

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General’s Department

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. BE17-114

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question on 02 June 2017:

1. The Community Legal Services Program within the Attorney-General’s Portfolio contains funding over the forward estimates.
 - a. What does the \$8.989 in 17-18 include?
 - b. What does the \$10.185 in 18-19 include?
 - c. What does the \$2.991 million 19-20 include and why is there a significant cut from the previous year?
 - d. What does the \$3.179 in 20-21 include and why is there a significant cut from previous years?

(See Table below)

Program 1.4: Justice Services					
Administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)					
Community Legal Services Program	8,016	8,989	10,185	2,991	3,179
Courts and tribunals reform	–	–	150	–	–
Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund	4,610	3,675	3,722	3,769	3,799
Family Court of Western Australia	13,708	13,991	14,188	14,355	14,469
Financial assistance towards legal costs and related expenses	3,080	3,316	3,357	3,398	3,425
Financial assistance towards legal costs and related expenses—expenses for witnesses to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	5,940	660	–	–	–

Attorney-General’s Portfolio, Portfolio Budget Statement, Budgeted Expenses for Outcome 1, Page 19.

2. The Community Legal Services Program has been revised to be delivered as a nationally focused discretionary grants program, administered by the Attorney-General’s Department, and managed outside the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services. Applications are currently open for the program.
 - a. How much funding is available for this round; and
 - b. For the grants program over the forward estimates?

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

Question 1.

- a) The \$8.989 million in the 2017-18 Community Legal Services Program (CLSP) includes:
- \$2.610 million for CLSP (discretionary grants program supporting certain national services and service delivery projects, innovative legal assistance projects and program support activities)
 - \$6.279 million for Women's Safety Package (specialist domestic violence unit and health justice partnership pilots)
 - \$0.040 million for Parenting Management Hearings pilot program support, and
 - \$0.060 million for Family Advocacy and Support Service program support.

- b) The \$10.185 million in the 2018-19 CLSP includes:
- \$2.625 million for CLSP (discretionary grants program supporting certain national services and service delivery projects, innovative legal assistance projects and program support activities)
 - \$7.120 million for Women's Safety Package (specialist domestic violence unit and health justice partnership pilots)
 - \$0.290 million for Parenting Management Hearings pilot program support, and
 - \$0.150 million for Family Advocacy and Support Service program support.

- c) The \$2.991 million in the 2019-20 CLSP includes:
- \$2.650 million for CLSP (discretionary grants program supporting certain national services and service delivery projects, innovative legal assistance projects and program support activities), and
 - \$0.341 million for Parenting Management Hearings pilot program support.

There is no cut to the CLSP in 2019-20. The reduction in funding in 2019-20 is due to the conclusion of the Women's Safety Package specialist domestic violence unit and health justice partnership pilots, and Family Advocacy and Support Service program support.

- d) The \$3.179 million in the 2020-21 CLSP includes:
- \$2.671 million for CLSP (discretionary grants program supporting certain national services and service delivery projects, innovative legal assistance projects and program support activities), and
 - \$0.508 million for Parenting Management Hearings pilot program support.

There is no cut to the CLSP in 2020-21. The reduction in funding in 2020-21 is due to the conclusion in 2018-19 of the Women's Safety Package specialist domestic violence unit

and health justice partnership pilots, and Family Advocacy and Support Service program support.

Question 2.

- a) The majority of the funding in the CLSP is committed under multi-year agreements. In 2016-17, \$606 242 was available for the Innovation Fund grants round under the CLSP.
- b) Future grants rounds are not confirmed and are a matter for Government.