

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

Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 503

Topic: NPAH Reporting Arrangements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

Please provide an explanation of the changes in reporting arrangements for States and Territories under the 2014-5 Agreement specifically in relation to reductions in reporting changes for States and Territories and additional strengths with regards AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection.

Answer:

Under the 2014-15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), reporting requirements for the states and territories have been reduced. This is consistent with the Government's commitment to reducing red tape. All states and territories are required to identify the services that are supported under the NPAH.

Client outcomes are monitored through the AIHW's Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC). All NPAH-funded services are required to participate in the SHSC (with limited exemptions). The new SHSC was designed to provide richer, more timely and accurate data on clients. Improvements include:

- Better client matching - the new collection is able to track clients over time;
- New and revised data items;
- Scope of agencies expanded – NAHA/NPAH funded;
- Children counted as clients; and
- Data collected monthly rather than six-monthly.