

**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:** 289

**Topic:** Grants

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Moore** asked:

Has there also been a pause in the release of funding for grants under the department's discretionary grants programs?

**Answer:**

Grant funding for these programmes continues to be released in line with their respective grant agreements.

The Government has not paused grants. The Government is assessing all grant spending for consistency with their priorities and commitments. There is a requirement for additional approval by the Minister for Finance to ensure that assessment can take place before any relevant grant spending can proceed.

This requirement applies to discretionary grant spending only and excludes entitlement based programs such as pension entitlements and Medicare entitlements. It also excludes payments where contracts or agreements are already in place.