

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: DSS Grants Process

Senator: Senator Moore

Question reference number: 42

Type of question: FPA Monday 19 October 2015, page 121

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator MOORE: What is the process when you do decide? Do you contact the department at that stage? There is a preparatory phase, isn't there, before the audit goes in?

Dr Pope: That is correct. We would normally get in contact with the department and make some preliminary inquiries in addition to looking at other material publically available, which would then help us determine the scope of the work and perhaps the duration and the particular questions and lines of inquiry we would pursue. Once we have done that work, we contact the department and ask for preliminary information to help us firm up the scope. Once we have done that and have decided that it is worth going ahead, we would put up an internal business case for approval.

Senator MOORE: And there has been no contact with the department as yet?

Dr Pope: Not to my knowledge.

Senator MOORE: Can we just follow up on that and put it on notice. We will ask the same question of DSS. Thank you.

Answer:

The Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO's) Audit Work Program—July 2015 includes a potential audit of the *Department of Social Services Grants Administration*. The ANAO has not had contact with the Department of Social Services in relation to the planning for, or conduct of, this potential audit. Any decision to commence this audit will be taken in the context of available resources and competing audit priorities.

The ANAO is currently undertaking a cross-entity audit relating to the *Delivery and Evaluation of Grant Programs*. The Department of Social Services in one of several entities included in the audit, which is expected to be tabled in the Parliament during the Autumn 2016 Sittings.