

Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme

Public Hearing – 8 April 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme Public Hearing 8 April 2024

Question reference number: IQ24-000025

Question asked by: Dean Smith

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** Pages 20-21

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 29 April 2024

Question:

Senator DEAN SMITH: What is the funding profile for the National Redress Scheme over the next four years?

Mr Harrigan: The funding profile is published in the portfolio budget statements, and any changes to what's published will be a decision for government.

Senator DEAN SMITH: I don't have the portfolio budget statements in front of me; you'll have to excuse me. Does the funding profile show a decrease in funding or an increase in funding as we approach scheme end?

Mr Harrigan: The funding profile as published—it depends on whether we're looking at an administered or a departmental perspective. From the administered perspective, there is a fairly flat funding profile as published, but we're always in discussions with government about the adequacy of that. Funding for departmental costs will need to be considered by government in the context of the profile for applications moving forward. We're continually receiving some advice from the Australian Government Actuary on that. They guide us on what the projections could look like given the inherent uncertainty with applicants claiming, but we use the advice from the Australian Government Actuary in our development of budget forecasts for discussion with government.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Are you able to identify for me that, at the moment, administrative expenditure was stable or consistent over the forwards? What is it for departmental expenses?

Mr Harrigan: That was my recollection from when I last looked at the profile. I'm happy to provide the detail with regard to the departmental profile over the years ahead on notice.

Answer:

The following table shows the funding profile for the National Redress Scheme (Scheme) for the currently published forward estimates period.

Appropriation	2024-25 \$m	2025-26 \$m	2026-27 \$m	2027-28 \$m
<u>Department of Social Services (DSS)</u>				
Departmental	113.779	9.015	20.259	5.563
Annual administered*	29.125	34.994	35.986	5.200
Special appropriation**	657.199	665.339	616.715	572.727
<u>Attorney-General's Department</u>				
Annual administered***	13.454	3.367	5.610	8.563

*The annual administered appropriation for DSS is used to fund Redress Support Services.

**The special appropriation for DSS is used to make Redress payments to eligible applicants. As a special appropriation, the total amount available is not fixed and is adjusted to reflect updated modelling of Scheme demand and payments. Payments are offset by the estimated receipts from institutions and jurisdictions for their contribution to the Scheme.

***The annual administered appropriation for the Attorney-General's Department is used to fund the knowmore legal service.