

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 4

**Question No:** 483

**Topic:** Grants Program - Housing and Homelessness

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator McLucas** asked:

Has DSS begun to notify successful and unsuccessful applicants? If not, why not?  
Is there any change to the time frame for notification and negotiation? If so, what is it?  
How will program applicants be notified of any delay in processing their applications?

**Answer:**

DSS has not begun notifying applicants to the recent grant selection round as the assessment process is still underway.

DSS received an overwhelming response to the recent selection process which closed on 24 July 2014. The unforeseen volume, complexity and high quality nature of applications required the extension of the assessment process to provide the Department more time to ensure funding is allocated to maximise service delivery for outcomes for individuals, families and the community.

At this stage, the Department expects that outcomes of the funding rounds will be known before the end of December to provide time for negotiation of grant agreements before new funding commences on 1 March 2015.

Applicants were notified of the extension to the assessment process via the Department's website and direct email.