

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000378

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Flexible Funds

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 16, 19 October 2016

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

Senator DI NATALE: The challenge for us now is to work out what the previous structure looked like, with the funding, compared to what you have done now. I suspect you will not be able to provide us with this information today. Perhaps that is not the case. I suspect you anticipated this question. I am not sure you have this information at hand. What I would like to see is: what were the flexible funds worth? And I would like a line item of each of those funds. Then I would like an outline of where each of those funds now sit and how much they are being funded—what is the funding envelope for each of those—and how does that compare to the previous structure? You can see where I am coming from. It is very hard for us to make a direct comparison.

Mr Bowles: Absolutely. I totally get it. We have provided, in the past, information around the flexible funds. That was not everything, but it was a group of funds that ended up being called flexible funds for some unknown reason. We have, in the past, given you a breakdown of what the spend was, what the budget changes were over time, and got to a point in time. I think it will be difficult because we tried to get them into relevant programs. You mentioned earlier that it was a mixed bag of things that did not necessarily relate that well. Some of them will have been broken down; some of them will have directly transferred into the program area, and we have probably moved down that pathway. I can take on notice to try to give you how it all crosses over. If you look at—and you will not have this there; this is just for your reference—the portfolio budget statement of 2016-17, on page 32, it looks at the outcome structure changes. Then on page 34 it does the mapping of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 outcome and program structure. That will give you a bit of an idea of how that happens. It does not give you money; it just shows you how we have tried to track the mapping. We tried to do that. You will find that on pages 34 through to 36. It maps the old 11 outcomes and tries to deal with it in that way.

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice SQ16-000379.