

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 73

Topic: Charity Passport

Hansard Page: page 115, 20 November 2013

Senator SIEWERT asked:

73. Mr Locke: What we are building is an interface that will enable any Commonwealth or state agency to pull the data that we have obtained from the charity passport, so it will enable the exchange of data for any agency that wishes to use that.

Senator SIEWERT: How many agencies have indicated they wish to use it to date?

Ms Pascoe: They are required to, because the Commonwealth grant guidelines are a legislative instrument, and it is mandated for Commonwealth agencies.

Senator SIEWERT: How many have indicated they will? I appreciate a process has been gone through to update the Commonwealth grant guidelines, so how many to date have been interacting with you to fulfil their legislative requirements?

Ms Pascoe: Can we take it on notice? It is partly because those agencies know that we will not have the data ready until 30 June next year that it has been a progressive series of discussions. But we can take that on notice and get back to you.

Senator SIEWERT: Wasn't there supposed to be someone in all government agencies that was supposed to be working with you to progress this process?

Ms Pascoe: The former government had a compact champion in each of the government agencies, and it is the policy of the current government to have a deregulation unit in each Commonwealth agency, and that would be the unit that we liaise with going into the future.

Senator SIEWERT: So the compact person is no longer there?

Ms Pascoe: That is a matter for clarification perhaps with DSS.

Senator SIEWERT: I will follow that up tomorrow.

Answer:

73. To date, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has had direct contact with approximately 12 Commonwealth agencies/departments in respect to the use of the Charity Passport.

In addition, the Charity Passport has been offered to the majority of Financial Management Act (FMA) Agencies, which are subject to the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines and Commonwealth regulators, via presentations and working groups.

The ACNC estimates that in total 30 agencies have been contacted either directly or through presentations and working groups.

The Charity Passport has also been offered to all states and territories.