.
- g) The welfare system.
- h) The Reference Group is chaired by Mr Patrick McClure AO, with Mr Wesley Aird and Ms Sally Sinclair as members.
- i) A small taskforce has been formed within the department to support the Reference Group involving:
  - 1 x SES Band 2
  - 2 x SES Band 1
  - 4 x Executive level 2
  - 4 x Executive level 1
  - 2 x APS 6

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- 1 x APS 5
- j) An initial report is due before the 2014–15 Budget.
- k) Tabling or public release of the report would be a decision of Government.