

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. BE17-106

Senator McKim asked the following question on 26 May 2017:

How much Commonwealth funding has been provided for collaborative service planning processes in each jurisdiction? How is it progressing in each jurisdiction?

What is the Commonwealth doing to ensure there is access to evidence around legal need for the purposes of informing collaborative service planning and funding decisions?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

Collaborative service planning is a requirement under the *National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services 2015-2020* (the Agreement). It aims to support a sustainable legal assistance sector by ensuring that services are directed where they are needed most and delivered in a coordinated and streamlined way. No additional funding is provided under the Agreement specifically for collaborative service planning. To date, all jurisdictions have met their collaborative service planning requirements as set out under the Agreement.

In 2015, the Attorney-General's Department engaged the New South Wales Law and Justice Foundation to develop a jurisdictional planning resource to assist jurisdictions to meet their collaborative service planning requirements under the Agreement. The resource includes jurisdictional specific data, maps and evidence of legal need and was designed to help inform and support the planning of legal assistance services.