ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes   Question No: SQ15-000891

Topic: Reviews

Hansard page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

1. In the current financial year how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
a. The date they were ordered
b. The date they commenced
c. The minister responsible
d. The department responsible
e. The nature of the review
f. Their terms of reference
g. The scope of the review
h. Who is conducting the review
i. The number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
j. The expected report date
k. The budgeted, projected or expected costs
l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.

Answer:

Since July 2015, no new ministerial reviews have commenced.

A Functional and Efficiency Review of the Department of Social Services is currently being undertaken. For this Review:

a. 9 May 2015
b. 18 June 2015.
c. The Hon Christian Porter MP, the Minister for Social Services, and Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, the Minister for Finance, have primary responsibility for the Review.
d. The Department of Finance.
e. To assess the efficiency and effectiveness of all aspects of the Department's operations, programmes and administration.
f. and g. Available on the Department of Finance's website (www.finance.gov.au).
h. Mr David Tune AO PSM
i. Internal taskforce of up to eight staff members from APS6 to EL2 level classifications.
j. 30 November 2015
k. $198,000 inclusive of GST. The Taskforce was funded from within existing resources.
l. This is a matter for Government.

The Department routinely undertakes reviews of its processes. To identify these reviews would require a significant diversion of resources.