

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 16

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 22/10/2015

Topic: Mobile Black Spot Programme - announcement

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Referring to the 25 June 2015 announcement by the Government on the Mobile Black Spot Program:

- (a) Had the Commonwealth finalised all its contractual arrangements with the successful mobile network operator bidders (Telstra and Vodafone) at the time of the Government announcement on 25 June 2015?
- (b) Were there any negotiations for funding arrangements under the Program outstanding on 25 June 2015?
- (c) On what date were all funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and the successful mobile network operators concluded?
- (d) Are the contractual funding arrangements public documents?

Answer:

- (a) No – the announcement was in regard to the outcomes of the competitive process. Negotiations followed this announcement.
- (b) See (a) above.
- (c) A funding agreement was executed between the Commonwealth and Telstra on 29 October 2015 in relation to the funding awarded under Round 1 of the Programme. The Commonwealth is currently in negotiations with Vodafone in relation to Round 1 funding.
- (d) No – there are commercial in confidence issues associated with these contracts.