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: 291

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

- Please provide a list of all the department's discretionary grants programs for which a decision to provide funding was taken before the election campaign began but for which payment has not yet been made. Please include the organisation, amount of funding and the grant name.
- In relation to each of these:
 - What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause?
 - Did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised? o
 Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified
 - o If so, is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government?

Answer:

The government has not paused grants, the Government is assessing all grant spending for consistency with Government 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 process is currently the subject of Government consideration.

The DSS Network is informing organisations as the process progresses.

As a result of the Machinery of Government changes, we are unable to provide a DSS wide response. The Department is now working with the programs moving to DSS to record their new grants on its website over time.

A list of former Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs grants made between the last estimates and the imposition of the caretaker period can be found at: <a href="http://www.dss.gov.au/grants-funding/grants-f