

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: 1.7

Question No. BE15/028

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you. I have questions in relation to the Living Safe Together grants program. How many applications were received for Living Safe Together grant funding, and how many of those applications were successful?

Ms Lowe: We received approximately 100 applications and, of those applications, 34 have been successful.

Senator WRIGHT: You said approximately 100. If you could confirm that figure on notice that would be good, thanks.

Ms C Jones: There were 95 applications received.

Senator WRIGHT: I can do my maths. I was going to ask how many were rejected, but presumably the answer is 95 minus 34.

Ms C Jones: Yes. I will just add to that. There were a number of applications received from organisations nonetheless considered to be significant stakeholders. We will continue to work with those stakeholders where a need might be identified to build particular capacity to support the broader objectives of the Living Safe Together program.

Senator WRIGHT: Can I have a state-by-state breakdown of successful and unsuccessful applications including the names of the organisations?

Ms C Jones: A number of organisations have identified that they wanted to have their details protected, due to the sensitivity of the work, so we are not in a position to provide the names of all of the organisations that were successful or unsuccessful. We can provide a breakdown by state of the number of successful applications. I would take that on notice.

Senator WRIGHT: If you could do that, that would be good. Thank you.

Ms Lowe: Senator, if it would assist you, we could give you a description of the kinds of activities that will be funded rather than an identification of the groups.

Senator WRIGHT: Perhaps on notice, I would be happy with that. But not now, because I have some questions I need to get through now. But I appreciate that some organisations have requested confidentiality. But, where you can provide information, I would like that. I can see that the Living Safe Together grant funding was a one-off funding round. What funding is now available to support community led preventive projects?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Breakdown of successful applicants by State & Territory

ACT	2
NSW	15
Qld	8
SA	3
Vic	12
WA	1
Total	41

In June 2015 seven additional organisations accepted funding approved by the Minister for Justice under the Living Safe Together (LST) Grant Programme. The seven organisations are included in the total number breakdown by State and Territory. The breakdown of the additional seven is as follows: 1 from NSW, 3 from Qld, 1 from SA and 2 from Victoria.

Description of the kinds of activities that will be funded:

The objective of the LST Grant Programme is to support community-based, non-government and local government organisations to develop new and innovative services to help individuals move away from violent extremism.

The grants are to help organisations design and develop new, innovative services; build more sustainable capacity in existing services; or refocus existing services to address radicalisation.

The types of activities that will be developed and delivered by some of those organisations include:

- identify and train a Muslim leadership group that can educate and mentor youth and families
- develop specific skills to counsel individuals who are experiencing difficulty in understanding and applying Islamic teachings
- develop and deliver anti-radicalisation messages and creating pathways for young people to become involved in targeted programmes
- develop workshops that will provide community workers with the skills and tools to recognise and how to deal with radicalisation in its various forms
- develop guidelines and protocols that can be utilised by mentoring services
- develop a facilitating group, who can demonstrate that through a sound understanding and sincere practice of Islam, can help overcome negative pathways
- design specific training programme for employers to support and identify the cohort of young people who may be deemed at risk of radicalisation
- develop an intervention service to address radicalisation by refocusing existing services on the delivery of a sport and recreational based intervention service

- develop and pilot training modules from Muslim mentors to recognise developing issues amongst youth in the Muslim community and provide alternative solutions
- develop specialist training and resources, that can enhance the skills of workers across local government departments and community organisations whose clients include the most disengaged and vulnerable young people in the community
- engage through community-based organisations and schools to implement a sports-based leadership program, where vulnerable youth can be mentored and coached by trained youth leadership

What funding is now available to support community led preventive projects?

The grants provide funding for community groups to build capability to deliver diversion programmes to individuals who are radicalising or radicalised to violent extremism. Funding agreements are being negotiated with recipients. We anticipate all grants will be funded by 30 June 2015.

Community groups will be invited to register on a Directory of Intervention Services in support of government-led diversion programmes being rolled out across the country, supported by the Department. Once on the Directory, organisations may be funded for providing case management services to individuals.

Furthermore, the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee receives ongoing funding—\$12.4 million per annum from 2013-14 to support national counter-terrorism capability, with \$2 million available each year for CVE projects, including community engagement projects.

LST funding of \$13.4 million was announced in August 2014. This funding is focussed on the establishment of early intervention services for vulnerable individuals before a law enforcement response is required and includes the \$1.97 million of LST Grants.

In addition, \$21.7 million of funding to address the new challenge of online terrorist propaganda was announced in the May 2015 Federal Budget and will commence on 1 July 2015. This work comprises a multifaceted effort to understand, limit access to, and undermine the appeal of terrorist propaganda. We will be providing funding to community organisations to produce videos and other online content that challenges the appeal of extremist narratives or promotes Australia's inclusive values.