



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

**Ray Griggs AO CSC**  
**Secretary**

Senator Kerryanne Liddle  
Senator for South Australia  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email:

Dear ~~Senator~~ *Senator,*

Thank you for your letter of 18 October to the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Services Australia and I regarding the 2023-24 Community Affairs Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing scheduled for 25 October 2023. I appreciate the advance notice provided to officials to assist in our preparation for the hearing.

I provide my assurance that the Social Services Portfolio will come prepared to answer the questions set out in your correspondence, wherever possible. For those matters listed which are better described as an indication of themes that questions may relate to, officials will use their best endeavours to respond to Senators on the day.

Regarding your request for any questions taken on notice to be tabled later that same day, this may be possible in instances where the information is readily available or collected in a way which facilitates an expedited response. In all other circumstances, and in line with the usual practice of Senate Estimates hearings, officials will prepare answers for questions taken on notice in line with the return date fixed by the Committee.

With regard to your request relating to housing matters, only the National Housing and Homelessness Plan is a Department of Social Services' responsibility. The other topics set out in your letter related to housing are best directed to Treasury during the Economics Legislation Committee hearing as these matters fall within its portfolio responsibilities.

Attached to this letter is correspondence I have sent to the Committee Chair, Senator Marielle Smith, setting out the above as well as reiterating my suggestion for the development of standardised data requests the committee may require in future estimates.

I have copied this letter to the Chair and the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Services Australia, Mr Chris Birrer.

Yours sincerely

19 October 2023