

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Social Policy Division

**Question No:** 282

**Topic:** National Housing Infrastructure Facility

**Reference:** Written

**Senator:** Rhiannon, Lee

**Question:**

Does Treasury have any involvement with the National Housing Infrastructure Facility? If yes:

- a) What are the application criteria for grants under the National Housing Infrastructure Facility?
- b) What are the conditions governing use of grants and concessional loans under the National Housing Infrastructure Facility?
- c) Are remote Indigenous Local Governments eligible to apply to the grant funding or loans under the National Housing Infrastructure Facility?
- d) What proportion of the National Housing Infrastructure Facility grant fund is budgeted for remote Indigenous local governments?
- e) Are remote Indigenous local governments eligible to apply for equity investment under the National Housing Infrastructure Facility?

**Answer:**

- a) To be eligible for financial assistance from the National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF), local governments will need to make an application that satisfies the eligibility criteria. Applications will be assessed from 1 July 2018 by an independent board. The application criteria will be determined following consultations which will take place in 2017-18.
- b) The conditions governing use of grants and concessional loans under the NHIF will be informed through consultations which will take place in 2017-18.
- c) The NHIF is a national financing facility to assist local government in their provision of infrastructure that will speed up the supply of housing. Implementation details, including the eligibility criteria, will be settled during 2017-18, informed by consultations with stakeholders.

The NHIF is expected to start assessing applications for financial assistance from local governments from 1 July 2018. Local governments will have the opportunity to access up to:

- \$600 million in concessional loans;
  - \$225 million in equity investments; and
  - \$175 million in grants.
- d) See above.

- e) See above. To be eligible for financial assistance from the NHIF, local governments will need to make an application that satisfies the eligibility criteria. Applications will be assessed from 1 July 2018 by an independent board.