

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Grants

**Question reference number:** HS 138

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
- b) How are grants applied for?
- c) Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
  - 1) Can these restrictions be waved? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waved.
- d) What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
- e) Who is involved in this selection process?
- f) Does the minister or the minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
  - 1) Has the minister or the minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.
- g) Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
- h) Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

#### **Answer:**

- a) The department has key controls in place to ensure any grants are administered in accordance with the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines*. These controls are:
  - Accountable Authority Instructions (AAIs), which are an overview of financial management principles and requirements; and
  - Corporate and Financial Policy, which outline specific financial management requirements.

- b) Not applicable. The department has no new grant programmes available.
- c) Not applicable. Refer to (b).
- d) Not applicable. Refer to (b).
- e) Not applicable. Refer to (b).
- f) Not applicable. Refer to (b).
- g) The department has not awarded any grants in the period since Budget Estimates in June 2014.
- h) The department has not entered into any contracts for new grants in the period since Budget Estimates in June 2014.