

**Community Affairs  
Legislation Committee**

**Examination of Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

**Additional Information Received**

**VOLUME 5**

**Centrelink &**

**FaCS Output Groups: Cross outputs, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4**

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**FEBRUARY 2003**



Note: Where published reports, etc. have been provided in response to questions, they have not been included in the Additional Information volume in order to conserve resources.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2002-2003**

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice  
relating to the supplementary estimates hearing on 21 November 2002

### **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

<b>Senator</b>	<b>Quest. No.</b>	<b>Centrelink</b>	<b>Vol. 5 Page No.</b>
	Letter 20.09.02	Letter from Dept correcting information provided in Q28 relating to the June 2002 estimates hearing re the provision of data & the number of breach decisions for the period May 2000 to May 2002	1-3
Bishop	194	Darlinghurst call centre	4
Bishop	1-2	Job network evaluation – Productivity Commission	5-6
Bishop	3	Compliance	7
Bishop	4-14	Consultancies	8-19
Bishop	15	Customer relations units – complaint data	20-22
Bishop	16	Board remuneration	23
Bishop	17-18	SMS texting – contractual arrangement with Telstra	24-25
<b>Cross output groups</b>			
Collins	173, 189	Research	26-32
Bishop	190	Breakdown of number of recipients of each income support payments and benefits administered under the Social Security Act and New Tax System Family Assistance Act 2000	33
<b>Output Group 1.1 – Family Assistance</b>			
Collins	19	FTB debts relating to discrepancies in the dependant child earnings	34
Bishop	31-32	Backbench Committee examining family policy changes	35-36
Bishop	34	Family tax benefit and family allowance	37-38
Bishop	35	Family Allowance	39
Bishop	36, 30, 42	Family tax benefit	40-42
Bishop	37-38	Family allowance and Family payment	43-44
Bishop	39	Family tax benefit reconciliation results for 2000-01	45
Bishop	40	FTB-CCB entitlement where 2001 tax return lodged after 30 June 2002	46
Moore	41	Comparative figures for 2000-01 and 2001-02 family assistance reconciliation	47
Collins	43	Reconciliation where former partner fails to lodge a tax return	48
Ridgeway	20-23, 26, 25	Family violence in Indigenous communities	49-50
Ridgeway	24	Partnerships against domestic violence	51
Bishop	44	Commonwealth financial counselling program/services	52-53
Bishop	47	FAMnet/FaCSLink	54
Bishop	191	Grants to family relationship support organisations	55-67
Bishop	45	Child abuse prevention	68-73
Bishop	46	Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP)	74
Bishop	48	Indigenous parenting and family wellbeing program	75-78
Bishop	49	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies	79-82

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

<b>Senator</b>	<b>Quest. No</b>	<b>Output Group 1.2 – Youth and Student Support</b>	<b>Vol. 5 Page No.</b>
Bishop	51-77, 79-80, 82-85, 192	JPET	83-129
Bishop	78	Rural youth information service	130
Bishop	81	Youth pathways report	131
<b>Output Group 1.3 – Child Support</b>			
Bishop	33	Research on the child support scheme and mail suicide	132
<b>Output Group 1.4 – Child Care Support</b>			
	Letter Dec 02	Claryifying statement – supplementary budget estimates of 21 Nov 02 relating to Supplementary Services (SUPS) workers paid a subsidy per application for children on the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS)	133
Bishop	27	Multifunctional Aboriginal Children’s Services (MACS)	134
Bishop	28	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)	135
Bishop	29	Indigenous resource and advisory agency in Western Australia	136
Moore	140, 146, 139	Broadband redevelopment	137-140
Bishop	144, 88	Broadband expenditure	141-144
Bishop	89-90	Proposed broadband funding review	145-146
Collins	141	National agenda for early childhood	147
Moore Collins	142 136	Outside school hours care	148-149
Moore	138	Outside school hours care and family day care	150
Bishop	145	Child care specific purpose payment	151
Bishop	147	Cost of accreditation processes	152
Bishop	91-93	Accreditation process	153-155
Moore Bishop Collins	130-133 135	Child care planning advisory committees	156-164
Moore	134	Long day care	165
Moore	137, 109-110	Family day care	166-169
Moore	143	Childcare assistance	170-174
Moore	148	Cost-impact analysis	175
Moore	150	Annual report – national planning system	176
Moore	151	Annual report – rural and remote services	177
Moore	152	Annual report – Indigenous specific services	178
Bishop Moore	86-87 127-129	Special needs subsidy scheme (SNSS)	179-188
Bishop	94	Costs of child care - affordability	189
Bishop	95-102, 104	New corporate child care providers	190-198
Bishop	103	Qualified staff and training for child care centres	199

<b>Output Group 1.4 – Child Care Support [contd]</b>			<b>Vol. 5 Page No.</b>
Bishop	105-107	Disadvantaged area subsidy (DAS)	200-204
Bishop	108	Mobile services – update of review process	205-206
Bishop	111, 149	Greater flexibility and choice in child care	207
Bishop	112	Improved flexibility in child care	208
Bishop	113	Accreditation of child care centres	209
Bishop	114	Funding for quality assurance	210
Bishop	115	SFCS – private provider initiative	211-212
Bishop	116	Tender for new child care service in Ballan region	213
Bishop	117-121	Annual report	214-218
Bishop	193	Departmental performance	219
Bishop	122-126	In-home care	220-224
<b>Output Group 3.1 – Labour Market Assistance</b>			
Bishop	153	Indigenous payments under CDEP	225
Bishop	154-157	Special benefit	226-229
	Tabled at hearing	Number of breaches; number of people breached	230
Bishop	158-168 171-172	Breaching	231-247
Bishop	169-170	Long-term unemployment	248-249
<b>Output Group 3.2 – Support for People with a Disability</b>			
Bishop	174-176 179-180	Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA)	250-257
Bishop	177	Support for people with a disability	258-259
Bishop	178	Funding	260
Bishop	181-183	Print disability services for the blind	261-263
<b>Output Group 3.4 – Support for the Aged</b>			
Bishop	184	Pension bonus scheme	264



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

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Senator Susan Knowles  
Chair  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Knowles

**SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Budget Estimates – Question on Notice No. 28**  
**CORRECTION OF ERROR**

In June 2002, Centrelink provided a written response to Question on Notice No. 28, requested by Senator Bishop. The question related to the provision of data about the number of breach decisions for the period May 2000 to May 2002.

It has now come to Centrelink's attention that there were errors in the information provided in the answer at the time. I am writing to advise of this error and to provide corrected information to the Committee.

Centrelink is keenly aware of the seriousness of having provided the Committee with incorrect data, although this was inadvertent, and recognises the Committee deserves an explanation.

There are several ways that breach data can be collected: by the date of the breach event; the date of the decision to impose a breach; or a combination of these.

The standard reporting tool reports the date of the event (that is the incident that led to a breach) not the date that the decision was actually made to impose the breach. The best measure of breaching activity is to count actual decisions made during the reporting period.

For the 3 categories of breach events – under/non reporting of earnings, voluntary unemployment and unemployment due to misconduct, the date of the event is often many months before the information is available and the breach is applied. In the case of earnings (which is the most numerous of the three) this lag is typically six to nine months, often after a data match has occurred.

In order to overcome this problem, Centrelink extracts the standard report for all breach events other than the three described above. This is possible because the date of event and the date of decision are typically the same. For the three 'events' listed above, a separate data extraction needs to be made so that we are able to collect the data by the date of the decision.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

These two sets of data are then merged into a single report.

While Centrelink was preparing the answer to Question on Notice No 28, it produced the standard report which excluded those three breach 'events' for which the decision and 'event' dates do not coincide. Centrelink should have then added to that report the additional numbers derived from the separate data extraction. However this was not done accurately and an error was made.

As a result the numbers for the January to March quarter were incomplete and around 16,000 less than should have been recorded. The incomplete data for the January March Quarter was then added to the correctly calculated data for the half year preceding that quarter (July-December 2001) which led to a misleading picture of the trends for the year.

The complexity of extracting the data in this manner has been undertaken so that information provided reflects the most complete picture of breach activity. Centrelink is developing a more robust and longer term solution for reporting breach decisions and this is expected to be available for reporting by November 2002. This will significantly reduce the possibility of future errors occurring.

The corrected answers to the questions, for the period, **July 2001 to March 2002**, are as follows:

- There were 62,843 administrative breach activities for this period. Of those, 36,705 (58 percent) were imposed and 26,138 (42 percent) were not imposed or later revoked on review.
- There were 362,925 activity test breach activities for this period. Of those 187,976 (52 percent) were not imposed or were later revoked on review.
- During this period, 174,949 (48 percent) of activity test penalties were imposed.

At this time, the corrected information at the lower level of detail about the percentage break-up of these breach decision numbers by 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> penalty types has not been completed. This further information will be provided as soon as available.

I have also attached a copy of a table that shows a break-up of the numbers of breach decisions for the full 2001-2002 financial year, and information for comparison with the previous financial year, for the Committee's information.

I apologise for this error and ensure the Committee that steps have been taken to ensure that it cannot reoccur.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hickey  
Deputy CEO  
Centrelink



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Annual Breach Decisions – For Years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002**

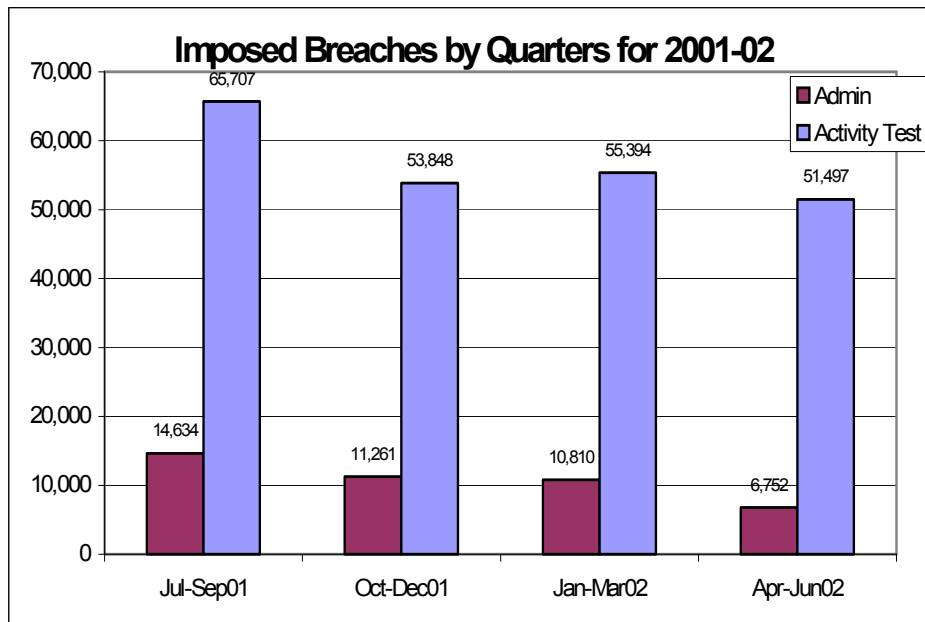
**Breaches Imposed**

	2000/01				2001/02				
	AT	Admin	Total	YTD	AT	Admin	Total	YTD	
Jul-00	19,410	10,688	30,098	30,098	Jul-01	24,626	4,936	29,562	29,562
Aug-00	23,499	12,367	35,866	65,964	Aug-01	21,858	5,173	27,031	56,593
Sep-00	22,934	7,616	30,550	96,514	Sep-01	19,223	4,525	23,748	80,341
Oct-00	25,913	6,672	32,585	129,099	Oct-01	20,927	4,408	25,335	105,676
Nov-00	26,020	6,869	32,889	161,988	Nov-01	19,700	4,003	23,703	129,379
Dec-00	18,351	5,208	23,559	185,547	Dec-01	13,221	2,850	16,071	145,450
Jan-01	24,527	8,222	32,749	218,296	Jan-02	19,415	4,240	23,655	169,105
Feb-01	25,932	8,273	34,205	252,501	Feb-02	18,483	3,658	22,141	191,246
Mar-01	28,286	7,314	35,600	288,101	Mar-02	17,496	2,912	20,408	211,654
Apr-01	23,500	6,043	29,543	317,644	Apr-02	18,606	2,477	21,083	232,737
May-01	30,599	6,874	37,473	355,117	May-02	19,039	2,224	21,263	254,000
Jun-01	25,776	6,053	31,829	386,946	Jun-02	13,852	2,051	15,903	269,903
<b>Total</b>	<b>294,747</b>	<b>92,199</b>	<b>386,946</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>226,446</b>	<b>43,457</b>	<b>269,903</b>	

2000/01 Mar YTD	288,101		
2001/02 Mar YTD	211,654		
<b>Decline of</b>	<b>76,447</b>	<b>26.5%</b>	
2000/01	386,946		
2001/02	269,903		
<b>Decline of</b>	<b>117,043</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	

**Quarterly Data**

	AT	Admin	Total	% change
Jul-Sep01	65,707	14,634	80,341	-18.7
Oct-Dec01	53,848	11,261	65,109	-19.0
Jan-Mar02	55,394	10,810	66,204	1.7
Apr-Jun02	51,497	6,752	58,249	-12.0
			269,903	



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 194**

**Topic: Darlinghurst Call Centre**

**Hansard Page: CA 14**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Was the Darlinghurst Call Centre a purpose built facility?

**Answer:**

Yes. A 10 year pre-commitment was entered into by the then Department of Social Security in September 1993.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 1**

**Topic: Job network Evaluation – Productivity Commission**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What Centrelink functions have been identified as being capable of being delivered by Job Network providers or other agencies?

**Answer:**

The Government has made no decision in this regard.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 2**

**Topic: Job network Evaluation – Productivity Commission**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

If no Centrelink functions have yet been identified as being capable of being delivered by other providers, has the Government ruled out contestability or privatisation of any of all or part of Centrelink's activities?

**Answer:**

Refer to the Government's response to recommendation 15.1

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** Centrelink  
**Topic:** Compliance

**Question No:** 3

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

1. How many Jobseeker Diaries were issued by Centrelink in 2001-2002?
2. What processes are in place for the verification of details in Jobseeker Diaries?
3. What proportion of entries in a jobseeker Diary are usually verified?
4. How many Jobseeker Diaries were verified in 2001-2002?
5. How many Jobseekers were breached in 2001-2 for failing to complete jobseeker diaries and how many for including inaccurate or false information in their jobseeker diary?

**Answer:**

1. 11,624 breach penalties for failure to return a Jobseeker Diary. Centrelink issued 727,519 Jobseeker diaries in the 2001-02 financial year.
2. Upon the return of a Jobseeker Diary an assessment is made against the minimum number of job contacts per fortnight derived on an individual basis taking into account local, individual and general factors. A decision as to whether the work efforts in the diary are; satisfactory, marginal or unsatisfactory is made. For job seekers that require additional monitoring of their work efforts, resulting from the return of a Jobseeker Diary, will be issued with an Employer Contact Certificate which will provide written verification of a job seeker's approach to a prospective employer.
3. There is no data that is captured to report the number of individual entries of a Jobseeker Diary that are verified.
4. There is no data that is captured to report the number of Jobseeker Diaries that are verified.
5. Data on the number of job seekers incurring a breach penalty for failing to complete the diary and for including inaccurate or false information in their diary is not available. In 2001-02, breach penalties associated with Jobseeker Diaries were:
  - 10,564 breach penalties imposed for unsatisfactory Jobseeker Diaries;
  - 11,624 breach penalties for failure to return a Jobseeker Diary.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 4**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide a copy of the market research undertaken by AC Neilson at a cost of \$74,785 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

Please find attached a copy of the research reports for the market research in question undertaken by AC Neilson.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 5**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide a copy of the research report into the experiencing of Youth Allowance recipients undertaken by the Brotherhood of St Laurence at a cost of \$20,000 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

The draft report by the Brotherhood of St Laurence has been completed and is currently being reviewed by all committee members. Members are being given a couple of weeks to proof the report and suggest amendments. These amendments will be incorporated into the report which will be released in February.

Centrelink has been working closely with BSL throughout the research process and is a member of the research committee. The report will be forwarded upon completion.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**  
**Topic: Consultancies**

**Question No: 6**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide a copy of the research undertaken by the Council to Homeless Persons at a cost of \$35,000 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

Attached is a copy of the research undertaken by the Council to Homeless Persons at a cost of \$35,000 detailed in the consultancies Register for 2001 – 02.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 7**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:** Please provide copies of the two pieces of customer satisfaction research (Wave 8) undertaken by DBM Consultants detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-2002.

**Answer:** Attached are four copies of:

- (1) The Customer Service Centre Customer Satisfaction Survey Report (Wave 8) – November 2001. This report is the national summary of the survey results. It contains aggregated results of interviews collected at the Customer Service Centre level.

There were three levels of reports provided in Wave 8 of the survey. A total of 305 reports were provided to individual Customer Service Centres. This data was aggregated to produce 15 Area-level reports. This data in turn was aggregated to produce a national level report.

The International Customer Satisfaction Survey Report (Wave 8) – November 2001.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 8**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:** Please provide a copy of the Call Centre Satisfaction research (Wave 8) undertaken by DBM Consultants at a cost of \$42,850 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-2002.

**Answer:** Attached are copies of the Call Centre Customer Satisfaction Survey Report (Wave 8) – November 2001.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 9**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:** Please provide a copy of the Customer Expectations research undertaken by DBM Consultants at a cost of \$50,850 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-2002.

**Answer:** Attached is a copy of the Customer Expectations Research Report - September 2001.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Strategic Services Team, Centrelink**

**Question No: 10**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide copies of the two pieces of research undertaken by Millward Brown Australia detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

Attached is the *National Customer Satisfaction Survey Wave 10 – November 2001 Final Report*.

Also attached is Volume 1: Executive Summary of the *Review of the Key Drivers of Customer Satisfaction with the Overall Quality of the Service Provider by Centrelink, November 2001*.

This is a large report in several parts. Also available is:

- Centrelink Key Drivers of Customer Satisfaction Review 2001, Volume 2: Qualitative Research – 91 pages.
- Centrelink Key Drivers of Customer Satisfaction Review 2001, Volume 3: Quantitative Research – 231 pages.
- Centrelink Key Drivers of Customer Satisfaction Review 2001, Volume 4: Recommendations for Satisfaction Research – 48 pages.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 11**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide details of the Media Liaison service provided by Monkey Business Pty Ltd at a cost of \$45,000 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

Monkey Business Pty Ltd was contracted to:

- prepare media releases, and
- provide training and guidance to Centrelink managers and staff on interacting effectively with local media in order to assist Centrelink communicate payments and services information to customers, and potential customers, through local newspapers.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** Centrelink

**Question No:** 12

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide details of the terms of reference of the Business Performance review conducted by Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd at a cost of \$1,239,700 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

The terms of reference outlined in the Request for Quotation were:

**Background - This Requirement**

The Centrelink Board is responsible to determine Centrelink's goals, priorities, policies and strategies and ensures functions are properly, efficiently and effectively performed.

In exercising these responsibilities the Board is seeking to assure itself that Centrelink management, customer service and business performance and cost efficiency is commensurate with best practice public and private sector performance. Service quality and performance is critical to the Government and the broader Australian community.

The Board is seeking information and advice from this study to enable it to assess Centrelink operational cost efficiency. The study will inform Board consideration of capability acquisition and assist development and implementation of enabling investment strategies.

**A. The Services and goods**

Centrelink is seeking proposals for a study to:

- assess the scope and extent of Centrelink's investment in research and innovation and in renewing of organisational capability;
- report on the extent to which Centrelink is able and is making adequate provision for future asset replacement;
- examine Centrelink's internal capacity to fund capability requirements and asset replacement having regard to Centrelink's operation under the Financial Management and Administration (FMA) Act;
- benchmark key aspects of Centrelink's operating costs against appropriate private and public sector benchmarks, including:

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

- the level of management overhead;
- the Information and Technology cost base;
- service delivery costs;
- examine Centrelink's strategic cost management framework and advise as to its adequacy as a suitable vehicle for identifying future improvement opportunities;
- validate Centrelink's assessment of the efficiency dividends yielded by Centrelink to Government since its establishment; and
- recommend improvement opportunities Centrelink might undertake.

In conducting this study, the consultant will have regard to Centrelink's role and accountability as a public sector agency under the FMA Act and its role to provide access to citizens for the services Government wishes it to provide. The consultant is expected to consult with a broad range of key stakeholders in conducting the study.'

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** .....CENTRELINK

**Question No:** 13

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide a copy of any reports or documentation arising from the Business Performance consultancy by Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd at a cost of \$1,239,700 detailed in the Consultancies Register for 2001-02.

**Answer:**

A copy of the Report provided by the Boston Consulting Group is attached.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: CENTRELINK**

**Question No: 14**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide details of the panel of consultants from Boston Consulting Pty Ltd who are responsible for the Business Performance Consultancy.

**Answer:**

The consultancy was undertaken by a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) team comprising:

- Mr Larry Kamener
- Mr Jim Carlton
- Mr Danny Dale
- Ms Kate Cotter
- Mr Hanno Ketterer
- Ms Helen Kilber
- Mr Victor Leung
- Ms Jo-Ann Ong
- Ms Julie Caldecott
- Mr Anuf Masood

The team drew upon broader BCG (national and international) expertise in undertaking the task.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 15**

**Topic: Customer Relations Units – Complaint data**

**Hansard Page: CA7**

**Senator Mark Bishop asked:**

Can you tell me the criteria that determines what tier a complaint to the Customer Relations Unit is assigned? Can you provide us with a breakdown of complaints by issue or payment type?

**Answer:**

A three tier scale based on the complexity of the contact and on who will need to be involved to resolve the contact is used in determining Tier level, with 90% of complaints having to be resolved within specific time targets.

- Tier 1 cases are those which are resolved by Customer Relations staff
- Tier 2 cases are those where CRU staff liaise with Customer Service Centres, Call Centres or Area Office to resolve an issue
- Tier 3 cases are those where CRU staff liaise with Centrelink National Support Office to resolve an issue

The majority of complaints are Tier 1 or 2. In 2001/2002 99.8% of the Tier 1 cases, 97% of the Tier 2 and 96% of the Tier 3 cases were resolved within the given time frames. The time frames for resolution are, Tier 1 – 1 Working Day, Tier 2 – 3 Working Days, Tier 3 – 7 Working Days.

***Breakdown of complaints for 2001/2002 Financial Year***

<b>Segment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Highest Payment Complaints</b>	<b>Records</b>
Employment Services	10124	Newstart Allowance	8998
Disability & Carers	4891	Disability Pension	3047
Family Payments	9030	FTB A	2583
Youth and Students	5093	Youth Allowance – Student	2119
Retirements	2487	Age Pension	2129
Rural and Housing	537	Rent Assistance	477
Indigenous	9	Indigenous CSO	3
Multicultural	102	Special Benefit	77
Other	4166	Debt Recovery	1615

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

<b>Contributing Factor</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Highest Contributing Factor Detail</b>	<b>Records</b>
Legislation and Policy	9806	Disagree with assessment/decision	3954
Access to Services	2229	Difficulty Accessing Centrelink	776
Prompt and Efficient Service	7401	Delay in Payment	3008
Getting it Right	7780	Inaccurate information provided	1065
Personal Service	9223	Lack of respect/rude/not treated with dignity	1952

**Breakdown of overall CRU contracts for 2001/2002 Financial Year**

*Overall*

<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of overall contacts</b>
General Information	51231	25.3%
General Information (referred to Call Centre number)	80019	39.5%
Call Centre Lines Busy	18019	8.9%
Tipoff (Report a fraud)	10756	5.3%
Compliments	5142	2.5%
Suggestions	614	0.3%
Complaints	36439	18%
Intent to Claim	281	0.1%

*Tier Level 1*

<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of overall contacts</b>
General Information	51231	28.3%
General Information (referred to Call Centre number)	80019	44.3%
Call Centre Lines Busy	18019	10%
Tipoff (Report a fraud)	10756	6%
Compliments	5142	2.8%
Suggestions	614	0.3%
Complaints	14638	8.1%
Intent to Claim	281	0.2%

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

*Tier Level 2*

<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of overall contacts</b>
General Information	0	
General Information (referred to Call Centre number)	0	
Call Centre Lines Busy	0	
Tipoff (Report a fraud)	0	
Compliments	0	
Suggestions	0	
Complaints	21358	100%
Intent to Claim	0	

*Tier Level 3*

<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of overall contacts</b>
General Information	0	
General Information (referred to Call Centre number)	0	
Call Centre Lines Busy	0	
Tipoff (Report a fraud)	0	
Compliments	0	
Suggestions	0	
Complaints	443	100%
Intent to Claim	0	

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: CENTRELINK**

**Question No: 16**

**Topic: Board Remuneration**

**Hansard Page: CA8**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Can you provide the committee with a copy of the pay scales as set out by the Remuneration Tribunal at which board member should be paid?

**Answer:**

Attached are copies of the Remuneration Tribunal pay scales.

The determination that relates to Centrelink Board Members is 2002/10 (Principal Determination - Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office).

Centrelink is referred to as 'Commonwealth Service Delivery Agency' not 'Centrelink' in the determination. All notes regarding additional Committee fees are also in the attachment.

The Remuneration Tribunal Determination is located at this link:

[http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/Home/consolidated\\_principal\\_determi.html](http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/Home/consolidated_principal_determi.html)

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 17**

**Topic: SMS Texting – contractual arrangement with Telstra**

**Hansard Page: CA11**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Was Telstra's price done on a full commercial basis?

**Answer:**

The Centrelink SMS Proof of Concept Trial was priced by Telstra within the existing managed voice services contract between Telstra and Centrelink. The trial will run to June 2003 and is not expected to exceed \$6000. The current managed voice services contract between Centrelink and Telstra, was subject of an open market test in August 1999 and is scheduled for retesting next calendar year.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Centrelink**

**Question No: 18**

**Topic: SMS Texting – contractual arrangement with Telstra**

**Hansard Page: CA11**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Can you provide me with an update of the SMS project?

**Answer:**

The Business Transformation Project Team is currently trialling Short Message Service (SMS) with approximately 300 youth customers, this is being conducted in Adelaide, ACT, Bathurst and Southport. This trial has been continuing since June 2002.

The evaluation of Phase 1 of the SMS trial will be available in early January 2003, including recommendations for the future use of SMS within Centrelink and defining further evaluation criteria for phase 2.

At present the use of SMS is in conjunction with the traditional communication methods and identifying the cost efficiencies and savings is a high priority in phase 2.

The messages that are being sent are:

- Appointment reminders;
- Payment sent;
- Fortnightly lodgement reminders;
- Notification of suspension/cancellations;
- Activity Test reminders.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: All**

**Question No: 173**

**Topic: Research**

**Topic: Customer Relations Units – Complaint data**

**Hansard Page: CA56**

**Senator Collins asked:**

Qualitative and quantitative research undertaken into breaching and mutual obligation during the last two years. Could we have a description and a copy of the results of those projects?

**Answer:**

Overview:

The following research has been undertaken in the last two years or is currently in progress in relation to breaching and mutual obligation:

- Breaching – history, trends and issues (paper attached)
- The Impact of breaches on income support recipients
- Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments – A: Mutual Obligation
- Mutual Obligations and *Australians Working Together (AWT)*: evaluation of the incentive effects of activity requirements
- Mutual Obligations and *Australians Working Together (AWT)*: part-time work and the income support system
- Parenting Payment Intervention Pilot (paper attached)
- Activity test evaluation.

Research Summaries

**Breaching – History, Trends and Issues (Paper attached)**

This paper was prepared by FaCS for the 7th National Conference on Unemployment held at the University of Western Sydney in December 2000. The paper looks at trends in breach numbers up to July 2000. It considers possible reasons for the increased breach rate, including changes to activity test policy, changing community expectations in a growing labour market and the characteristics of the recipient population.

**The Impact of Breaches on Income Support Recipients**

The project is being undertaken by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. It commenced in April 2002 and is due for completion in April 2003.

The study will have four main components:

- Review of existing knowledge on breaching;
- Survey of breached customers;
- National survey of key welfare agencies; and
- Qualitative interviews with breached customers.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

This research is still in progress and results are not yet available.

**Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments – A: Mutual Obligation**

The research examines how the introduction of Mutual Obligations (MO) for the 18-24 year olds in 1 July 1998 has affected exit from unemployment related payments. The MO applied to 18-24 year olds who were receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance (unemployed) for six months and whose activity type was job search. The first phase of the project is an examination of the effect of MO on the probability of exit in the first six months after commencement of the unemployment spell ('pre-MO effect' or MO Compliance effect). This phase of the research will be completed late this year.

Stage two of the project focuses on the effect of the participation in MO related activities on the probability of exit from unemployment payments- the post-MO effect. This research will start next year.

Both stages one and two of the research use a range of matching and natural experiment methods.

Results are not yet available.

**Mutual Obligations and Australians Working Together (AWT): Evaluation of the Incentive Effects of Activity Requirements**

This project is the exploratory component of research aiming to assess how job seekers' behaviour is affected by various activity requirements associated with benefit receipt. Work undertaken in 2002 develops descriptive information on earnings patterns within several payment types, broadly defined as the basis of the income tests and reporting requirements imposed. This information covers earnings incidence and patterns of earnings incidence by individuals over time. The main correlates of earnings and their patterns over time will then be examined. Results are not yet available

**Mutual Obligations and Australians Working Together (AWT): Part-Time Work And The Income Support System**

This project examines the extent to which part-time employment while an income support recipient receives payments acts as a stepping-stone off benefits (a bridge to self-reliance and/or financial independence) or whether it prolongs dependence on income support. The earnings patterns (both incidence and levels) of income support recipients are analysed, followed by an econometric analysis, employing both duration models and matching methods, to evaluate the impact of such earnings on income support use over time. The project commenced in April 2002 and is due for completion in December 2002. Results are not yet available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Parenting Payment Intervention Pilot – Longitudinal Data Set component**

The Parenting Payment intervention Pilot was conducted between May 2000 and June 2002. The Pilot attempts to track participation levels and exits from Payment for Parenting Payment customers who participated in the Parenting Payment Intervention Pilot. A paper containing some preliminary results is attached.

**Activity test evaluation**

The Activity test evaluation aims to assess:

- The appropriateness of current activity test arrangements, including Mutual Obligation requirements, for achieving intended outcomes
- The extent to which activity testing arrangements achieve the identified outcomes for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) customers and improve labour market functioning
- Whether activity test policy and administration is sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of individuals.

The component of this evaluation which relates to mutual obligation will be informed by the project “Impact of activity test requirements on exit from payments A: Mutual Obligation” referred to above. A report is expected during the first half of 2003.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: All**

**Question No: 189**

**Topic: Research**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Please provide copies of the following reports/evaluations as listed in the Research and Evaluation Digest 2001-02, with details of funding for each project, who undertook the project, what consultation was involved in each one and what if any response the government has made to each.

**Answer:**

Overview

Availability of Reports

Reports for the following projects are pending publication in the departmental Research Publications series:

- 1.15 A review of child poverty
- 3.1 Economic and social participation of FaCS customers: literature review and data analysis

Reports for the following projects are not available as either: the work is still in progress; reports are yet to be released or; no report is expected.

- 1.6 Family Choice Survey
- 1.12 Evaluation of the Men and Family Relationships Initiative (final report pending release)
- 1.14 Dimensions of Childlessness
- 1.21 Public policy and labour market experiences of youth: persistence in youth labour market history
- 1.23 Longitudinal survey of Reconnect clients
- 1.25 Affordability of child care
- 1.26 Workforce incentives
- 1.27 Cost of child care
- 1.29 Child Care demographics (update only – report due June 2003)
- 3.2 Exploring the determinants and impact of participation among FaCS customers**
- 3.10 Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments - A: Mutual obligation
- 3.13 Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments - D: Work for the dole**

Government response

The results of research feed into ongoing policy development and review processes but are not usually the subject of a government response.

Detailed Response

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**1.6 Family Choice Survey**

Work has not yet commenced on this project.

**1.12 Evaluation of the Men and Family Relationships Initiative**

A final report of the Evaluation of the Men and Family Relationships Initiative has recently been received and is yet to be released.

Total funding allocated to the evaluation of the Men and Family Relationships initiative was \$420,000 (GST exclusive).

The evaluator was Phoenix Projects.

Consultation methods employed in the evaluation included:

- a series of community case studies;
- surveys of pilot service organisations; and
- surveys of clients.

**1.14 Dimensions of Childlessness**

The researcher gave a presentation of survey findings to FaCS in May 2002. There is no report available for this project.

The total cost to FaCS for this project was \$20,000

The project is being undertaken by a PhD student in the Demography Program at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences.

The project has involved a number of government and public stakeholders, including:

- The Demography Program in ANU Research School of Social Sciences;
- The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs;
- The Office of the Status of Women; and
- The Strategic Policy and Knowledge Branch (formerly Strategic Policy and Analysis) in the Department of Family and Community Services.

**1.15 A Review of Child Poverty**

A report from this research is forthcoming in the FaCS Policy Research Paper series.

The total cost to FaCS for this project was \$61,619.

The research was conducted through the University of New South Wales, Social Policy Research Centre.

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

**1.21 Public policy and labour market experiences of youth: persistence in youth labour market history**

This research is in progress, there is no report available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The total cost to FaCS for this project is \$36,878.

The research is being conducted through the Australian National University, Social Policy Economic Analysis and Research Centre.

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

### **1.23 Longitudinal survey of Reconnect clients**

Outcomes of the first wave of the Longitudinal Survey of Reconnect Clients have informed *Making a Difference: the First Report of the Longitudinal Evaluation of Reconnect*, which is currently being considered by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs for public release. The Longitudinal Survey of Reconnect Clients is due to be finalised in April 2003. No separate report on this longitudinal study is planned for publication but its findings will inform an overall final report of the Reconnect Program Evaluation, which is expected to be publicly released in late 2003.

The total cost of the project to FaCS is \$336,798

The Evaluation of Reconnect (of which the longitudinal study is a part) is being advised by a Steering Committee comprising staff from FaCS National and State Offices, an academic and representatives of Reconnect service providers. The research is being conducted by RPR Consulting.

Consultation has been via the Steering Committee.

### **1.25 Affordability of child care**

This project is a work in progress for which there is no report available.

The research is being conducted within existing resources.

The research is being conducted by departmental staff.

External consultation has not been necessary.

### **1.26 Workforce incentives**

This project is a work in progress for which there is no report available.

The research is being conducted within existing resources by Departmental staff.

Consultation (see 1.25)

### **1.27 Cost of child care**

This project is a work in progress for which there is no report available. It will be presented at the Conference of the Australian Institute of Family Studies in February 2003.

The research is being conducted within existing resources by departmental staff.

Consultation (see 1.25).

### **1.29 Child Care demographics**

This project is a work in progress for which there is no report available.

The research is being conducted within existing resources by departmental staff.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

3.1 Economic and social participation of FaCS customers: literature review and data analysis

A report from this research is forthcoming in the FaCS Policy Research Paper series.

The total cost to FaCS for this project was \$91,691.

The research was conducted through the University of New South Wales, Social Policy Research Centre.

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

3.2 Exploring the determinants and impact of participation among FaCS customers

This research is still in progress and no report is yet available.

The total cost to FaCS for this project is \$136,404

The research was conducted through the University of New South Wales, Social Policy Research Centre

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

3.10 Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments - A: Mutual obligation

This research is not yet complete and there is no report available.

The total cost to FaCS for this project is \$67,860.

The research is being conducted through the Melbourne University, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

3.11 Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments - B: Intensive review

This research is not yet finalized and no report is available.

The total cost to FaCS for this project is \$58,563

The research is being conducted through the Melbourne University, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

3.13 Effect of changes to activity test arrangements on exit from payments - D: Work for the dole

This research is not yet finalized and no report is yet available.

The total cost to FaCS for this project is \$44,989 .

**The research is being conducted through the Melbourne University, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.**

Consultation: As required, staff from other Commonwealth agencies, peak bodies and academic institutions were asked to comment or provide advice.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Cross All Outcomes**

**Question No: 190**

**Topic: Breakdown of Number of Recipients of each Income Support Payments and Benefits Administered under the Social Security Act and New Tax System Family Assistance Act 2000**

**Written question on notice**

For June 2001 and June 2002, a breakdown of the number of recipients of each income support payment and benefit administered under the Social Security Act 1991 and New Tax System Family Assistance Act 2000 disaggregated by:

- a) Females by age (one year increments) (active payments)
- b) Males by age (one year increments) (active payments)
- c) Females by age (one year increments) (suspended payments)
- d) Males by age (one year increments) (suspended payments)

Can data be provided electronically in a Microsoft *Excel* spreadsheet?

**Answer:**

The information sought to the honourable senator's question is not readily available. To provide a complete response would require excessive time and resources.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 19**

**Topic: FTB debts relating to discrepancies in the dependant child earnings.**

**Hansard Page: CA 53**

**Senator Jacinta Collins** asked: (a) How many FTB debts relate to discrepancies in the dependant child earnings? (b) What was this average debt for the dependant child earnings?

**Answer:**

The figures provided are for debts raised from March 2002, as prior to this time these debts could not be separately identified. It is not possible to identify which financial year's entitlement these debts relate to.

- (a) 2001/2002 (March to June): 943 debts were raised for recovery, totalling \$867,490.00.
- (b) Average debt was \$919.92

Note: The number of debts raised in the same period where recovery was waived at determination was 49, totalling \$5,213.00. Reasons for waiver could have included small debt, transitional waiver or hardship provisions.

- (a) 2002/2003 (July to November): 2937 debts were raised for recovery, totalling \$1,758,974.00
- (b) Average debt was \$598.90

Note: The number of debts raised in the same period where recovery was waived at determination was 444, totalling \$11,489.00. Reasons for waiver could have included small debt, transitional waiver or hardship provisions.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 31**

**Topic: Backbench Committee Examining Family Policy Changes**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

(i) An article in the *Canberra Times* titled “Backbench committee to press for family law changes” on 17 November 2002, detailed a meeting of Government backbenchers and frontbenchers about family policy reform. Were any Departmental staff from Family and Community Services, Child Support Agency or Centrelink present at this meeting?

(ii) What policy work is being undertaken in any of the three Departments in support of the activities of this committee?

**Answer:**

(i) No.

(ii) Without knowing the specifics of the discussions at the meeting reported in the *Canberra Times* article, it is not possible to identify if any policy work being undertaken would support the activities of this committee.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.1 Family Assistance

**Question No:** 32

**Topic:** Backbench Committee Examining Family Policy Changes

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Have any of the three Departments [Family and Community Services, Child Support Agency or Centrelink] been asked by Ministers Anthony or Vanstone to evaluate or cost policy options presented to the committee by Government backbenchers or any of the groups present at the meeting?

**Answer:**

The Department provides background and briefing material to Ministers on a range of issues, including issues relating to policies affecting families.

As indicated in the reply to Question on Notice 31, no Departmental officers were present at the meeting reported in the *Canberra Times* of Sunday 17 November 2002 and we have no information on the issues discussed. It is not possible therefore to identify if any information provided to Ministers arose from the meeting.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 34**

**Topic: Family Tax Benefit and Family Allowance**

**Hansard Page: Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

The 2001-2002 FaCS annual report noted that the average estimated FTB-A family income in June 2002 was \$42,700 (excluding sole parents receiving income support):

- a) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, what was the estimated average FTB-A family income for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?
- b) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, what was the actual average FTB-A family income for 2000-2001 following reconciliation?
- c) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, what is the estimated average and median FTB family income for 2002-2003?
- d) Excluding sole parents receiving income support what was the estimated average income for FTB-B recipients for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?
- e) Excluding sole parents receiving income support what was the actual average income for FTB-B recipients for 2000-2001 following reconciliation?
- f) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, what is the estimated median and average income for FTB-B recipients for 2002-2003?
- g) In each year of the forward estimates what is the anticipated average family income for FTB-A?
- h) In each year of the forward estimates what is the anticipated average income for FTB-B recipients?

**Answer:**

- a) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, the average estimated FTB-A family income was:
  - at June 2001, \$37,390 for 2000-2001;
  - at June 2002, \$42,700 for 2001-2002.
- b) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, at June 2002, the average actual FTB-A family income for 2000-2001 following reconciliation was \$43,060.
- c) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, at November 2002, the average estimated FTB family income for 2002-2003 was \$45,180; and the median estimated FTB family income for 2002-2003 was \$45,000.
- d) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, the average estimated income for FTB-B recipients was:
  - at June 2001, \$6,930 for 2000-2001;
  - at June 2002, \$7,960 for 2001-2002.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

e) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, at June 2002, the average actual income for FTB-B recipients for 2000-2001 following reconciliation was \$8,070.

f) Excluding sole parents receiving income support, at November 2002, the average estimated income for FTB-B recipients for 2002-2003 was \$8,160; and the median estimated income for FTB-B recipients for 2002-2003 was \$2,980.

g) and h) The anticipated average family income for FTB Part A and the anticipated average income for FTB Part B recipients have not been separately calculated in determining estimated expenditure for FTB Part A and FTB Part B in each year of the forward estimates.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 35**

**Topic: Family Allowance**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

What was the average and median Family Allowance income for the years ending June 1998, June 1999, and June 2000?

**Answer:**

The income data to answer this question is not available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance.....Question No: 36**

**Topic: Family Tax Benefit**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

- a) For June 2001 and June 2002 how many families received FTB-A for dependent children aged 16-24?
- b) For June 2001 and June 2002 how many families received FTB-A only for children aged 16-24?
- c) For June 2001 and June 2002 how many FTB-A children were aged 16-24?

**Answer:**

The breakdown for FTB Part A fortnightly recipients is shown in the following table.

	<b>June 2001</b>	<b>June 2002</b>
a) Families in receipt of FTB Part A for children aged 16-24	185,285	202,246
b) Families in receipt of FTB Part A only for children aged 16-24 (ie, they have no children aged under 16)	71,718	80,065
c) FTB Part A children aged 16-24	215,611	236,592

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 30**

**Topic: Family Tax Benefit**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Please provide for Family Tax Benefit Payments detailed in Question 190 (below) a further breakdown showing:

- e) Family Tax Benefit Part A (maximum rate)
- f) Family Tax Benefit Part A (broken rate)
- g) Family Tax Benefit Part A (base rate)
- h) Family Tax Benefit Part A (less than base rate)
- i) Family Tax Benefit Part B (maximum rate for child aged <5)
- j) Family Tax Benefit Part B (less than maximum rate for child aged <5)
- k) Family Tax Benefit Part B (maximum rate for child aged >5)
- l) Family Tax Benefit Part B (less than maximum rate for child aged >5)

Can this be provided electronically in a Microsoft *Excel* spreadsheet?

**Answer:**

The breakdown for FTB fortnightly recipients is shown in the following table. This table will also be provided electronically in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

	<b>June 2001</b>	<b>June 2002</b>
a) Family Tax Benefit Part A (maximum rate)	637,016	620,354
b) Family Tax Benefit Part A (broken rate)	406,105	431,552
c) Family Tax Benefit Part A (base rate)	725,392	708,709
d) Family Tax Benefit Part A (less than base rate)	31,193	34,233
Family Tax Benefit Part A (invalid code)	1,579	507
<b>Family Tax Benefit Part A (total)</b>	<b>1,801,285</b>	<b>1,795,355</b>
e) Family Tax Benefit Part B (maximum rate for child aged under 5)	385,387	395,480
f) Family Tax Benefit Part B (less than maximum rate for child aged under 5)	224,601	214,229
g) Family Tax Benefit Part B (maximum rate for child aged 5 or more)	463,966	475,787
h) Family Tax Benefit Part B (less than maximum rate for child aged 5 or more)	107,115	113,737
<b>Family Tax Benefit Part B (total)</b>	<b>1,181,069</b>	<b>1,199,233</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 42**

**Topic: Family Tax Benefit**

**Hansard Page: CA25**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

FaCS Annual Report p35 Table 8

Provide a breakdown of what areas of FTB grants the appeals were about.

**Answer:**

A breakdown of the reasons for FTB reviews is shown in the table below.

<b>Reason for review</b>	<b>Authorised Review Officer</b>	<b>Social Security Appeals Tribunal</b>	<b>Administrative Appeals Tribunal</b>
<b>Family Tax Benefit A</b>			
Arrears Payment	55	10	0
Cancellation	43	2	0
Date of Commencement	19	3	0
Loss/Reduction of Rent Assistance	2	0	0
Other	49	1	0
Overpayment (Amount)	271	49	1
Overpayment (Method/Rate)	30	3	0
Overpayment (Recovery)	382	70	2
Overpayment (Raise)	802	137	7
Rate	158	32	3
Rejection	62	8	0
Waiver	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Family Tax Benefit B</b>			
Arrears Payment	4	1	0
Cancellation	3	0	0
Other	8	0	1
Overpayment (Amount)	36	6	0
Overpayment (Method/Rate)	6	0	0
Overpayment (Recovery)	60	14	0
Overpayment (Raise)	127	28	0
Rate	9	0	1
Rejection	3	1	0
Suspension	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 37**

**Topic: Family Allowance and Family Payment**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

How many families received Family Allowance in June 1997, June 1998, and June 1999?

**Answer:**

The number of families who received Family Allowance was:

- 1,811,745 at June 1997 (then called Family Payment);
- 1,775,663 at June 1998;
- 1,773,185 at June 1999.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 38**

**Topic: Family Allowance and Family Tax Payment**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

- a) How many Family Allowance children were there in June 1998, June 1999 and June 2000?
- b) What was the average and median Family Allowance income for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000?
- c) Excluding sole parents receiving income support what was the average and median Family Allowance income for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000?
- d) What was the average and median Family Tax Payment Part A income for the year ending June 1998, June 1999 and June 2000?
- e) What was the average and median Family Tax Payment Part B income for the year ending June 1998, 1999, and 2000?

**Answer:**

- a) The number of children for whom Family Allowance was paid was:
  - 3,418,865 at June 1998;
  - 3,441,194 at June 1999;
  - 3,364,459 at June 2000.
- b) to e) The income data to answer these questions is not available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 39**

**Topic: Family Tax Benefit reconciliation results for 2000-01**

**Hansard Page: CA14**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

- a) Are the figures in the FaCS Annual Report (page 26) regarding FTB overpayments (670,282 = \$584 million) and FTB top-ups (271,409 = \$279 million) accurate to date?
- b) When were they collated?

**Answer:**

- a) The figures on Family Tax Benefit reconciliation for 2000-01 at page 26 of the FaCS 2001-02 Annual Report are for the period up to 30 June 2002 and are accurate to that date.
- b) The figures were collated in the week commencing 1 July 2002.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 40**

**Topic: FTB-CCB entitlement where 2001 tax return lodged after 30 June 2002**

**Hansard Page: CA17**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

What is the amount of FTB-CCB that families would have been entitled to either as a:

- a) top-up payment; or
- b) complete payment)

had they lodged before the June 30 deadline?

**Answer:**

- a) As at 29 November 2002, 25,072 Family Tax Benefit (FTB) customers who lodged 2001 tax returns after 30 June 2002, and/or whose partners lodged 2001 tax returns after 30 June 2002, would have received \$37,033,027 (an average of \$1477) in top-ups of their 2000-01 FTB entitlements had those returns been lodged before 1 July 2002. All of these customers were sent letters by the Family Assistance Office in April 2002 and reminder letters in June 2002 telling them that they would not receive top-ups if they lodged their 2001 tax returns after 30 June 2002.
- b) With regard to FTB and Child Care Benefit claims for 2000-01 that were lodged too late to be effective claims, the amount that would have been paid had those claims been lodged on time is not known as those claims have not been assessed for payment. The deadline for lodgement of FTB and CCB claims for 2000-01 was stated in the 2001 FTB Tax Claim and the CCB lump sum claim form, respectively. The lodgement deadline was also advised to childcare centres in May 2002 and to tax practitioners at various times in 2001 and 2002.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 41**

**Topic: Comparative figures for 2000-01 and 2001-02 family assistance reconciliation**

**Hansard Page: CA22**

**Senator Moore** asked: Provide comparative figures (01-02 and 02-03 financial years) for FTB and CCB on total number of claimants, overpayments, underpayments and reconciliations on a quarterly basis.

**Answer:**

As stated at the Estimates Hearings on 21 February 2002 (CA281-CA 284) and in subsequent answers to questions on notice, the results for reconciliations completed up to 11 January 2002 are the earliest available accurate and reliable figures for reconciliation in 2001-02. For reconciliations of 2001-02 payments in 2002-03, the earliest available figures are those as at 1 November 2002, provided at the Estimates Hearings on 21 November 2002 (CA21-22). As, to date, reconciliation has been completed for only the first quarter of 2002-03, and reconciliation results for the first quarter in 2001-02 are not available, a comparison on a quarterly basis of reconciliations of family assistance in 2001-02 and 2002-03 cannot be made.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 43**

**Topic: Reconciliation where former partner fails to lodge a tax return**

**Hansard Page: CA26**

**Senator Jacinta Collins** asked: If you have a family breakdown and one of the partners complies but the full reconciliation cannot occur for the period because the second partner has not complied, does that mean that the first partner who has complied is also penalised – were they eligible for a top up?

**Answer:**

If a former partner has not lodged a tax return for reconciliation of a Family Tax Benefit entitlement, and the customer has informed the Family Assistance Office of the separation, reconciliation is done on the basis of either:

- if the customer is not required to lodge a tax return - the customer's most recent estimate of the couple's income; or
- if the customer has lodged a tax return - the customer's actual taxable income and the customer's most recent estimate of the former partner's income.

A re-reconciliation may subsequently occur if the former partner later lodges their tax return.

If the couple separated before the end of the year being reconciled, the reconciliation result for the period before they separated can be a top-up or a nil adjustment but not an overpayment. This is to ensure that the customer's entitlement for that period is not adversely affected by an increase in the former partner's income after the separation.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.1 Family Assistance

**Questions No:** 20, 21, 22, 23, 26

**Topic:** Family Violence in Indigenous Communities

**Hansard Page:** Written question on notice

**Senator Ridgeway** asked:

(20) What programs and other measures does the Department have in place to address family violence in Indigenous communities, and what funding and resources are made available to implement these programs?

(21) What percentage of these programs and measures are delivered solely by Indigenous organisations or corporations, and which organisations are these?

(22) What percentage of these programs and measures are delivered solely by non-Indigenous or 'mainstream' health care providers, and what organisations are these?

(23) What percentage of these programs and measures are delivered by Indigenous organisations in partnership or in conjunction with non-Indigenous health care providers, and which organisations are these?

(26) To what extent are the programs to address family violence in Indigenous communities co-ordinated, or delivered in conjunction with, the Department of Health and Ageing and its programs to address alcohol and other forms of substance abuse within Indigenous communities?

**Answer:**

The Department currently does not have any programs in place that are focussed solely at addressing family violence in Indigenous communities.

The Department does, however, have a range of programs and measures which fund individual projects/services that might directly or indirectly impact upon family violence in Indigenous communities. These programs and measures include the Family Relationships Services Program, Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing and Child Abuse Prevention. Information about these programs is not readily available in the form sought by Senator Ridgeway, but a briefing by departmental officers about them can be arranged at his convenience.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1**

**Question No: 25**

**Topic: Family Violence in Indigenous Communities**

**Hansard Page: Written question on notice**

**Senator Ridgeway asked:**

What programs and actions are currently in place to address family violence in Indigenous communities beyond June 30, 2003?

**Answer:**

The Government is constantly reviewing the effectiveness and accessibility of its programs. Decisions about the funding of current/new programs beyond 30 June 2003, which may draw upon the outcomes of Partnerships Against Domestic Violence and other measures, would need to be part of future Budget processes.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1**

**Question No: 24**

**Topic: Partnerships Against Domestic Violence**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Ridgeway asked:**

When will all funding for Indigenous programs available under the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* program be expended?

**Answer:**

This question should be addressed to the Office of the Status of Women, which has overall responsibility for Partnerships Against Domestic Violence.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.1 Family Assistance

**Question No: 44**

**Topic: Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program - Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc**

**Hansard Page: CA27/28**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

- (i) Is it a not-for-profit agency?
- (ii) Do you know who is on the board of directors?
- (iii) Do you know who the employees are?
- (iv) Do you know how many employees there are?
- (v) Does the Department have a view about officers or senior employees of that particular organisation receiving clients who have requested advice on a range of financial matters that were within their bailiwick, and those officers or senior employees then referring those clients to wholly owned or controlled for-profit agencies that deliver or give financial advice to those claims?
- (vi) Are there any guidelines or restrictions or advice given that either allow or do not allow that type of conduct or referral?
- (vii) Would you regard the instance I have given as a conflict of interest?

**Answer:**

- (i) Yes, Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc is a not-for-profit agency.
- (ii) The Board of Management comprises: Libby Scheinpflug (President), Chris Harris (Secretary) and Graham Lockey (Treasurer).
- (iii) Yes – but this is information that we would not normally provide in this forum.
- (iv) There are five employees.
- (v) The Board of Management of Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc has written guidelines in place containing referral protocols which prohibit financial counsellors and staff employed by the organisation from referring clients to a particular company or business.

The Department supports this as normal business practice.

- (vi) Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc has written guidelines in place which disallow referral of clients from the organisation to a particular company or business.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

(vii) The President of the Board of Management of the organisation has provided an assurance to the Department that the referral protocols are strictly adhered to by all staff employed by the organisation and that there are no instances of conflict of interest.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 47**

**Topic: FAMnet/FaCSLink**

**Hansard Page: CA32**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

**(i) What are the details of the cost of establishment and implementation on an annual basis of FAMnet (FaCSLink) since it was brought into FaCS from the Attorney-General's Department in 1998?**

1999-2000	\$495 000
2000-2001	\$828 000 (GST exclusive)
2001-2002	\$227 000 (GST exclusive)
2002-2003	Estimated \$150 000 – \$200 000 (GST exclusive)

*Notes:*

- 1. Expenditure does not include costs for Departmental staff, but it does include the cost of specialist IT contractors.*
- 2. Expenditure in 2001-2002 was shared between several development projects. \$227 000 is the estimated FaCSLink component.*

**(ii) What further improvements are thought to be necessary for future years?**

Substantial improvements have been made this financial year. No further significant improvements are anticipated.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 191**

**Topic: Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations**

**Hansard Page: CA34**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

**Family Relationships Services Program**

**(i) What organisations/projects are being funded under the Family Relationships Services Program?**

A list of funded organisations/projects is attached.

**(ii) Are they expected to be completed on time/meet their goals?**

We expect that the majority will be completed on time/meet their goals.

**(iii) What is the actual expenditure year to date (YTD)?**

Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS): actual YTD expenditure is \$12 704 048 (incl. GST).

Attorney-General's Department (A-G's): actual YTD expenditure is \$12 493 850 (incl. GST).

Grand total actual YTD expenditure is \$25 197 898 (incl. GST).

The YTD figures above are exclusively for the Family Relationships Services Program and exclude payments for the Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program (whose figure is shown separately below). Also excluded from the above figures are the umbrella/program support bodies whose actual YTD is \$520 366 (incl. GST).

**(iv) Who do they report to?**

Organisations funded under the Family Relationships Services Program report to the Assistant Secretary of Family and Children's Services Branch.

**(v) What are the reporting requirements?**

Organisations providing a service type/s under the Family Relationships Services Program are required to provide:

- Six Monthly Expenditure Reports
- Annual Audited Financial Statement
- Annual Appraisal Report
- Performance information via FaCSLink

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Reporting requirements for other projects funded under the Program vary.

**(vi) To what extent have the reporting requirements been met?**

With respect to organisations providing a service type/s under the Program, with the exception of providing performance information, all organisations have met their reporting requirements, or have negotiated an extension of time to comply.

**(vii) What follow-up work has been done to ensure compliance with reporting requirements?**

For organisations providing service type/s under the Program, compliance with reporting requirements is linked to payments, which are made quarterly. Compliance with reporting requirements is reviewed at least on a quarterly basis, usually on an ongoing basis.

Some organisations have encountered difficulties providing performance information via FaCSLink. We have resolved the majority of these problems and the provision of performance information will be a major focus in 2003.

**Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program**

**(viii) What organisations/projects are being funded under the Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program?**

A list of funded organisations/projects is attached.

**(ix) Are they expected to be completed on time/meet their goals?**

Yes, funded organisations are expected to operate in accordance with the funding agreement and the program guidelines to meet the goals of the Program.

**(x) What is the actual expenditure year to date?**

The actual expenditure year to date is \$1 221 624 (incl. GST).

**(xi) Who do they report to?**

Funded organisations report to the Assistant Secretary of Family and Children's Services Branch.

**(xii) What are the reporting requirements?**

FaCS has funding agreements in place with all funded organisations requiring them to provide FaCS with: Quarterly data/report on client service, Annual Audited Financial Report

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

on utilization of funds provided by the Program, Annual Appraisal Report on financial counselling activities.

**(xiii) To what extent have the reporting requirements been met?**

All funded organisations have met their reporting requirements, or have negotiated an extension of time to comply.

**(xiv) What follow-up work has been done to ensure compliance with reporting requirements?**

The Program's project officer follows up with the funded organisations to ensure that they comply with the reporting requirements. Compliance is reviewed and followed up on an ongoing basis.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation/Individual	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Program	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)
CARE Inc Financial Counselling Service	CARE Inc	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$173,852.64
Centacare Catholic Community Services	Centacare Sydney	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$170,674.44
Centacare Catholic Family Services Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes	Centacare (Wilcannia-Forbes)	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$194,679.90
Christian Community Aid Service Inc	Ryde-Eastwood Financial Counselling Service	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$127,619.50
Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$74,709.30
Illawarra Legal Centre Inc	Illawarra Legal Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$87,348.76
Lismore Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Lismore Neighbourhood Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$102,539.18
Macarthur Legal Centre Inc	Macarthur Legal Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$90,374.64
Mission Australia (trading as Mission Australia Wollongong)	Mission Australia Wollongong	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$108,122.36
Redfern Legal Centre Ltd	Redfern Legal Centre Ltd	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$116,461.46
The United Church in Australia Property Trust [NSW] for Lifeline Macarthur	Lifeline Macarthur	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$103,379.72
The United Church in Australia Property Trust [NSW] for Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter	Lifeline Newcastle and Hunter	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$163,368.18
Wagga Wagga Family Support Service Inc	Wagga Wagga Family Support Service Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$76,438.70
Western NSW Community Legal Centre Inc	Western NSW Community Legal Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$163,155.88



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) for Wesley Mission Sydney and Credit Line	Credit Line Financial Counselling Services	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$423,719.48
Somerville Community Services Inc	Somerville Community Services Inc	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$158,763.16
Tangentyere Council Inc	Tangentyere Council Inc	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$168,711.74
The Synod of the Diocese of the Northern Territory Inc, as represented by and acting through Anglicare Top End	Anglicare Top End	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$225,866.62
Central Queensland Financial Counselling Service Inc	Central Queensland Financial Counselling Service Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$246,081.30
Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc	Financial Counselling Services (Qld) Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$495,000.46
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (O), as represented by and acting through LIFELINE SUNSHINE COAST	Lifeline Sunshine Coast	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$166,869.96
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Qld), as represented by and acting through Lifeline Brisbane	Lifeline Brisbane	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$160,944.22
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Qld), as represented by and acting through Lifeline Cairns Region	Lifeline Cairns Region	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$261,030.12
Townsville Community Legal Service Inc	Townsville Community Legal Service Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$199,967.88
Adelaide Central Mission Inc	Adelaide Central Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$298,950.48
Cooper Pedy Multicultural Community Forum Inc	Cooper Pedy Multicultural Community Forum Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$194,087.32
Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service	Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$95,199.44
Para Districts Community Legal Service Inc	Para Districts Community Legal Service Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$102,468.82
Wesley Uniting Mission Inc	Wesley Uniting Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$117,874.58
Anglicare Tasmania Inc	Anglicare Tasmania Inc	TAS	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$310,935.38
Anglicare Victoria	Anglicare Victoria	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$269,252.54

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Bendigo Community Health Services Inc	Bendigo Community Health Services Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 102,681.18
Berry Street Victoria Inc	Berry Street Victoria Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$97,722.90
Casey Cardinia Legal Service Inc	Casey Cardinia Legal Service Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 139,040.12
Djerriwarh Health Services Inc	Djerriwarh Health Services Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$91,159.52
FMC Relationship Services	Family Mediation Centre	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 115,496.94
Footscray Community Legal Centre Inc	Footscray Community Legal Centre Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 192,301.20
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Vic), as represented by and acting through Kildonan Child & Family Services	Kildonan Child and Family Services	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$97,687.22
Wonthaggi and District Hospital	Wonthaggi and District Hospital	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$87,584.06
City of Wanneroo	City of Wanneroo	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 129,487.54
Financial Counsellors Resource Project of Western Australia Inc	Financial Counsellors Resource Project of Western Australia Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$ 132,396.76
Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advice Service Inc	Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advice Service Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$90,161.34
Uniting Church Council of Mission Trust Association	Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program	\$96,068.14

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation/Individual	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Program	Name of Project/Project Description	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)
Centacare Australia Limited	Catholic Welfare Australia	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$125,851.68
Centacare Canberra and Goulburn	Centacare Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,555,258.60
Families Australia Inc	Families Australia Inc	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Umbrella Organisation	\$281,325.00
Family Services Australia	Family Services Australia	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$179,379.36
Lone Fathers Association (Australia) Inc	Lone Fathers Association (Australia) Inc	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$57,502.84
Phoenix Projects Pty Ltd	Phoenix Projects Pty Ltd	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Evaluation of men and family relationships under the Family Relationships Services Program	\$419,951.00
Relationships Australia Canberra & Region Inc	Relationships Australia Canberra & Region Inc	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$4,182,870.24
Relationships Australia Inc	Relationships Australia Inc	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$123,234.00
Trustees of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn	Marymead Child and Family Centre	ACT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$747,541.52
Anglican Counselling Service - Diocese of Armidale	Anglican Counselling Service - Diocese of Armidale	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$533,327.04
Baptist Community Services	Lifecare: Counselling and Family Services	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$857,695.28

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Centacare Catholic Family Services Diocese of Broken Bay	Centacare Broken Bay	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$2,001,880.48
Centacare Catholic Family Services Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes	Centacare (Wilcannia-Forbes)	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$559,503.12
Centacare Catholic Family Welfare Services	Centacare Wollongong	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$3,152,397.84
Centacare Newcastle	Centacare Newcastle	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$462,893.56
Centacare Sydney	Centacare Sydney	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$5,090,076.15
Community Connections North Coast Inc	Community Connections North Coast Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$256,097.08
Community Programs Inc	Community Programs Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$421,024.84
Interrelate (Family Life Movement of Australia)	Interrelate	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$7,805,842.08
Macquarie Legal Centre Inc (auspicing Central West Contact Service)	Macquarie Legal Centre Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$813,925.20
Manning Support Services Inc	Manning Support Services Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$209,503.88
Newcastle Family Support Services Inc	Newcastle Family Support Services Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$995,797.20
Relationships Australia (NSW)	Relationships Australia (NSW)	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$16,791,428.92
South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service (operating as Sydney Children's Hospital)	Sydney Children's Hospital	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$166,161.00
St Michael's Administration Pty Ltd operating as Centacare Catholic Family Services Trust Fund, known as Centacare Wagga Wagga	Centacare Wagga Wagga	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$823,163.72
Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council Operating as Anglicare NSW	Anglicare NSW	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,938,748.52
The Family Centre Community Projects Inc	The Family Centre Community Projects Inc	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$434,139.76
The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Bathurst, for The ORGANISATION (Centacare Bathurst)	Centacare Bathurst	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$728,741.12

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta as Trustees for Centacare Catholic Family Services	Centacare Parramatta	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,202,855.24
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) operating as UnitingCare Burnside	Burnside	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,297,190.12
UNIFAM	UNIFAM - Counselling and Mediation	NSW	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$6,292,563.20
Catholic Diocese of Darwin Property Development Trust, as represented by and acting through Centacare NT	Centacare NT	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$977,071.80
Relationships Australia, Northern Territory Inc	Relationships Australia, Northern Territory Inc	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,028,584.40
The Synod of the Diocese of the Northern Territory Inc, as represented by and acting through Anglicare Top End	Anglicare Top End	NT	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,917,814.76
CENTACARE CAIRNS as agent of the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns	Centacare Cairns	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$928,586.56
Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, trading as CENTACARE TOOWOOMBA	Centacare Toowoomba	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$416,563.88
George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc	Mackay Children's Contact Service	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$485,438.88
Kyabra Community Association Inc	Kyabra Community Association Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$345,784.20
Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland Ltd	Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland Ltd	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$585,824.24
Logan West Community Centre Inc	Logan West Community Centre Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,173,465.00
Men's Information & Support Association Inc	Men's Information & Support Association Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$506,321.12
Relationships Australia (QLD) Inc	Relationships Australia (QLD) Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$11,667,829.76
Sunshine Coast Family Contact Centre Association Inc	Sunshine Coast Family Contact Centre Association Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$336,590.36

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane, trading as KINECTIONS	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,726,919.28
The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, trading as Centacare Catholic Family and Community Services, Brisbane	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$2,508,420.84
The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Rockhampton, as represented by CENTACARE, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,075,123.32
The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Townsville, as represented by and acting through CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES TOWNSVILLE	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,194,394.08
The United Church in Australia Property Trust (Q), as represented by and acting through Lifeline Bundaberg	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$3,10,926.68
The United Church in Australia Property Trust (Q), as represented by and acting through LIFELINE SUNSHINE COAST	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,578,773.96
Toowoomba Community Access Association Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$670,544.80
Trustees of the Corporation of the Order of Sisters of Mercy in Queensland trading as Mercy Family Services	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$400,266.56
Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc	QLD	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,380,677.12
Adelaide Central Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$1,750,835.64
Anglican Community Care Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$475,727.20
Anglicare SA Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$910,112.00
Centacare Adelaide	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$2,585,841.16
Centacare Catholic Family Services Inc/Centacare Port Pirie	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$538,922.00
Lutheran Community Care	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$144,662.76

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$57,502.84
Port Adelaide Central Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$181,053.24
Port Pirie Central Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$94,804.48
Relationships Australia (SA) Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$7,084,700.80
Wesley Uniting Mission Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$327,340.88
Whyalla Counselling Service Inc	SA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$161,882.96
Anglicare Tasmania Inc	TAS	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,013,365.32
Centacare Tasmania	TAS	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,896,258.52
Community Mediation Service - Tasmania (Inc)	TAS	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$492,726.32
Relationships Counselling and Mediation Services Inc Trading as Relationships Australia, Tasmania	TAS	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$8,800,719.28
Anglicare Victoria	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,101,516.04
Australian Greek Welfare Society Ltd	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$280,550.32
Berry Street Victoria Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,339,295.40
Bethany Family Support Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,632,491.96
Brimbank Community Centre Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$750,044.52
Brotherhood of St Laurence	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Life Chances of Children Study, Stage 6	
Catholic Society of Marriage Educators	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Threshold Magazine	\$0.00
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$851,818.80
Centacare Catholic Family Services, Melbourne	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$3,333,830.00
Centacare Diocese of Sandhurst Victoria	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$668,261.60
Child & Family Services Ballarat Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,019,396.36
Children's Protection Society Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	American Tragedy - Families and Children Helpline	\$215,826.96

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

City of Greater Geelong	City of Greater Geelong	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$36,800.56
Drummond Street Relationship Centre Inc	Drummond Street Relationship Centre Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,999,425.72
Family Relationships Institute Inc	Family Relationships Institute Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$700,419.92
FMC Relationship Services	Family Mediation Centre	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$4,526,540.80
Gordon Homes for Boys & Girls Inc	GordonCare for Children	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$449,372.00
Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc	Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$292,211.08
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe City Council	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$36,800.56
LifeWorks Relationship Counselling and Education Services. An Anglican Agency	LifeWorks Relationship & Education Services	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$4,933,803.28
MacKillop Family Services Ltd	MacKillop Family Services Ltd	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$36,800.56
Mallee Family Care Inc	Mallee Family Care Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$1,045,425.56
Marriage Education Programme Inc, Victoria	Marriage Education Programme Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$96,718.56
Migrant Resource Centre North East Inc	Migrant Resource Centre North East Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$349,421.24
Personal Emergency Service Inc	Care Ring (Personal Emergency Service Inc)	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Men and Relationships: Implications for the Workplace seminar	\$2,750.00
Personal Emergency Service Inc	Care Ring (Personal Emergency Service Inc)	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Men's Line Australia telephone counselling service	\$1,800,000.00
Relationships Australia (Victoria)	Relationships Australia (Victoria) Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$9,142,603.80
Rural City of Wodonga	Rural City of Wodonga	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$376,832.92
Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust	Salvation Army Victoria	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$321,352.00
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Program Support Organisation	\$149,260.08
Southern Family Life Service Association Inc	Southern Family Life Service Association Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$343,221.12
Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc	Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program		\$287,517.64
Success Works Pty Ltd	Success Works	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	Facilitate Specialised Domestic Violence Forum, Melbourne, 16-17 July 2002	\$3,300.00



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Cairnmillar Institute	The Cairnmillar Institute	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$280,540.28
Upper Hume Community Health Service Inc	Upper Hume Community Health Service Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$199,320.12
Upper Murray Family Care Inc	Upper Murray Family Care Inc	VIC	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$336,590.36
Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc	ASWA Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$74,736.00
Anglican Health and Welfare Services Inc trading as Anglicare WA	Anglicare WA	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$4,931,090.08
GENTACARE FAMILY SERVICES GERALDTON, a Diocesan charitable organisation incorporated under the Roman Catholic Geraldton Church Property Act	Centacare Geraldton	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$504,214.56
Centrecare Inc	Centrecare Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$3,026,065.44
CLAN, Community Link & Network Inc WA	CLAN Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$326,199.92
Men's Outreach Service Inc	Men's Outreach Service Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$142,561.58
Ngala Inc	Ngala Family Resource Centre	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$370,693.64
Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc	Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$8,321,660.76
The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, as represented by and acting through Catholic Marriage Education Services	Catholic Marriage Education Services	WA	Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$249,594.16
Community Link Australia Pty Ltd	Community Link Australia		Grants to Family Relationship Support Organisations	Family Relationships Support Organisations	Family Relationships Services Program	\$715,665.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 45**

**Topic: Child Abuse Prevention**

**Hansard Page: CA28/29**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

**(i) What is funded under the child abuse prevention allocation?**

*Early Intervention Parenting* – The projects are aimed at child abuse prevention, improved parenting and strengthening families, with a key focus being the meeting of the special needs of families in rural and remote areas, Indigenous families and those from multi-cultural backgrounds. The projects will provide a range of benefits for families including: parenting courses; home visits by professionals and volunteers; establishment of playgroups; outreach services; and family support.

*Good Beginnings Prototype Projects* – The projects are aimed at prevention of child abuse.

*National Child Protection Clearinghouse* – FaCS funds the Clearinghouse, which is based in the Australian Institute of Family Studies, to disseminate information on child protection activities and research to professionals and organisations in this field. Among the clients of the Clearinghouse are policy makers including State and Territory government departments responsible for family and community services, service providers, professionals in child abuse prevention, researchers and students.

*Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP)* – ACCAP is an advisory body, which replaced the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

**(ii) What is the detailed breakdown of main funding categories for child abuse prevention? And what is the actual expenditure year to date?**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2002-03 Allocation (GST Exclusive)</b>	<b>2002-03 YTD Expenditure (GST Exclusive)</b>
Early Intervention Parenting	\$2 346 436	\$1 326 209
Good Beginnings Prototype Projects	\$154 066	\$51 081
National Child Protection Clearinghouse (general contract, copyright costs, ad-hoc research)	\$293 811	\$0
Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP)	\$388 000	\$88 307
Program Development	\$307 000	\$42 187
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3 489 313</b>	<b>\$1 507 784</b>

**(iii) What organisations/projects are being funded?**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

A list of organisations funded under Early Intervention Parenting and Good Beginnings Prototype Projects is attached.

**(iv) Are the Child Abuse Prevention projects expected to be completed on time/meet their goals?**

All of the Early Intervention Parenting projects and Good Beginning Prototype organisations are required to report at least twice a year against performance indicators and milestones established as a requirement of continued funding under the funding arrangements. They are also required to provide regular financial reports and audited financial statements.

**What Child Abuse Prevention projects are awaiting approval?**

There are a number of Child Abuse Prevention projects currently awaiting approval by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation/Individual	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Program	Name of Project/Project Description	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)
Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn as Trustee for Marymead Child and Family Centre	Marymead Child and Family Centre	ACT	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Parenting Between Cultures - Stage II	\$198,000.00
Byron Shire Council	Byron Shire Council	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	CARE Parent Support Project	\$143,000.00
Child Abuse Prevention Services Foundation Inc	Child Abuse Prevention Service	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Awareness/Intervention/ Stronger Families - CAPS	\$165,000.00
Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre Inc	Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre Inc	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Parents as Partners	\$198,000.00
Deniliquin Council for Social Development	Deniliquin Council for Social Development Family Support Program	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Deniliquin Family Support - Series of Parenting Programs	\$66,000.00
Fairfield City Council	Fairfield City Council	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	The Caravan Park Parenting Project	\$165,000.00
Good Beginnings Australia Ltd	Good Beginnings Hobart	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Good Beginnings Volunteer Home Visiting and parenting program	\$205,700.00
Good Beginnings Australia Ltd	Good Beginnings Inner Western Sydney	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Good Beginnings Volunteer Home Visiting and Parenting Program	\$179,189.00
Good Beginnings Australia Ltd	Good Beginnings Katherine	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Good Beginnings Volunteer Home Visiting and Parenting Program	\$147,169.00
KU Children's Services	KU Children's Services	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Families First Macarthur	\$176,000.00
NAPCAN Australia - National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	NAPCAN Australia	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	National Child Protection Week Campaign 1-7 September 2002	\$220,000.00
NAPCAN Australia - National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	NAPCAN Australia	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	National Child Protection Week Campaign 2-8 September 2001	\$220,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

NAPCAN Australia - National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	NAPCAN Australia	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Family and Community Workshops based on Traditional Aboriginal Culture	\$220,000.00
Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies	Tresillian Family Care Centres	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Pilot Home Visiting Intervention Programme (PHVIP)	\$198,000.00
Shoalhaven Division of General Practice Inc	Shoalhaven Division of General Practice Inc	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Young Parents Early Intervention Parenting Project	\$49,500.00
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) for Lower Mountains Family Support Service	Lower Mountains Family Support Service	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Family Links Project	\$90,733.00
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) operating as UnitingCare Burnside	UnitingCare Burnside - Macarthur Family Services	NSW	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Engaging and Strengthening Parents with Mental Health Problems	\$99,000.00
Playgroup Association of the Northern Territory Inc	Playgroup Association of the Northern Territory Inc	NT	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Parenting Through Playgroup	\$198,000.00
YWCA of Darwin	YWCA	NT	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	YWCA Palmerston Parenting Support Service	\$165,000.00
Anglicare Central Queensland Ltd	Anglicare Central Queensland Ltd	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Specialised Early Intervention Parenting Program	\$198,000.00
Northern Peninsula Area Women's Shelter ATSI Corporation	Northern Peninsula Area Women's Shelter ATSI Corporation	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	NPA Intensive Family Support	\$198,000.00
Playgroup Association of QLD Inc	Playgroup Association of Queensland Inc	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Sing and Grow	\$187,000.00
Playgroup Association of QLD Inc	Playgroup Association of Queensland Inc	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Record CDs of songs used in Sing and Grow Program & print user guide. Replace worn or damaged musical instruments.	\$13,750.00
Save the Children Fund - Queensland Division	Save the Children Fund - Queensland Division	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Mobile Playscheme	\$99,000.00
Sisters Inside Inc	Sisters Inside Inc	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Project PEEK (Programs to Enable and Empower Kids)	\$198,000.00
Anglican Community Care Inc	Anglican Community Care Inc	SA	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Flying Start	\$132,000.00
Port Adelaide Central Mission Inc	Port Adelaide Central Mission Inc	SA	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Support and Strength in Families [Takikurtinna Wiltamendji]	\$198,000.00
University of South Australia	University of South Australia (School of Psychology) - Whyalla Campus	SA	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Rural and Remote Parenting Support to Preschool and Primary School Age Children	\$159,500.00
Anglicare Tasmania Inc	Anglicare Devonport	TAS	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Parenting Support Project (Good Beginnings)	\$176,000.00
Geeveston Community Centre Inc	Geeveston Community Centre Inc	TAS	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Family Support Worker and Early Intervention Parenting Program	\$103,400.00
Lady Gowrie Child Centre	Lady Gowrie Tasmania	TAS	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Lady Gowrie Early Intervention Program	\$26,785
Australians Against Child Abuse	Australians Against Child Abuse	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Every Child is Important: A community based parenting program	\$203,500.00
Baptist Community Care Ltd	Abercare Family Services	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Home-Start Western	\$198,000.00
Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc	Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Early Intervention Parenting	Parent Child Day Stay Program	\$165,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Jesuit Social Services Ltd	Parenting Australia	VIC	Early Intervention Parenting	Early Intervention Parenting Projects	\$198,000.00
Migrant Resource Centre North East Inc	Migrant Resource Centre North East Inc	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Parenting in a New Culture - An Orientation Program	\$169,500.00
The Queen Elizabeth Centre	The Queen Elizabeth Centre	VIC	Early Intervention Parenting	Parenting Plus	\$187,000.00
Tweddle Child & Family Health Service	Tweddle Child & Family Health Service	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Strengthening Families by Accurate Assessment of Parenting Skills and Developmental Needs	\$198,000.00
Women and Children's Health	Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital	VIC	Child Abuse Prevention	Improving Access to Playgroups for all Families	\$181,500.00
Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc	Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc	WA	Child Abuse Prevention	Delivery of parenting packages targeting 'at risk' young parents that support and strengthen parenting roles and reduce the likelihood of future crisis. Skills based programs are individually tailored. Involves collaboration with the social work area of local university (Edith Cowan University).	\$187,000.00
Mofflyn	Mofflyn	WA	Child Abuse Prevention	Early intervention parent support service, interpreting certain aspects of NEWPIN programs. (NEWPIN is a self-help, early intervention child protection program that works with families under stress to break the cycle of destructive family behaviour.)	\$198,000.00
Victoria Park Youth Accommodation Inc	Victoria Park Youth Accommodation Inc	WA	Child Abuse Prevention	Building blocks for stronger families	\$132,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation/Individual	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Program	Name of Project/Project Description	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)
Belconnen Community Service Inc	Belconnen Community Service Inc	ACT	Child Abuse Prevention	Good Beginnings Prototype	Good Beginnings Prototype Project	\$90,000.00
George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc	George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Good Beginnings Prototype	Good Beginnings Prototype Project Home Based Support Program	\$87,500.00
Nambour Community Centre Inc	Nambour Community Centre	QLD	Child Abuse Prevention	Good Beginnings Prototype	Good Beginnings Prototype - Project Home Based Support Program	\$82,618.00
Alexandrina Council	Southern Fleurieu Volunteer Home Visiting Program	SA	Child Abuse Prevention	Good Beginnings Prototype	Good Beginnings Prototype	\$25,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 46**

**Topic: Australian Council For Children And Parenting**

**Hansard Page: CA29**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

What are the expected funding figures for ACCAP for 2002-03?

**Answer:**

The administered funds budget allocation in 2002-2003 for ACCAP is \$388 000 (GST exclusive), which covers costs associated with ACCAP administration such as meeting costs, the National Child Abuse Prevention Awards, communications activities and a capacity building consultancy.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 48**

**Topic: Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing Program**

**Hansard Page: CA33**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

**(i) What is the purpose of the Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing Program?**

In December 1997, the Government announced its response to Bringing Them Home: National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families.

The Inquiry found that former child separation policies had caused Indigenous parenting skills to be undermined, leading directly to risks for the next and further generations.

The Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing initiative aims to:

- recognise and promote the importance of strong families among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- increase understanding, knowledge and skills about parenting and family wellbeing;
- promote culturally appropriate quality family support mechanisms that recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; and
- provide support and assistance for the younger generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to participate in family life and build strong families and communities for the future.

**(ii) What organisations/projects are being funded?**

A list of funded organisations/projects is attached.

**(iii) Are they expected to be completed on time/meet their goals?**

Most of the projects are progressing on time and are meeting performance goals established in the original funding agreements. Where projects are behind schedule or are not meeting all project objectives this is largely due to set up difficulties such as locating and retaining suitable staff.

**(iv) What is the actual expenditure year to date?**

Actual YTD expenditure is \$517 064 (excl. GST).

**(v) What are the reporting requirements?**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

All of the Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing projects are required to report at least twice a year against performance indicators and milestones established as a requirement of continued funding under the funding arrangements. They are also required to provide regular financial reports and annual audited financial statements.

**(vi) Who do they report to?**

Reports are provided to the FaCS State/Territory Offices and usually the management committee of the organisation.

**(vii) To what extent have the reporting requirements been met?**

Most services are meeting reporting requirements satisfactorily and where a service is experiencing difficulty the project officer is working closely with the service to improve capacity.

**(viii) What follow-up work has been done to ensure compliance with reporting requirements?**

Funding agreement managers maintain contact with organisations and meet with auspicing organisations, management committees and key personnel as required.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation/Individual	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Name of Project/Project Description	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)
Billabong Aboriginal Corporation	Billabong Aboriginal Corporation	ACT	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Our Families Our Communities Unified Service (FOCUS) Project	\$223,320.00
Gulargambone Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) Aboriginal Corporation	Gulargambone	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Aboriginal Family Support - an Aboriginal family support worker	\$150,000.00
Interrelate (Family Life Movement of Australia)	Interrelate/Yarrawarra	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Aboriginal Family Wellbeing Facilitation Service - Training of Aboriginal people as mediators	\$349,600.00
NAPCAN Australia - National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	NAPCAN Australia	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Learning and Respect - Art exhibition	\$33,680.00
Newcastle Family Support Services Inc	Newcastle Family Support Services Inc	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Koti bula umullian - Family support worker	\$285,789.00
Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation	Tharawal	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Aboriginal Outreach and Home Visiting Service - 1) Community Development Worker and 2) Development of a flexible and sustainable transport system for young mothers in the Campbelltown area.	\$27,500.00
Yoorana Gunya Family Violence Healing Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Yoorana Gunya Family Violence Healing Centre	NSW	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Indigenous Parenting and Family Liaison - Three family support workers - Part 2	\$379,500.00
Galiwin'ku Community Inc	Galiwin'ku	NT	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Yalu (Nurturing Centre)	\$100,000.00
Mission Australia	Mission Australia	QLD	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Border Rivers Families Project	\$224,026.00
Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council	SA	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Family Harm Minimisation	\$142,500.00
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	SETAC	TAS	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Indigenous Parenting	\$42,350.00
Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd	Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd	VIC	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Kids Health Program	\$197,000.00
Northern District Community Health Service Inc	Northern District Community Health Service Inc	VIC	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Northern District Community Health Service	\$82,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

City of Armadale	City of Armadale	WA	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Delivery of centre-based group activities and home-based services to strengthen families and increase their self-reliance.	\$264,000.00
City of Wanneroo	City of Wanneroo	WA	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Playgroup for indigenous parents, and their children (0 – 5 years). Will also provide an avenue for parents to develop positive parenting skills, supportive relationships etc.	\$18,500.00
Minmurmarghali Mia Community	Minmurmarghali Mia Community	WA	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	Will focus on an 'empowerment and strengths' approach in engaging parents in active positive roles within their families/the community. Will also examine causal factors of inappropriate parenting and test options for models of emotional healing.	\$80,000.00
TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Inc	TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Inc	WA	Indigenous Parenting & Family Wellbeing	To progress work under the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, which is focussing on child and adolescent health and well being.	\$30,000.00

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 49**

**Topic: Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies**

**Hansard Page: CA34**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

**(i) What organisations/projects are being funded?**

A list of funded organisations is attached.

**(ii) Are they expected to meet their goals?**

The AICCA services are expected to operate under funding agreements with performance requirements. FaCS State and Territory Offices and, where relevant, State and Territory Governments, provide a watching brief over day to day service delivery of the AICCAs. The AICCAs are generally expected to meet their goals in 2002-03.

**(iii) What is the actual expenditure year to date?**

The actual YTD expenditure is \$1 188 040 (excl. GST).

**(iv) What are the reporting requirements?**

Most of the AICCAs are funded via a Trilateral Agreements between the Indigenous organisation, FaCS and a State/Territory child protection department. Most FaCS State/Territory Offices require six monthly and/or quarterly Progress Reports and annual Audited Financial Statements. Quarterly payments are made on receipt of a satisfactory progress performance report. The relevant State/Territory department has responsibility for ensuring that the AICCAs meet the requirements of the State/Territory child protection legislation.

**(v) Who do they report to?**

The AICCAs report to contract managers in FaCS State and Territory Offices and, where a Trilateral agreement exists, the AICCA also reports to the relevant State/Territory department.

**(vi) To what extent have the reporting requirements been met?**

The majority of the services are meeting their reporting requirements. However, in recent years several services have had their funding terminated due to performance issues. In these situations interim arrangements were made to ensure continuity of service while a competitive selection process was undertaken to replace the service with an appropriate Indigenous organisation. This process has often involved a community consultation process

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

to ensure appropriate and realistic performance requirements are developed for the new service.

**(vii) What follow-up work has been done to ensure compliance with reporting requirements?**

FaCS State and Territory project officers maintain regular contact with the services and work with the organisations where possible to promote effective management. FaCS National Office works collaboratively with the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) to ensure ongoing support at the policy level for AICCA's. Part of this support is developing new directions/projects, which will improve the capacity of services to deliver better outcomes for Indigenous children.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Legal Name of Organisation	Short Name/Trading Name	State/Territory	Appropriation	Program	Name of Project/Project Description	Expected Funding (over lifetime of contract/agreement) (\$ including GST)	Comments
Aboriginal Children's Service Ltd	Aboriginal Children's Service Ltd	NSW	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Bookkeeper/Emergency Accommodation Redfern	\$25,217.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre Inc	Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre Inc	NSW	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal Family & Children's Services	\$133,455.00	Does not receive State Government funding.
NT Department of Health and Community Services	NT Department of Health and Community Services	NT	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency		\$180,848.00	Alice Springs - interim operation - a replacement service is yet to be announced.
Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency Mount Isa and District Inc	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency Mount Isa and District Inc	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency	\$566,931.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Bargumar Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Bargumar Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency	\$118,961.00	Caboolture - receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Caloundra & District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Caloundra & District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency	\$115,173.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Central Queensland Aboriginal & Islanders Child Care Agency Inc	Central Queensland Aboriginal & Islanders Child Care Agency Inc	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$311,401.00	Rockhampton - receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Kalwun Development Corporation Ltd	Kalwun Development Corporation Ltd	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency	\$67,130.00	Gold Coast - receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
N/A	N/A	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency		\$141,237 (setup)	Cairns - a replacement organisation is yet to be announced. The replacement service will receive Commonwealth and State Government funding.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

N/A	N/A	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$66,000.00	Logan - a replacement organisation is yet to be announced. The replacement service will receive Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Taihs Childcare Agency	Taihs Childcare Agency	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$95,359.00	Townsville - interim operation, with the replacement organisation yet to be announced. The replacement service will receive Commonwealth and State Government funding.
The Aboriginal & Islander Community Health Service Brisbane Ltd	The Aboriginal & Islander Community Health Service Brisbane Ltd	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$308,022.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
WE CARE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service for Aged and Disabled Association Inc	WE CARE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service for Aged and Disabled Association Inc	QLD	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$271,396.00	Ipswich - receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc	Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc	SA	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$846,408.20	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-op Ltd	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-op Ltd	VIC	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$485,693.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.
Yorganop Childcare Aboriginal Corporation	Yorganop Childcare Aboriginal Corporation	WA	Services for Families with Children	Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Agency	\$276,025.00	Receives Commonwealth and State Government funding.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 51**

**Topic: JPET**

**Hansard Page: Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

When did the Department advise the Minister's office about the outcome of the tender process? How was this done?

Did the Department advise which services would be affected?

Did the Minister's office sign off on this?

**Answer:**

The Department advised the Minister on 15 October 2002 about the outcome of the tender process in a ministerial submission.

The submission contained the names of all panel members and the preferred applicants.

No. The Minister noted the submission.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 52**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How many providers of JPET were advised in October this year that their organisation's application was successful?

Please provide this information in a state-by-state breakdown

Can you also provide a list of the names of those organisations

**Answer:**

At this stage, the process is not complete and no contracts have been successfully negotiated. Letters have been sent to all applicants giving the outcomes of the process to date. Of the 134 current providers 112 have received letters indicating that they are on a panel. Being assessed as a panel member does not guarantee funding.

We have made this information available but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

Panel members by state:

**ACT**

Centacare  
Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre

**New South Wales**

Auswide Projects  
Broken Hill Skills Centre Inc  
Byron Youth Service  
Centacare Diocese of Wlicannia and Forbes  
Centacare Newcastle  
Centacare Port Macquarie  
Djigay Student Association Inc  
Enterprise and Training Company of Coffs Harbour Ltd  
Forbes Employment and Training Service  
Griffith Skills Training Centre Inc

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Inner West Skills Centre Inc  
Leichhardt Community Youth Association  
Mission Australia - Goulburn  
Mission Australia – Wagga Wagga  
Mission Australia - Bathurst  
Mission Australia - Dubbo  
Mission Australia - Orange  
Mission Australia (Campbelltown)  
Mission Australia (Campsie)  
Mission Australia (Granville)  
Mission Australia (Mt Druitt)  
Mission Australia (Punchbowl)  
Mission Australia (Sydney City)  
Mission Australia - Wollongong  
New Education, Training, Work Opportunities Resource (The Network), Southern Youth and Family Services Association  
Newtrain Incorporated  
North St Marys Neighbourhood Centre Inc (Nepean Interyouth Services)  
Oasis Pre-Employment Network (OPEN) Inc  
Samaritans Foundation  
Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council (as Anglicare NSW)  
Taree Adult Education Inc  
The Salvation Army Oasis Youth Support Network  
The Work Place Inc  
The YWCA of Sydney  
Tursa Employment & Training Inc  
Upper Hunter Community Services Inc  
Waverley Action for Youth Services Inc

**Northern Territory**

Darwin Skills Development Scheme  
Centacare NT  
ASYASS

**Queensland**

Bundaberg Skills Centre  
Challenge Employment and Training  
Community Employment Options  
Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association  
Epic Employment Service  
Gympie Skill Centre  
Job Futures SEQ  
Kalyan Youth Service  
Logan City Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre  
Mission Australia - Toowoomba

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Mt Gravatt Training Centre – Wynnum  
Mt. Gravatt Training Centre – Upper Mt Gravatt  
Mt. Isa Skills Association  
Namtec Inc.  
Noosa Youth Service Association  
Salvation Army – Redcliffe  
Salvation Army – Fortitude Valley  
South Burnett Community Training Centre  
Tablelands Job Training  
Townsville Employment Training - Cairns  
Townsville Employment Training Inc  
Trustees of De La Salle Brothers  
Youth and Family Service Logan City

**South Australia**

Baptist Community Services – Yorke Peninsula  
Baptist Community Services – Youthcare  
Barossa Clare and Gawler Employment Training Committee  
City of Charles Sturt  
Lutheran Community Care  
Lutheran Community Care – South East  
Mission Australia - Noarlunga  
Mission Australia - Playford  
Mission Australia – Port Augusta  
Para Worklinks  
Port Pirie Regional Council  
Rivskills Inc  
Service to Youth Council  
YWCA - Fleurieu  
YWCA Adelaide

**Tasmania**

Hobart City Council  
Colony 47  
Anglicare Tas Inc  
Burnie City Council

**Victoria**

Banyule Community Health Service  
BAYSA Ltd.  
Bayside Employment Skills Training  
Bayside Employment Skills Training  
Brophy Family and Youth Services  
Brotherhood of St. Laurence  
Centacare Australia - Ballarat

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Centacare Australia - Mildura  
Colac Adult and Community Education  
Djerriwarrh Employment and Education Services  
Future Connections Association  
Gippsland Employment Skills Training  
Melbourne Citymission  
North East Support and Action for Youth  
Salvation Army Vic Property Trust, South East Services Network  
Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau  
UnitingCare Harrison Community Services  
UYCH Learning Centre  
Youth Projects Inc

**Western Australia**

Agencies for South West Accommodation  
Anglican Health & Welfare Services  
Balga Joblink Inc  
Jobs South West & Group Training  
Joondalup Youth Support Services  
Kununurra Youth Services Inc  
South East Metropolitan Youth Action  
Town of Bassendean  
Mission Australia - Rockingham

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** ..... 1.2 Youth and Student Support

**Question No: 53**

**Topic:** JPET

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How many providers of JPET were advised in October this year that their organisation's application was not successful?

Please provide this information also in a state-by-state breakdown.

Can you also provide a list of the names of those organisations

**Answer:**

At this stage the process is not complete and no contracts have been successfully negotiated. Letters have been sent to all applicants giving them the outcome of the process to date. Of the existing current providers 22 were not successful in being listed as panel members.

We have made this information available but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

**ACT**

Nil

**NSW**

Wyong Workwise (did not apply)  
Mission Australia - Wellington

**VIC**

Berry Street – Gippsland Morland  
Berry Street Victoria  
BEST Community Development  
CMYI  
Lakes Entrance Community Health Centre Inc  
Maryborough Regional Education and Training Services  
Salvation Army – Brayton  
Salvation Army – Brunswick  
Salvation Army - Crossroads

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

YWCA – Albury/Wodonga  
YWCA – Victoria

**TAS**

Nil

**SA**

Salvation Army – Ingle Farm

**WA**

Esperance Group Training  
Regional Training Services – Kalgoorlie  
Regional Training Services – Albany  
Pilbara Job Futures – did not apply  
Mission Australia – Geraldton  
Derby West Kimberley Skillshare

**Qld**

Salvation Army – Lawnton  
Salvation Army - Caboolture

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 54**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

How many new applicants to this round of JPET were advised that they were successful?

Please provide this information also in a state-by-state breakdown.

Can you also provide a list of the names of those organisations?

**Answer:**

At this stage, the process is not complete and no contracts have been successfully negotiated. Letters have been sent to all applicants giving the outcomes of the process to date. 274 additional applicants have received letters that they are on a panel (This includes existing providers who may have applied for coverage in a new area.) Being assessed as a panel member does not guarantee funding.

We have made this information available but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

Panel members by state:

**ACT**

YWCA - ACT

**New South Wales**

Auswide Projects - Queanbeyan

Auswide Projects – Snowy

The YWCA of Sydney – Southern Highlands

Wesley Mission – Southern Highlands

Options Employment Services – Blue Mountains

Centacare Australia Ltd - North Sydney

Mission Australia North Sydney

Options Employment Service – North Sydney

Ostara Australia Limited – North Sydney

Phoenix House Youth Services

Centacare Australia Ltd – Northern Beaches

Options Employment Services – Northern Beaches



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Ostara Australia Limited – Northern Beaches  
Centacare Australia Ltd – St George/Sutherland  
Hurstville Enterprise Association for People Services Inc  
Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc  
St George Youth Workers Network Inc  
Barnardos Australia – Orana Far West Centre  
Central West Community College – Central Eastern  
OCTEC Inc – Central Eastern  
OCTEC Inc – Central Eastern  
Bay and Basin Community Resources Inc  
Centacare Australia - Fairfield/Liverpool  
Centacare Australia - Keepit  
Centacare Australia – North East  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Canterbury/Bankstown  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Central Coast  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Inner City/Eastern  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Inner West  
Centacare Australia Ltd Central Murrumbidgee  
Centacare Newcastle –Hunter  
Central Hume Support Services  
Central West Community College  
Central West Community College - Parkes  
Central West Community College - Patterson  
Community Programs Inc  
Cootamundra Workskills Inc - Central Murrumbidgee  
Djigay Student Association Inc  
Emerge Australia Ltd  
Emerge Australia Ltd  
Emerge Australia Ltd – Inner City/Eastern  
Hume Employment Service (VIC) Inc  
Job Futures SEQ - Tweed  
MaiWel Limited  
Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc  
Miimali Mates (auspiced by Great Mates Inc)  
Mission Australia - Fairfield/Liverpool  
Mission Australia - Lower Hunter(2)  
Mission Australia - Tweed  
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Inc  
Oasis Pre-Employment Network (OPEN) Inc – Lower South Coast  
Options Employment Services  
Options Employment Services – Inner City/Eastern  
Options Employment Services – Inner West  
Ostara Australia Ltd – Central Coast  
OTEC Incorporated  
Regional Extended Family Services – Gwydir/Namoi  
Regional Extended Family Services - North East  
South East Neighbourhood Centre – Inner City/Eastern

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Salvation Army Youthlink  
The Salvation Army Youthlink  
The Salvation Army Youthlink - Fairfield/Liverpool  
The Salvation Army Youthlink - Outer West  
The YWCA of Sydney - Macarthur  
Tursa Employment & Training Inc – Grafton  
Tursa Employment & Training Inc – Richmond  
Tursa Employment & Training Inc – Tweed  
Tweed Training and Enterprise Company Ltd  
UnitingCare Burnside– Central Coast  
Wandiyali ATSI Inc  
Wandiyali ATSI Inc – Lower Hunter  
Wesley Mission - Lower Hunter  
Wesley Mission – Central Coast  
Wesley Mission – Central Murrumbidgee  
Wesley Mission – Eurobodalla  
Wesley Mission - Fairfield/Liverpool  
Wesley Mission – Far West  
Wesley Mission - Grafton  
Wesley Mission - Hume  
Wesley Mission – Hunter  
Wesley Mission – Inner City/Eastern  
Wesley Mission – Inner West  
Wesley Mission – Kempsey  
Wesley Mission - Orana  
Wesley Mission – Queanbeyan  
Wesley Mission - Shoalhaven  
Wesley Mission – Southern Suburbs  
Wesley Mission – Wollongong  
Westlakes Community Training Services Inc  
Wiradjuri Country Community Development Group  
Working Options – Gwydir/Namoi  
Working Options - Keepit  
Working Options – North East  
YES Youth & Family Services

**Northern Territory**

Anglicare Top End - Darwin  
Anglicare Top End - Katherine  
Anglicare Top End – Top End  
Mission Australia - Darwin  
Mission Australia – Darwin  
Relationships Australia  
Services to Youth Inc.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Queensland**

Bama Ngapi Ngapi Aboriginal Corporation - Cairns  
Baptist Union of Queensland  
BIGA Training Ltd.  
BIGA Training Ltd.  
Caboolture Area Youth Service  
Caboolture Training Centre Inc.  
Centacare Australia – Gold Coast  
Centacare Australia - Logan  
Centacare Australia – Redcliffe/Caboolture  
Centacare Australia Ltd. – Mt Isa  
Community Employment Options - Gladstone  
Community Support Agency  
Epic Employment Service - Ipswich  
Epic Employment Service – Sunshine Coast  
Epic Employment Service- North Brisbane  
Epic Employment Service- Redcliffe/Caboolture  
Family and Kids Care Foundation  
Fraser Coast Training Employment Support Service  
Gold Coast Community Care Association  
Gympie SkillCentre - Bundaberg  
Gympie Skillcentre – Fraser Coast  
Gympie Widgee Youth Service  
Horizon Foundation  
Horizon Foundation SE Brisbane  
Industry Education Networking - Mackay  
Industry Education Networking- Cairns  
Inner Glory Academy of Development Education and Training  
Innisfail CYSS- Cairns  
Integrated Youth Service Inc. – Sunshine Coast  
JOB Futures SEQ SW Brisbane  
Mercy Family Services  
Mercy Family Services  
Mission Australia – Bundaberg  
Mission Australia - Cairns  
Mission Australia - Gold Coast  
Mission Australia – Gold Coast  
Mission Australia - Gympie  
Mission Australia – Gympie  
Mission Australia - Ipswich  
Mission Australia - Logan  
Mission Australia – SE Brisbane  
Mission Australia – SW Brisbane  
Mission Australia - Townsville  
Mission Australia - Warwick  
Mission Australia (Cab.)

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Mission Australia (Cherm.)  
Mission Australia (FV)  
Mission Australia (Mitchelton)  
Mission Australia (Nundah)  
Mission Australia (Red.)  
Mission Australia (Strath.)  
Mission Australia - Fraser coast  
Mission Australia – Sunshine Coast  
Mt. Isa Skills Association - Townsville  
Namtec Inc. – Sunshine Coast  
Nerang Neighbourhood Centre  
Options Employment Services – SW Brisbane  
Options Employment Services- North Brisbane  
Ostara Australia Ltd. - Cairns  
Salvation Army – Fraser Coast  
Salvation Army – Gold Coast  
Salvation Army - Gympie  
Salvation Army - Ipswich  
Salvation Army - Logan  
Salvation Army – SE Brisbane  
Salvation Army – Sunshine Coast  
Salvation Army- SW Brisbane  
Sisters Inside Inc.  
South Burnett Community Training Centre - Gympie  
St. George Youth and Community Association  
STEPS SUPPORT – Sunshine Coast  
Tableland Employment Agency  
Townsville Employment Training - Mackay  
Townsville Employment Training - Tablelands  
Townsville Employment Training- Rockhampton  
Wesley Mission – Fraser Coast  
Wesley Mission Brisbane  
Youth and Family Service – SW Brisbane  
YWCA of Toowoomba

**South Australia**

Adelaide Central Mission  
Allstaff  
Anglicare – Adelaide Metropolitan  
Anglicare - Northern Adelaide  
BCS Youth Care – Adelaide Metro  
BCS Youth Care – Ceduna  
BCS Youth Care – Port Lincoln  
BCS Youth Care – South West Adelaide  
BCS Youth Care- Port Augusta  
BCS Youthcare – Whyalla

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Centacare - Gawler  
Centacare – North Western Adelaide  
Centacare - Northern Adelaide  
Centacare – Port Lincoln  
Centacare - Whyalla  
Employment Options – Fleurieu  
Employment Options – Southern Adelaide Hills  
Inner North East Youth Service Inc – Adelaide Metro  
Inner North East Youth Service Inc – North East Adelaide  
Jobs Statewide – Adelaide Metro  
Jobs Statewide – North East  
Jobs Statewide – North Western Adelaide  
Jobs Statewide – Southern Adelaide  
Jobs Statewide - North  
Lutheran Community Care – Murraylands  
Lutheran Community Care – North East Adelaide  
Lutheran Community Care – Southern Adelaide Hills  
Mission Australia – Ceduna  
Mission Australia – North Western Adelaide  
Mission Australia - Northern Adelaide  
Mission Australia – Port Lincoln  
Mission Australia - Whyalla  
Port Pirie Regional Council – Kadina  
Ranges Youth Centre – Port Augusta  
Ranges Youth Centre – Whyalla  
SA Career Consultants  
Service to Youth Council – Northern Adelaide  
Service to Youth Council – Southern Adelaide  
West Coast Youth Services Incorporated  
Workskil – Adelaide Metropolitan  
Workskil – Fleurieu  
Workskil - Murraylands  
Workskil - Northern Adelaide  
Workskil – Southern Adelaide  
Workskil – SW Adelaide  
YWCA – SW Adelaide

**Tasmania**

Centacare Australia - Hobart  
Centacare Australia – W and NW  
Centacare Australia Ltd - Launceston  
Salvation Army - Hobart

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Victoria**

Access Employment Sunraysia  
Anglicare Victoria  
Bayside Employment Skills Training  
Bayside Employment Skills Training  
BEST Community Development  
Centacare Australia - Gippsland  
Centacare Australia - SW  
Centacare Australia – West and South Gippsland  
Geelong Ethnic Communities Council  
Hume Employment Service  
K.Y.M Employment Services  
Mallee Accommodation and Support Program  
Mission Australia - Gippsland  
Mission Australia – Goulburn Valley  
Mission Australia - Peninsula  
North East Support and Action for Youth  
Salvation Army Vic Property Trust, South East Services Network Gippscare  
Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau  
St. Kilda Youth Service  
UnitingCare Harrison Community Services  
UYCH Learning Centre  
Western Metropolitan Youth Employment Project - West  
Western Metropolitan Youth Employment Project - West  
Whitelion Inc

**Western Australia**

Bridging the Gap (South)  
Bridging the Gap Kwi / Rok  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Central Perth  
Centacare Australia Ltd – Kwi/Rock  
Centacare Australia Ltd – North Metro  
Centacare Australia Ltd – SE Metro  
Centacare Australia Ltd – SW Metro  
Centacare Australia Ltd – West Kimberley  
Geraldton Regional Community Education  
Mission Australia - Central Perth  
Mission Australia - Dale  
Mission Australia - Goldfields  
Mission Australia – North Metro  
Mission Australia – SE Metro  
Mission Australia – SW Metro  
Newman YMCA Youth Services  
PEP Employment Services Inc  
South Metropolitan Youth Link Inc  
South Metropolitan Youth Link Inc

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 192**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How many new applicants to this round of JPET were advised that they were not successful?

Please provide this information also in a state-by-state breakdown.

Can you also provide a list of the names of those organisations

**Answer:**

At this stage, the process is not complete and no contracts have been entered into. Letters have been sent to all applicants giving the outcomes of the process to date. 173 new applicants were not successful in being listed as panel members.

We have made this information available but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

**ACT** 1

Southside Community Services Inc

**SA** 8

Australian Refugee Association Inc. (2 separate ESAs)

Eyre Employment Services Incorporated, Trading as Lincoln Employment Services (2 separate ESAs)

FWS Employment Services Inc (2 separate ESAs)

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. (MYSA)

The Salvation Army - Ingle Farm Community Services

**QLD** 10

Aborigines and Islanders Alcohol Relief Service Ltd

BIGA Training Ltd (2 separate ESAs)

Cape Projects Group Ltd

Darumbal Community Youth Services Inc.

Gold Coast Community Care Association Inc.

Great Mates Incorporated Queensland Branch

Lutheran Community Care (Queensland)

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Ostara Australia Limited  
St George Aboriginal Housing Company Ltd

**VIC** 48  
Broadmeadows Employment Project Inc Operating as North Western Support Services  
Central Highlands Group Training Inc (Trading as Ballarat Group Training)  
Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues □  
Cheryl Nash & Associated Pty Ltd  
Christian Family Centre Warragul and District Inc  
Community AXIS Incorporated  
Goldfields Employment & Learning Centre (4 separate ESAs)  
Highlands Personnel & Support Services Inc.  
International Social Service - Australian Branch  
Jesuit Social Services (JSS)  
JobCo. Employment Services Inc (2 separate ESAs)  
Kids in Need a company branch of Ridgeway Lodge Inc  
Kildonan Child and Family Services  
LATROBE VALLEY SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE INC.  
(Trading as Latrobe Personnel) (2 separate ESAs)  
MISSION AUSTRALIA (6 separate ESAs)  
Mount Alexander Shire Council Trading as MAET  
MURRAY MALLEE TRAINING COMPANY LIMITED  
NORTH CENTRAL RURAL YOUTH SERVICES INC.  
Options Employment Services (3 separate ESAs)  
Ostara Australia Limited (6 separate ESAs)  
Portland WorkSkills Inc  
Quantum Support Services Inc  
South West Community Services  
SUNRAYSIA RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (SRS)  
Sunraysia Residential Services Inc  
Try Youth and Community Services  
Uniting Church Property Trust ( VIC ) Kilmany Family Care  
WISE Employment Ltd  
Workco  
YWCA Victoria (2 separate ESAs)



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

<b>WA</b>	35
	Albany & Districts Skills Training Committee Inc (3 separate ESAs)
	Armadale/Kelmscott Joblink Inc
	Automotive Training Australia (WA) Incorporated
	Avon Youth Services
	Centacare Australia Ltd
	Central Area Regional Training Services Inc
	Centrecare (2 separate ESAs)
	Communicare Inc (2 separate ESAs)
	Emtech Incorporated (3 separate ESAs)
	Esperance Group Training Scheme Inc
	Hills Community Support Group Inc (HCSG)
	Industry Education Networking PTY LTD
	KIMBERLEY PERSONNEL (INC)
	MISSION AUSTRALIA (4 separate ESAs)
	Moora Youth Group
	Outcare Inc (6 separate ESAs)
	Parkerville Children's Home (Inc)
	Regional Training Services
	Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd (3 separate ESAs)
	The Gowrie WA (Inc)
	Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee (ACC) Inc
<b>NSW</b>	64
	Anglicare Youth & family Services (9 separate ESAs)
	CHOICE HR PTY LTD (6 separate ESAs)
	COOTAMUNDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.
	Engadine District Youth Services, Inc
	GREAT MATES INCORPORATED NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH (3 separate ESAs)
	Marist Youth Care
	MARRICKVILLE COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE INC.
	Mid-Richmond Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
	Mission Australia (3 separate ESAs)
	MURRAY MALLEE TRAINING COMPANY LIMITED
	OCTEC Incorporated (5 separate ESAs)
	Options Employment Services

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Ostara Australia Limited (13 separate ESAs)  
Pentaesunf (4 separate ESAs)  
Progressive Employment Personnel Inc  
RAYMOND TERRACE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC  
Samaritans Foundation  
Scott Williams & Associates  
The Salvation Army, The Ark  
VINNIES EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION/RECONNECT  
WEA Hunter  
WESLEY MISSION (4 separate ESAs)  
Wollondilly Community Development Committee  
Youth Off The Streets: McIntosh House

**NT** 3

Australian Red Cross NT Division  
Industry Education Networking PTY LTD (2 separate ESAs)

**TAS** 4

Ostara Australia Limited (3 separate ESAs)  
Southern Training Employment and Placement Solutions Inc. T/A STEPS  
Employment and Training Solutions

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 55**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Did the JPET services in the Minister's electorate of Richmond get special consideration?

**Answer:**

No.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**....Question No: 56**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Given that the selection criteria for applications for funding under the JPET were:

*Selection Criteria 1 – A sound understanding of the needs of the identified JPET target group*

*Selection Criteria 2 – A capability and capacity to provide services to work with young people to meet the objectives of the program*

*Selection Criteria 3 – An ability to develop or maintain strong linkages in the community with organisations connected with education, training, employment, accommodation, juvenile justice... etc*

Why was funding withdrawn from organisations that deal with a specific group of young Australians such as:

- Young women (YWCA)
- NESB young people (the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues)?

Has the Government specifically chosen to remove support for these groups?

**Answer:**

JPET funding is being maintained.

The Government has not withdrawn support for young women and NESB young people. Young people who meet the JPET target groups are, and will continue to be, supported by JPET.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**...Question No: 57**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Was any consideration given to the fact that the Government will cease all funding to the Rural Youth Information Service (RYIS) at the end of this calendar year to ensure that the same number of JPET were in rural and regional Australia as there were under the combined number of RYIS and JPET providers.

**Answer:**

The JPET target group has been expanded to include young people who are geographically isolated and not necessarily homeless.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.2 Youth and Student Support

**Question No: 58**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Why has the decision been made to place JPETS within Employment Service Areas?

**Answer:**

Employment Service Areas (ESAs) are divisions of DEWR Labour Market Regions (LMRs). There are 19 LMRs nationally and these closely align with Centrelink Areas and the Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force regions. There are 137 ESAs nationally. ESAs were used as a useful geographic unit, as much of the data needed for needs identification was available already broken down to this level. ESAs had also recently been used by FaCS in the identification of needs for the allocation of business for the Personal Support Program.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 59**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Was any analysis done on the level of youth unemployment in certain regional areas when determining which Employment Service Areas would get funding for JPET?

**Answer:**

Data on young people aged between 15 – 21 was extracted from the ABS Census 2001 and from the estimated data on homelessness of young people at school by Chamberlain and MacKenzie (2002) in their report *Youth Homelessness 2001*. This was combined together with current Centrelink data including the proportion of young people in each Employment Service Area who were in receipt of Youth Allowance Unreasonable to Live at Home rate, Special Benefits, Abstudy Independent, Abstudy homeless and CDEP.

A further refinement of this analysis using information such as accessibility to transport, unmet need for youth services, population characteristics, education and training opportunities and the diversity of employment opportunities was then applied.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 60**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Was any consideration done on drought conditions in certain regional areas when determining which Employment Service Areas would get funding for JPET?

Would JPET programs be able to provide employment, education, training, finding accommodation and providing referral services to the many young Australians living in rural and regional Australia that will be affected by the current drought conditions?

**Answer:**

No.

Where there is coverage by a JPET service, providers will be able to assist young people to access appropriate employment, education, training and accommodation. They also provide referral services to other agencies who may be able to assist young people overcome barriers to their economic and social participation.

New JPET services will have an expanded target group and outcome

1. The JPET Target groups have been expanded to include: “Young people disadvantaged by geographic isolation, who are not necessarily homeless”; and
2. The JPET targeted outcomes have been expanded to include “community liaison, the provision of information, and referral and support services”.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**...Question No: 61**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

On page 45 of the Department's Annual Report, it states that:

*“An independent evaluation of JPET was undertaken by Consulting Insights. Results showed JPET as cost effective and successful in helping young people with multiple barriers to employment and training regain stable lifestyles”*

Can the Department provide a copy of that evaluation?

**Answer:**

The evaluation was made available on the JPET web site (<http://jpet.facs.gov.au/>) in April 2002.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**...Question No: 62**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How much did the consultant, Consulting Insights, charge for the production of this report?

**Answer:**

\$199,630 GST inclusive

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 63**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What consideration was this report given when the Department advised JPET providers that their funding would not be continued?

**Answer:**

The report provided information on the program as whole, rather than specific services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 64**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What mechanisms does the Department use to assess the performance of JPET providers in between funding rounds?

**Answer:**

Monitoring visits to all services are conducted by FaCS State and Territory based staff at least annually.

Services supply quarterly performance reports to FaCS State and Territory offices. In 2001/2002 this was reduced to tri annual reports.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 65**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What performance indicators does the Department measure in this appraisal done between funding rounds? Did the Department use these performance appraisals when deciding which services would continue and which ones would not?

**Answer:**

Each contractor is contracted to deliver services to a specified number of clients in a specified geographic area.

The Department collects information from each service on the number of clients and the type of assistance provided. The Department did not use this information. It based the assessment on the responses to the selection criteria set out in the application form.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.2 Youth and Student Support

**Question No: 66**

**Topic:** JPET

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

The former Minister for Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs said, when referring to the JPET program

*“Participation in such government-funded activities will allow young people to satisfy their mutual obligation.”*

(Media Release 28 January 1998)

Does the Department believe that any reduction in JPET either as a reduction in funding or a reduction in the number of service providers would result in a higher number of young people not able to satisfy their mutual obligation requirements with Youth Allowance and Newstart? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

Funding for JPET is being maintained, not reduced. A similar number of young people will be serviced by JPET services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 67**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Has the Department done any analysis into what a reduction of JPET services would mean for breaching rates amongst Youth Allowance recipients?

**Answer:**

Funding for JPET is being maintained.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 68**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

When does the Department expect to be able to complete its review into this JPET funding round?

**Answer:**

By the end of January 2003.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 69**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Why will it take this long, given that Mark Sullivan said on the Radio Show PM on 7 November that it he expects this to be concluded by Christmas?

**Answer:**

The investigation was announced on Friday 8 November and two weeks were allowed for people to make submissions to the review team. Closing date for receipt of submissions was 22 November.

The main part of the review which will include face to face consultations with key stakeholders is expected to be completed by Christmas.

The investigation team will work to finalise the investigation by no later than the end of January 2003.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 70**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What happened between 6pm on 7 November 2002 when Mark Sullivan made this statement on PM and the following morning when Minister Anthony issued a media release stating that funding will be extended until March 2003?

**Answer:**

Nothing. The Secretary had already informed the Minister of his decision to offer incumbent providers of JPET a three month extension of their existing contracts which were due to lapse on 31 December 2002. During this time the rollout of new services will be paused and an investigation conducted into a complaint.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 71**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What instructions did any Minister or Minister's office give to the Department regarding JPET between June 2002 and now, including the JPET review?

Can the Department provide copies of all correspondence between any Minister's office and the Department regarding JPET for this period.

**Answer:**

There were no instructions between June and now. Minister Anthony was informed of the outcome of the Business Allocation Process in October.

Between June and now there have been ongoing verbal updates to the Minister's Office about progress of the Business Allocation Process.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 72**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Will the results of the JPET review be taken to any Minister's office before being announced?

**Answer:**

The review was established at the request of the Secretary, and the results will be reported to him.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 73**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Can the Department guarantee that the number of JPET providers will not decrease after this round of funding applications is finally resolved as advised by the Minister for Children and Youth on November 8 this year?

**Answer:**

Funding for JPET will be maintained to 30 June 2006, and the number of young people serviced will be maintained. The number of providers may change.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**.....Question No: 74**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Can the Department guarantee that the funding to JPET providers will not decrease after this round of funding applications is finally resolved as advised by the Minister for Children and Youth on November 8 this year?

**Answer:**

Funding for JPET will be maintained.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 75**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What support is being offered to young people in areas where there will no longer be a JPET – ie in Port Macquarie?

**Answer:**

JPET services will be located in areas of highest need.

There are a range of other complementary Commonwealth services catering to the needs of young people including the Government's Personal Support Program and Reconnect from the Department. In addition there are a range of services administered by other Commonwealth agencies.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**.....Question No: 76**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Has any Departmental document raised the possibility of the Minister doing any Public Relations activity in the New Year – when newly selected services operating JPET were open? Did the Minister agree with this approach?

**Answer:**

In February 2002, and October 2002 Minister Anthony was informed that there may be opportunities early in 2003 for openings of new JPET services.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**...Question No: 77**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What justifications were given for doing the Public Relations activity? – Given the chaotic process will the Department proceed to advise the Minister to launch the new services?

**Answer:**

The Minister will be advised when services are planning to be opened.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**.....Question No: 79**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Given that providers of the Rural Youth Information Service were told that they could apply for the current round of JPET money, how much money was granted to the JPET budget to fund former providers of the Rural Youth Information Service?

**Answer:**

JPET funding is being maintained. No additional funding will be provided to fund former providers of RYIS.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 80**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Have any former providers of the Rural Youth Information Service (RYIS) been granted an extension of their funding in line with the JPET Review? If so, which ones are they? If so, on what criteria were these service providers selected?

If so, did any Commonwealth Ministers give the Department any directive on which former RYIS providers should be granted funding until March or upon what criteria these organisations should be selected?

**Answer:**

6 RYIS providers have been offered three month extensions:

There were two criteria used to select RYISs to be offered an extension. Extensions were offered to providers who;

- applied for JPET funding in their own right, and have ranked as a preferred applicant.
- were to have been involved with a successful preferred applicant, or were to have been linked to a preferred applicant.

No Commonwealth Ministers gave the Department any directive on which former RYIS providers should be granted funding until March or upon what criteria these organisations should be selected. This was a Departmental decision.

We are making this information available, but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, and the community organisations involved, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**...Question No: 82**

**Topic: JPET**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How is slashing RYIS and taking away support for young women and migrants consistent with this report?

**Answer:**

A range of new and expanded Commonwealth programs and initiatives for youth have replaced services provided by RYISs.

Young Women and migrants are supported through a range of Government programs including Reconnect, Green Corps, JPET, Youth Activity Services and Family Liaison Workers.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**.....Question No: 83**

**Topic: JPET**

**Hansard Page: CA37**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Please provide a copy of the application including the criteria and information given to all applicants through the tender process.

**Answer:**

A copy is attached.

**[Note: the attachment has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support**

**Question No: 84**

**Topic: JPET**

**Hansard Page: CA38**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Please provide a list of organisations that have received letters stating that they are listed on the panel contract; the providers that reapplied and those that have missed out on a state by state basis and the reasons for this.

**Answer:**

At this stage, the process is not complete and no contracts have been successfully negotiated. Letters have been sent to all applicants giving the outcomes of the process to date. Lists of panel members are included in the answers to question 52 and 54. Being assessed as a panel member does not guarantee funding.

We have made this information available but ask that in order to protect the business interests of the Commonwealth, that the information in this instance not be released on the public record.

The current tender process is not yet finalised, and supplying information about reasons for listing applicants on a panel could compromise the process.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth And Student Support ..... Question No: 85**

**Topic: JPET**

**Hansard Page: CA39**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Can you provide a list of issues that were covered by the probity adviser?

**Answer:**

An independent probity advisor involved with the process provided advice on the following;

- advising on development of business rules
- checking documentation
- probity training
- advising on assessment processes and criteria
- overseeing assessment teams

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.2 Youth and Student Support

**Question No: 78**

**Topic: RYIS**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

On what basis did the Minister decide to withdraw all funding to the Rural Youth Information Service?

**Answer:**

A range of new and expanded Commonwealth programs and initiatives for youth have replaced services provided by RYISs.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.2 Youth and Student Support.....Question No: 81**

**Topic: Youth Pathways Report**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

At the last senate estimates process you advised that no work had been done on the Youth Pathways report to implement recommendations affecting our most vulnerable young people. Has any work been done since then? If so, please advise what

**Answer:**

The Department continues to consider the issues raised by the Footprints report as it implements an ongoing response to the work of the taskforce.

The Department has implemented the Innovative and Collaborative Youth Servicing Pilots, and continues to fund and monitor the Collaborative Youth Servicing Trials.

The Minister has announced an approach to streamlining access to programs for young people and beginning with FaCS programs focused on youth is streamlining the administration to join up programs.

The Mentor Marketplace and the Transition to Independent Living Allowance are being implemented.

The Reconnect program continues.

The Department has worked with Centrelink to implement the Youth Servicing Strategy to provide a more consistent service to young people at risk.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: CSA**

**Question No: 33**

**Topic: Research on the child support scheme and male suicide**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Has the Child Support Agency conducted any research to verify the claim that the Child Support Scheme and/or other family policies contribute to the incidence of male suicide in Australia? If so, can you provide details of the findings of the research?

**Answer:** Male suicide is of great concern to the Government and the community. The Child Support Agency does not conduct research nor keep records relating to any parents who commit suicide, as it is not appropriate to do so.

Separation is a recognised risk factor for suicide. It is recognised that men are more likely than women, and are also more likely following separation, to make the decision to suicide. The issues contributing to a person's decision to suicide are complex and cannot be attributed to one factor.

The Government recognises that in the past, men in particular have suffered through a lack of appropriate support services. To address this need, the Prime Minister announced the Men and Family Relationships initiative in 1997. This initiative recognises that men have particular needs when seeking help with relationship problems. The Men and Family Relationships initiative continues to fund services specifically targeting men and fathers. These services are located in every State and Territory, in a range of metropolitan, rural and regional locations. They aim to assist men manage a range of relationship difficulties and to help organisations develop more sensitive and responsive approaches to working with male clients.

The "Living is for everyone" framework for prevention of suicide and self-harm in Australia is conducted through the Department of Health and Ageing.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**



Senator Susan Knowles  
Chair  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
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Dear Senator Knowles

**CLARIFYING STATEMENT – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES OF  
21 NOVEMBER 2002**

I am writing to clarify an answer concerning a question provided at the Community Affairs Legislation Committee during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing of 21 November 2002.

During the hearing Senator Moore questioned whether Supplementary Services (SUPS) workers are paid a subsidy per application for children on the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS).

In my response I advised that funding is provided to SUPS agencies to assist child care services support children with additional needs. I would like to further clarify that a fee of \$400 per child per year is paid quarterly to SUPS agencies.

This payment is provided on the basis of skill enhancement for child care centre staff, support to the family, and development and implementation of the inclusion support plan.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Casey  
Assistant Secretary  
Child Care Services

December 2002

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 27**

**Topic: MACS Services**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is it correct that since the introduction of the Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) in 1987 there has been no growth in either the number of services or growth funding to existing services in the program?

**Answer:**

There are 37 MACS across Australia.

The number of MACS has remained stable since 1987. Data going back to 1987 is not available, although figures for growth since 1996 can be provided.

Within the MACS services the number of places has increased from 1100 in 1996 to 1224 in 2002, an increase of 11%. Similarly, the funding to those services has increased from \$9.6m in 1995-1996 to \$11.7m in 2001-2002.

Indigenous families, and other families living in rural and remote areas, are able to access flexible and innovative child care service to meet their specific needs. These services include flexible long day care, occasional care for families who have to go in to town on farm business, overnight care, mobile child care, multi-sited services and other services that visit properties and provide care, toys and books for children. There are more than 300 flexible and innovative rural and remote services nationally.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 28**

**Topic: SNAICC**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What has happened in response to the study undertaken by SNAICC in 2000 about the need for extra MACS services to be provided?

**Answer:**

The Department responded to the issues raised in the study undertaken by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) in a letter to SNAICC. Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) are funded from the Child Care Support Broadband which is currently being redeveloped. The redevelopment will consider all elements of the Child Care Support Broadband, including the needs of Indigenous children and their families. The redevelopment of the Child Care Support Broadband will be informed by a national consultative process. Input from all parts of the children's services field, families and other stakeholders will be sought.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 29**

**Topic: Indigenous Resource and Advisory Agency in Western Australia**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is it correct that there is currently no Resource and Advisory Agency for Indigenous child care services in Western Australia, and that this is the only State not to have such a support agency?

- Why has there been no tender issued for such a service in WA when there is a similar organisation in other States?
- Are there any plans to offer such a tender in the next 6 months?

**Answer:**

There is currently no specific resource and advisory agency for Indigenous child care services in Western Australia. Not all states and territories have an Indigenous resource and advisory agency. In some states and territories support is provided through mainstream support agencies.

The Government remains committed to the provision of appropriate resources and assistance to services to support quality child care. There is a need to consider the best way to provide this support. This will be one of the considerations of the Broadband Redevelopment.

The redevelopment process will involve a comprehensive examination of existing Child Care Support Broadband funding arrangements and the outcomes currently being achieved. A wide-reaching consultation process has been commissioned to ensure that the process is informed by the views, knowledge, and concerns of individuals, groups and organisations who may have an interest in the future direction of child care.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 140**

**Topic: Broadband Redevelopment: activities and timelines**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Moore** asked: Terms of Reference, focus on the forum and proposed guest list for the redevelopment of the Child Care Broadband Think Tank.

**Answer:**

The redevelopment of the Child Care Support Broadband and the Think Tank announced by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on 23 September 2002 are two separate processes.

Information about the redevelopment of the Broadband is covered in QON 139. The Think Tank has been established to focus on workforce issues for children's services. This will be held early in 2003. Representatives from a range of organisations, including Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, peak bodies and education and training organisations will be invited.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 146**

**Topic: Broadband Redevelopment**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Are there any particular aspects of the child care Broadband that are not up for review?

**Answer:**

No. All elements of current child care support broadband funding will be examined as part of the redevelopment process.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 139**

**Topic: Broadband Redevelopment: activities and timelines**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Moore** asked: Details of future directions of the child care review, proposed timing and timelines for activities, terms of reference and interaction between the committees and bodies involved.

**Answer:**

The redevelopment of the child care support broadband is part of the government's response to the Commonwealth Child Care Advisory Council's (CCCAC) Report, *Child Care: beyond 2001*. The redevelopment process will involve a comprehensive examination of existing Child Care Support Broadband funding arrangements and the outcomes currently being achieved. Following this, a range of options around the future funding and direction of child care will be developed for consideration by the Minister.

Work on the redevelopment of the Broadband has commenced within the Department including the appointment of a consultant to manage community consultations. Recommendations are expected to be provided to the Minister by mid-2003

The redevelopment process is being overseen by a Departmental Taskforce. The Taskforce will seek input from a range of sources including: the work related to the development of a national agenda for children; advisory bodies such as the Child Care Reference Group and the former CCCAC; research and modelling activities undertaken within the Department; and a comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders.

Taskforce

Membership of the Taskforce comprises, Mr David Kalisch, Executive Director, Family and Children, Ms Dawn Casey, Assistant Secretary, Child Care Services Branch, Mr Jeff Popple, Assistant Secretary, Child Care Benefits Branch and Ms Heather Coleman, State Manager FaCS SA.

The Terms of Reference for Taskforce are broadly, to support and oversee the redevelopment process, to critique and validate processes and outputs and to manage liaison and reporting to the Minister. The Terms of Reference are currently being finalised for endorsement by the Minister.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Key activities and timing**

A wide-reaching consultation process has been commissioned to ensure that the process is informed by the views knowledge and concerns of individuals, groups and organisations who may have an interest in the future direction of child care.

Community Link Australia (CLA) has been appointed to manage the consultation process. They have developed, in consultation with the Department, a comprehensive engagement strategy to ensure that anyone who wants to provide comments will be given the opportunity to do so. The approach adopted will also ensure that participants are able to comment from an informed position regarding the current status and limitations of the Broadband and its potential for enhancement. There will be mechanisms in place to keep stakeholders informed at key stages of the consultation process.

Consultations will commence with a Project Establishment Forum in December 2002. Members of the Child Care Reference Group (providing full coverage of national child care peak organisations) and others representing special needs, families and private/commercial child care providers have been invited to the Forum to discuss the consultation approach and to refine and improve that approach, as necessary, to achieve full participation and coverage of stakeholder issues and concerns.

Broad, open consultations will commence in February 2003. A further forum will be held in June 2003 to seek comment from key stakeholder representatives on the findings and preliminary analysis of the consultation process. A final report detailing the findings and analysis of the consultations is scheduled to be submitted to the Department before mid 2003.

The Department is expected to make recommendations to the Minister on a range of possible future funding models for the child care support Broadband by mid 2003.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 144**

**Topic: Child Care Broadband Expenditure**

**Hansard Page: CA50**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Annual Report p83. Can you give me a breakdown of \$178 million across the various subprograms within the Broadband funding? The name, purpose and the dollar amounts for the subprogram?

**Answer:**

The information requested has already been provided in the response to Question No 88.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 88**

**Topic: Child Care Broadband Expenditure**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Please provide information about the breakdown of Broadband funding by State/Territory as well as by sub-program area?

**Answer:**

Expenditure, by state and territory, from the Child Care Broadband 2001-02 was:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$,000)</b>
<b>National Office</b>	Program Support	7,420
<b>NSW</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	955
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	20,221
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	1,336
	In-home Care – Op Sub	200
	Other – Op Sub	1,677
	SNSS	7,596
	Capital	390
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	3,444
	Broadband Other*	16,278
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,095</b>
<b>VIC</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	1,152
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	13,540
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	952
	In-home Care – Op Sub	230
	Other – Op Sub	1,263
	SNSS	7,036
	Capital	268
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	955
	Broadband Other*	12,433
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,829</b>	
<b>QLD</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	1,165
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	12,962
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	569
	In-home Care – Op Sub	449
	Other – Op Sub	1,242
	SNSS	3,084

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

	Block Funded Fee Assistance	3,621
	Broadband Other *	12,489
	Capital	345
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,925</b>
<b>SA</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	1,024
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	40
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	300
	In-home Care – Op Sub	31
	Other – Op Sub	1,231
	SNSS	1,524
	Capital	20
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	1,078
	Broadband Other *	5,932
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,178</b>
<b>WA</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	733
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	4,413
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	508
	In-home Care – Op Sub	172
	Other – Op Sub	537
	SNSS	1,322
	Capital	90
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	972
	Broadband Other *	5,754
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,501</b>
<b>TAS</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	315
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	2,233
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	116
	In-home Care – Op Sub	185
	Other – Op Sub	131
	SNSS	552
	Capital	274
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	131
	Broadband Other *	1,929
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,866</b>
<b>NT</b>	Long Day Care - Disadvantaged Area Subsidy	2,020
	Family Day Care – Op Sub	943
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	29
	In-home Care – Op Sub	12
	Other – Op Sub	936

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

	SNSS	282
	Capital	1,528
	Block Funded Fee Assistance	72
	Broadband Other *	3,311
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,132</b>
<b>ACT</b>	Family Day Care – Op Sub	1,990
	Occasional Care – Op Sub	104
	In-home Care – Op Sub	85
	Other – Op Sub	17
	SNSS	843
	Capital	4
	Broadband Other *	1,130
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,174</b>
<b>Broadband</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178,121</b>

\* 'Broadband Other' includes: Private Provider Initiatives, SUPS, MACS and Multifunctionals, R&A's and In Service Training, Mobiles, RTAG, set-up and establishment grants.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Childcare Support**

**Question No: 89**

**Topic: Proposed Broadband Funding Review**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Given that the Family Day Care operational subsidy constitutes about 30 per cent of the Broadband funding, and that Operational Subsidy has already been withdrawn from other types of child care, is it reasonable to assume that the bulk of savings to come from the Broadband review would be in this area?

**Answer:**

The Broadband Redevelopment is currently in its very early stages. There will be an extensive consultation process undertaken over the next seven months, and no assumptions can be made about the outcome of those consultations this early in the process.

The redevelopment will consider all elements of the Child Care Support Broadband, and will focus on better meeting the needs of children and their families.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Childcare Support**

**Question No: 90**

**Topic: Proposed Broadband Funding Review**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

In particular, are there any specific arrangements that have been made because of the difference in the way various States and Territories manage Family Day Care Schemes – specifically in South Australia where the State Government manages all Family Day Care schemes?

**Answer:**

With regard to South Australia, Family Day Care is operated by the State Government, FDC operational subsidy and related grants are paid to the SA State Government as a Special Purpose Payment under Appropriation Bill No. 2. These payments are not part of the Broadband appropriation, however results of the redevelopment may have implications for how these Special Purpose Payments are calculated. The redevelopment project will involve extensive consultation with stakeholders from all child care sectors in every State and Territory, including State and Territory Governments.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1 Family Assistance**

**Question No: 141**

**Topic: National Agenda for Early Childhood**

**Hansard Page: CA47**

**Senator Collins** asked: What resources have been allocated to the early childhood program to date?

**Answer:** A cross-portfolio Task Force on Child Development, Health and Well Being, convened by the Department, is recommending ways for the Commonwealth to give better focus to early childhood and children's issues, and for new and existing programs to interact effectively.

The Departments of Health and Ageing; Education, Science and Training; Attorney-General's; Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Treasury contribute to the Task Force and jointly undertake work in the early childhood arena.

These departments currently develop policy options for Government consideration, oversee research and data collection and run a wide range of funded programs involving early childhood and/or early intervention, prevention activity.

The Task Force is concerned with improving co-ordination and effectiveness of this work at Commonwealth level, and with developing a National Early Childhood Agenda, to give better leadership to national activity and leverage additional State investment.

The Task Force has jointly developed a framework for the National Agenda. Joint consultation on the framework will occur in the first half of next year.

Within the Department of Family and Community Services, programs such as child care, child abuse prevention, Indigenous parenting and family well-being, services for families with children and initiatives such as the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy all contribute significantly to the early childhood agenda.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 142**

**Topic:**

**Hansard Page: CA49**

**Senators Moore & Collins asked:**

What are the numbers of outside of school hours care places available, state-by-state and how is that figure reached?

**Answer:**

	Available Places
NSW	61963
VIC	57432
QLD	57872
SA	23167
WA	15349
TAS	4264
NT	3740
ACT	6724
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230511</b>

These figures are provided by the state and territory offices of the department.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 136**

**Topic: Outside Schools Hours Care**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Collins asked:**

Provide number of centres seeking transfer from unfunded to funded places.

**Answer:**

The information provided in Question 135 covers this question in terms of unmet demand for places in outside school hours services. Those figures cover all aspects of the outside school hours care sector such as:

- Existing funded services seeking additional places
- Existing unfunded services seeking funding assistance
- Presently non-operational services seeking to commence a funded service

The department does not formally collect data relating to the number of *services* seeking to become funded.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 138**

**Topic: Outside School Hours Care and Family Day Care**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Provide details of the reallocation of places process, how many places, how many are being reallocated and where are the places for Outside School Hours and Family Day Care.

**Answer:**

The reallocation of places process has been introduced in order to manage the supply of places more effectively. Services that are using significantly less than their allocated numbers of places are encouraged to relinquish some of their unused capacity so that these places can be reallocated to other areas where there is an unmet demand for child care. Services relinquish places voluntarily and no service has its level of funding reduced as a consequence of relinquishing places.

The total numbers of Outside School Hours Care places that had been reallocated by the date of the Supplementary Estimates hearings is 1717. Places awaiting reallocation to States and Territories as of 21 November was:

<b>Places Reallocated</b>		<b>Available for reallocation at 21/11/2002</b>	
NSW	330	NSW	700
VIC	413	VIC	1830
QLD	135	SA	36
SA	662	WA	270
WA	89	TAS	40
TAS	15	NT	30
ACT	71		

Figures on the Family Day Care reallocations are provided in response to Question 110.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 145**

**Topic: Child Care Specific Purpose Payment**

**Hansard Page: CA50**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

For the Support for Child Care Specific Purpose Payment, can you provide state by state, the purpose, the payments and payment dates?

**Answer:**

Expenditure, by state, of the Support for Child Care Specific Purpose Payment for 2001-02 was:

<b>STATE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PAYMENT PERIOD</b>
<b>NSW</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$605,000	Monthly
	Other	\$5,700	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$610,700</b>	
<b>VIC</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$895,500	Monthly
	Other	\$2,000	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$897,500</b>	
<b>QLD</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$447,700	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$447,700</b>	
<b>WA</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$257,700	Monthly
	Other	\$15,700	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$273,400</b>	
<b>SA</b>	Operational Subsidy – Family Day Care (FDC)	\$5,542,900	Monthly
	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$286,600	Monthly
	Other	\$725,100	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,554,600</b>	
<b>TAS</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$208,000	Monthly
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,000</b>	
<b>ACT</b>	Operational Subsidy – Other	\$52,600	Annually
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,600</b>	

**Operational Subsidy – Other** includes: Occasional Care Neighbourhood Model payments.

**Other** includes:

- All States: Children’s week payments.
- South Australia: Rural Care Worker payments, Kalaya Children’s Centre, FDC D-Sups, RTAG, National Child Care Strategy Capital payments.
- Western Australia: Aboriginal Child Care services via the State payments.
- New South Wales: Silvenvale Preschool.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 147**

**Topic: Cost of accreditation processes**

**Hansard Page: CA51**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Provide detail on the annual expenditure on accreditation processes by expenditure item?

**Answer:**

The National Childcare Accreditation Council's (NCAC) budget for 2002/03 apportions the cost of administering the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS) and the Family Day Care Quality Assurance system (FDCQA) as follows:

QIAS	\$3,541,297
FDCQA	\$1,115,241

These amounts include the cost of training validators and moderators, validation visits, moderation of accreditation decisions, the delivery of an extensive communication strategy, accommodation, and salaries for NCAC staff, and sitting fees for Council members.

A further \$883,543 was required for the set up of the Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance system, which is to be implemented from 1 July 2003.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 91**

**Topic: Accreditation Process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Please advise of any money spent/allocated to assist devising and implementing the QA process for Outside School Hours Care services.

**Answer:**

To date in 2002/03, the following expenditure has occurred:

Cost-Impact Analysis of Implementing Quality Assurance in OSHC  
Consultancy by KPMG      Contract value      \$75,515

Workshops for Cost-Impact Analysis for OSHC quality assurance  
NVS Pty Ltd                      Contract value      \$6,266

OSHC Quality Assurance working party consultations, forums and communication with the sector                                      \$33,450

In addition, the National Childcare Accreditation Council has allocated \$883,543 in its budget for 2002-03 as set-up costs to prepare for the implementation and management of OSHCQA.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 92**

**Topic: Accreditation Process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

In 2002 Budget Estimates the Department advised that there are currently no QA/accreditation requirements for In-Home Care services – why is this the case, and what if any action is being taken to ensure these CCB subsidised services are meeting basic operating standards?

**Answer:**

There is presently no Quality Assurance system in place for in-home care services. Quality Assurance is being extended progressively to respective child care sectors. Current focus is on developing the Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance system to commence from July 2003.

Approved In-home Care services must meet requirements for Child Care Benefit approval, as outlined in A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999, Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval & Continued Approval) Determination 2000.

Services are also required to meet the requirements outlined in the In-home Care Handbook and the funding agreement with the Department of Family and Community Services.

At this stage, State and Territory governments have not introduced regulations for in-home care.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 93**

**Topic: Accreditation process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Are there any accreditation processes or criteria that specifically apply to multi-service child care providers (i.e. those owning more than 2-3 services)?

**Answer:**

There are no accreditation processes or criteria that specifically apply to multi-service child care providers. In sectors where quality assurance mechanisms are in place, each individual service must participate in the process.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 130**

**Topic: Child Care Planning Advisory Committees**

**Hansard Page: CA42**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Are the states planning advisory committee recommendations available for public consideration? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

No. Under the Terms of Reference for PACs all materials and discussion at meetings is confidential. The Terms of Reference are attached.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**May 2001**

**PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**INTRODUCTION**

The National Planning System (NPS) is designed to ensure that child care places are allocated in areas where they are most needed. Planning Advisory Committees (PACs) have been established in each State and Territory to provide expert advice on the need for child care in different areas and to support Commonwealth Government monitoring processes. PACs' findings form the basis of Departmental determinations of areas where child care places of different types may be allocated. PACs also inform the Department's biannual analysis of unmet demand and over supply of child care and may contribute to research & development in the Child Care Program.

**LEGISLATIVE BASIS**

The new Family Assistance legislation, *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999* provides generally for the approval of child care services. Section 206 of the legislation provides that the Minister may determine guidelines about the

- (a) procedures relating to the allocation of child care places to approved child care services;
- (b) matters to be taken into account in working out the number (if any) of child care places to be allocated to approved child care services;
- (c) the maximum number of places that can be allocated to approved child care services in a specified class; and
- (d) any other matters to be taken into account in making such an allocation.

In accordance with section 206, the Minister for Family and Community Services made the *Child Care Benefit (Allocation of Child Care Places) Determination 2000 on 26 June 2000*.

This determination details the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services in allocating places to approved child care services.

Section 7 of the determination provides that, before allocating any places to approved child care services the Secretary must determine in writing:

Subsection 1

- a) the areas of Australia in which child care places may be allocated;
- b) the number of childcare places of each kind (approved family day care services, approved occasional care services and approved outside school hours services) which may be allocated in each of those areas.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Subsection 7.2 provides that a determination under subsection 1 may also divide the number of child care places determined by the Secretary as available for allocation in a particular area into:

- a) numbers of places which may be allocated in respect of children in particular age groups; and
- b) for outside school hours care services, numbers of places which may be allocated in respect of before school care, after school care, and vacation care

Subsection 3 provides that, before making the determination under subsection 1, the Secretary shall take into account the following matters:

- a) the relative needs of different areas of Australia for the kinds of child care places to be allocated; and
- b) the relative child care needs of people in each area who have work, training or study commitments.

#### **PAC MEMBERS**

Planning Advisory Committees comprise members of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, State and Local Governments and appointed experts in child care provision and planning, including members of peak child care groups and service providers.

PAC members are expected to add value to the planning process and as such should not depend only on the information and data provided by State and Territory Planners. PAC Members are encouraged to bring information from their own areas of expertise to the PAC meeting, including useful contacts, data and local knowledge of the industry.

#### **THE ROLE OF PACs**

The role of the PACs is to provide advice to assist the Secretary in making determinations under the *Child Care Benefit (Allocation of Child Care Places) Determination 2000* by providing expert independent advice on those areas of Australia that need child care places of various kinds. The role of the PACs is advisory. PACs have no decision-making or approval powers with regard to the actual allocation of new child care places.

To assist them to perform their role PACs will be advised by the Department about any relevant Government initiatives or policies.

PACs usually meet twice a year to consider child care need in the State/Territory for all types of child care.

PAC meetings are organised by State and Territory Office planning teams and chaired by the Department's State or Territory Manager. PACs report to the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- ◆ PACs should have as their primary focus the **identification of areas where new services are required**. They should take particular account of the Government's recent child care initiative to provide incentives for private operators and employers to establish child care services in rural and regional areas. Accordingly PACs will be expected to make recommendations identifying rural and regional areas that have an established need for child care services.
- ◆ PACs are also required to take account of the Government's initiative to allow private operators to establish and manage Family Day Care Schemes and Outside School Hours Care services; and, in particular, to make recommendations on existing unfunded outside school hours care services that should be allocated Child Care Benefit places.
- ◆ PACs should also make recommendations on areas that already have an appropriate range of child care services, but which need additional places.
- ◆ Finally, PACs are required to consider and identify the areas of Australia in which centre based long day care is over supplied.

**Family Choice**

In making recommendations, PACs main objective should be to ensure that child care places are allocated where they are needed and that families requiring care for their children are able to access the kind of services they want. PACs should seek to make recommendations that meet the market demand rather than direct families into any particular form of care. Accordingly PACs would be expected to recommend that places be allocated to any area where an existing service type is operating at capacity and there is evidence of an unmet demand for additional places of that kind.

A secondary objective for PACs is to advise on the impact that any new places may have on existing services in the area.

PACs should note that the Secretary may at any time make a determination that an area needs additional child care places. The Secretary will usually make such determinations only in response to existing services that require additional places to meet immediate needs. Determinations to establish new services, on the other hand, will usually be informed by PAC recommendations.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Department recognises the sensitive nature of much of the child care data that may be compiled for consideration by PACs. All materials, in particular the draft initial assessments that PAC members have used during the meeting, are to be collected by the Department. All materials and discussion are confidential and are not intended for industry or public exposure.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 131**

**Topic: Child Care Planning Advisory Committees**

**Hansard Page: CA43**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Could you provide who is on the state planning and advisory committee and what is their term?

**Answer:**

PAC membership comprises representatives of the bodies listed below. PAC members are not appointed for any fixed term.

New South Wales	NSW Family Day Care Association Office of Childcare, NSW Department of Community Services Association of Child Care Centres of NSW Community Child Care Co-operative Ltd Network of Community Activities NSW Local Government and Shires Association Quality Child Care Association of NSW
Victoria	Community Child Care Victorian Private Child Care Association Child Care Centres Association of Victoria Inc Family Day Care Victorian Resource Unit Victorian Association for Out of School Hours Services Inc Campaspe Shire Council
Queensland	Queensland Family Day Care Association Child Care Industry Association of Queensland Department of Families National Association of Community Based Children's Services Queensland Council of Parents & Citizens' Associations Inc Queensland Professional Child Care Centres Association Inc Local Council Representative
South Australia	Department of Education, Training & Employment Local Government Association of SA SA Association of Child Care Centres National Association of Community Based Children's Services Outside School Hours Care Association South Australia Council of Social Services

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Western Australia	Department of Community Development, Children's Services Child Care Association of WA Carewest Family Day Care Association Western Australia Outside School Services WA Municipal Association
Tasmania	Department of Education Outside School Hours Care Association Family Day Care Coordinators Association Local Government Association of Tasmania Child Care Association of Tasmania Tasmanian Association of Children's Services
Northern Territory	Northern Territory Health Department NT Outside School Hours Care Association NT Family Day Care Network Local Government Association of the NT Child Care Association of the NT Australian Early Childhood Association Northern Territory Education
Australian Capital Territory	ACT Office of Child Care ACT Children's Services Association ACT Family Day Care Association Association of Long Day Care Directors Out of School Hours Care Association of Act Regional Community Services

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 132**

**Topic: Child Care Planning Advisory Committees**

**Hansard Page: CA43**

**Senators Bishop & Collins asked:**

Are there any representatives of the publicly listed child care companies on the state planning advisory committee?

**Answer:**

No PAC members have identified an interest in the publicly listed child care companies.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 133**

**Topic: Child Care Planning Advisory Committees**

**Hansard Page: CA43**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Provide information on what information the state planning advisory committees receive for consideration, for what purpose and whether there are any limitations on the purposes for which the various representatives may use that information?

**Answer:**

PACs are provided with local area data on supply of and demand for child care places. The data is provided to assist PACs in making recommendations on areas where additional places are required. The materials can only be used for the stated purpose. PAC Terms of Reference specifically provide that the Department collects all materials that PAC members have used during the meetings. All materials and discussion are confidential and are not intended for industry or public exposure.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 135**

**Topic: Child Care Planning Advisory Committees**

**Hansard Page: CA45**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Provide figures for the current places and estimated unmet demand in outside school hours care across the states and territories.

**Answer:**

The following figures cover all aspects of the outside school hours care sector such as:

- Existing funded services seeking additional places
- Existing unfunded services seeking funding assistance
- Presently non-operational services seeking to commence a funded service

	Current Places	Estimated Unmet Demand
NSW	61963	9490
VIC	57432	5263
QLD	57872	7009
SA	23167	1598
WA	15349	803
TAS	4264	473
NT	3740	20
ACT	6724	737
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230511</b>	<b>25393</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 134**

**Topic: Long Day Care**

**Hansard Page: CA44**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Provide figures for the current places and estimated unmet demand in long day care across the states and territories.

**Answer:**

There is no Commonwealth limit on the number of long day care centre places that may be allocated. The Department has some information on levels of demand in some States but does not collect or maintain long day care demand data for States and Territories in any standard form.

**Current Places**

NSW	64271
VIC	42156
QLD	55297
SA	9904
WA	13896
TAS	2355
NT	1909
ACT	4021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193809</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 137**

**Topic: Family Day Care**

**Hansard Page: CA46**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Provide figures for the current places and estimated unmet demand for family day care places.

**Answer:**

The number of family day care places across the country is set out below.

States	Places
NSW	22351
VIC	16747
QLD	12547
SA	5323
WA	4772
TAS	3247
NT	904
<u>ACT</u>	<u>4949</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70840</b>

The number of additional places requested by family day care schemes is set out below.

States	Places
NSW	932
VIC	0
QLD	1293
SA	316
WA	210
TAS	90
NT	0
<u>ACT</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2841</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:1.4 .....**

**Question No: 109**

**Topic: Family Day Care – Shortages and Reallocation process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

In the 2002 Budget Estimates we received advice that nearly 2,000 new places were required in the Family Day Care program – can you provide updated figures broken down by State/Territory on unmet demand for places and new places requested?

**Answer:**

The number of additional places requested is set out below. This demand is being managed by reallocating unused places to areas where there is unmet demand.

NSW	932
VIC	0
QLD	1293
SA	316
WA	210
TAS	90
NT	0
ACT	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2841</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support** ..... **Question No: 110**

**Topic: Family Day Care – Shortages and Reallocation process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

In relation to the reallocation process undertaken this year:

- How many places were allocated in the first round of reallocations (provide details of where the places came from, where they have been reallocated to, and what the new levels of allocation are by State/Territory)
- Where is the second round of the re-allocation of Family Day Care places up to? When will places be moved to schemes with high demand?
- Will the vital funding to support coordination units and quality in Family Day Care be retained and secure to guarantee quality assurance, flexible care and stability for this vital child care service?
- What are the most recent figures about the levels of unmet demand/shortage in the Family Day Care program, broken down by State/Territory?

**Answer:**

- In the period 1/7/2001 to 30/6/2002 1,540 were allocated. Since 1/7/2002 to present 666 have been allocated. That total is 2,206.

States	Places From	Places To	Updated Totals
NSW	284	1004	22351
VIC	1426	358	16747
QLD	0	513	12547
SA	0	0	5323
WA	0	191	4772
TAS	60	60	3247
NT	0	0	904
ACT	210	80	4949
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>2206*</b>	<b>70840</b>

- The Family Day Care reallocation process is ongoing. The Department will continue to follow up with services that have unused places as utilisation data becomes available.
- Components of total Family Day Care funding come from the Child Care Broadband, which is currently being redeveloped. There will be an extensive consultation process undertaken over the next seven months, and no assumptions can be made about the outcome of those consultations this early in the process.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The redevelopment will consider all elements of the Child Care Support Broadband, and will focus on meeting the needs of children and their families, rather than on funding particular service types. The Broadband redevelopment is about rethinking the way we fund child care services with a view to better contributing to outcomes for children.

- Answer provided in Question 109.
- \* Places allocated since 1/7/2001 include a small number of residual places carried over from 2000-01.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 143**

**Topic: Childcare Assistance**

**Hansard Page: CA50**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Can we get a final project brief on CA, such as where it was, figures on the debt and how long it took?

**Answer:**

Please see attached report.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**REPORT ON THE CHILDCARE FINALISATION  
PROJECT**  
**November 2002**

***Introduction of a new child care payment system, July 2000 – Child Care Benefit***

In July 2000, the Government introduced a new child care payment system - replacing Childcare Assistance with the more accessible and affordable Child Care Benefit (CCB)

At the time of the changeover, integration of the two payment systems was not possible and advance payments for the new Child Care Benefit (CCB) were made to services in full, without taking account of any negative adjustments resulting from the last two quarters of CA (January to March 2000 and April to June 2000).

Services always received payments in advance and acquitted these monies at the end of each quarter. Any negative adjustments would then be offset against advance payments from subsequent quarters.

Initial estimates put the amount of CA owing to the Commonwealth at \$40-50 million, although this estimate was reduced to \$35 million once processing had commenced.

***Advice to Services***

Services received three direct letters advising them about the delayed recovery of CA negative adjustments. They also received updated information through *Childcare News* and through the Child Care Benefit Reference Group.

There were three main elements to finalising CA:

- Identifying services that had failed to lodge claims and obtaining those claims
- Identifying services that had the last two quarters of CA acquitted but owed the Commonwealth money (negative adjustments)
- Processing the outstanding claims on hand and determining payment or recovery of funds.

Notification of CA over-advances to services

FaCS met the deadline of 30 June 2002 with only a few NSW services not having been notified of their CA over-advance by that date. All services were notified by 30 September 2002. Finalisation letters were sent to **all** services, including those that had received two positive adjustments earlier in 2000 as well as those that had their over-advances waived under Centrelink's small debt waiver provisions.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The finalisation mailout to services was staggered to enable all stakeholders to effectively deal with the administrative processes and handle inquiries. Approximately 100 letters were sent each day. Victorian services were the first to receive finalisation letters in commencing in November 2001 with NSW services receiving letters from April – June 2002.

While most services accepted their liability to repay, some services assumed their CA had already been finalised. Services were advised that the over-advance was not a debt, but the result of the normal advance/acquit cycle that ensured they had enough funds up front to operate. Services that had over-advances of less than \$50 had their over-advance waived under Centrelink's small debt waiver provisions.

### ***Centrelink Recovery Arrangements***

To reduce the impact on a service's financial viability, Centrelink adopted flexible recovery mechanisms to accommodate each service's individual circumstances. For services having difficulty in repaying CA, the Family Assistance Office (FAO) was advised to negotiate an even lower repayment rate than the agreed 25%, and in extreme cases, offer a deferment of the repayment for up to twelve months.

Where a service was considered financially vulnerable, Centrelink payment teams, FaCS Child Care Benefit Branch and FaCS State Offices (STOs) worked closely to support the service and offer education, training and support in dealing with ensuing issues. Anecdotal evidence suggests that for those services that did experience difficulty, there were pre-existing administration/financial concerns and that these were simply compounded by the CA over-advance.

### ***Statistics***

Statistics outlining CA finalisation amounts are attached.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002

SERVICE TYPE	ASC	BSC	FDC	LDC	OCC	VAC	TOTALS
<b>NUMBER OF SERVICES</b>	<b>2132</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>3807</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>8977</b>
<b>OVER ADVANCE AMOUNT</b>							
OVER ADVANCES >\$100,000	0	0	1	4	0	0	5
<\$100,000 BUT >\$90,000	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
<\$89,999 BUT >\$80,000	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
<\$79,999 BUT >\$70,000	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<\$69,999 BUT >\$60,000	0	0	4	5	0	0	9
<\$59,999 BUT >\$50,000	0	0	2	4	0	0	6
<\$49,999 BUT >\$40,000	0	0	10	10	0	0	20
<\$39,999 BUT >\$30,000	0	0	15	49	1	0	65
<\$29,999 BUT >\$20,000	1	0	39	174	0	4	218
<\$19,999 BUT >\$10,000	3	0	75	779	1	5	863
<\$9,999 BUT >\$9,000	1	0	12	119	0	5	137
<\$8,999 BUT >\$8,000	3	0	8	153	1	8	173
<\$7,999 BUT >\$7,000	5	0	11	157	3	6	182

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

<\$6,999 BUT >\$6,000	9	0	11	143	7	10	180
<\$5,999 BUT >\$5,000	16	1	9	189	9	12	236
<\$4,999 BUT > \$4,000	32	6	10	198	7	40	293
<\$3,999 BUT >\$3,000	50	7	10	252	7	50	376
<\$2,999 BUT >\$2,000	125	24	10	248	11	106	524
<1,999 BUT > \$1,000	314	91	10	220	8	192	835
<\$999	750	588	21	240	10	458	2067
<b>TOTAL NO OF SERVICES WITH OVER ADVANCES</b>	<b>1309</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>6195</b>
<b>TOTAL \$ ADVISED TO SERVICES</b>							<b>\$35,673,619.00</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 148**

**Topic: Cost-Impact Analysis**

**Hansard Page: CA52**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Provide a copy of the consultative report done by KPMG on the risk analysis and feasibility of implementing quality assurance program

**Answer:**

In January 2000, KPMG were contracted to undertake a cost-impact study to analyse the impact of a quality assurance for Family Day Care. A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was developed drawing on the cost impact study. As the legislative changes to the Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000 under the A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999 have been passed, linking participation in Family Day Care Quality Assurance to eligibility for Child Care Benefit, the RIS is now available. The RIS is available on the FaCS internet site. A hard copy is also attached.

In June 2001, a contract was awarded to KPMG Consultants to undertake a cost impact study to analyse the impact of a quality assurance system in Outside School Hours Care.

A Regulatory Impact Statement for the Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance system has not yet been finalised. The cost-effectiveness study has not been released publicly.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 150**

**Topic: Annual report – national planning system**

**Hansard Page: CA52**

**Senator Moore** asked:

In the same section of the Annual Report on page 80 under “Effectiveness – Take-up/Coverage”, it says “The old child care gathering system is no longer available. A new one is being developed.”. Provide details of the development process of a new child care data gathering system.

**Answer:**

The Department is considering a range of options to enhance the National Planning System. This includes options for producing consistent and functional information on the supply of and demand for child care on a geographical basis. Officers responsible for child care planning in each of the Department’s State and Territory Offices are meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December to discuss and progress those options.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 151**

**Topic: Annual Report – rural and remote services**

**Hansard Page: CA52**

**Senator Moore** asked:

Annual Report p81 table 23. Provide the number of hours required (not just the places provided) for rural and remote services?

**Answer:**

It is not practical to try to estimate demand in number of hours because the basic unit of child care provision is the place and a place has a different notional value depending on the kind of care required. A long day care centre place may represent any number up to a maximum of 50 hours. By contrast, a family day care place always represents 35 hours of care.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 152**

**Topic: Annual Report – Indigenous specific services**

**Hansard Page: CA53**

**Senator Moore asked:**

Annual Report p82 – provide details of what is counted as Indigenous Specific services and where those services are?

**Question:**

What is counted as Indigenous specific services?

**Answer:**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) and playgroups and enrichment programs are set up specifically for indigenous families and children. However there are a number of mobile child care toy libraries, before school care services, after school care services, vacation care services (VC), outside school hours care services (OSHC), resource and advisory agencies (R&A) and flexible/innovative services set up as indigenous child care services.

**Question:**

Where are these services?

**Answer:**

New South Wales - 32 services

Victoria - 13 services

Queensland - 67 services

Western Australia - 57 services

South Australia - 23 services

Tasmania - 1 service

Northern Territory - 70 services



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support ..... Question No: 86**

**Topic: Special Needs Subsidy Scheme**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: What instructions (in written form) are being given by DFACS to any child care workers or SUPS workers about advising parents on putting children on the waiting list? Please provide a copy of this.

**Answer:** In April 2002 DFACS sent the following letter advising of changes to SNSS to child care services currently receiving SNSS funding, SUPS sponsors, SUPS resource and advisory agencies, and National and State peak organisations.

“As you may be aware the Department of Family and Community Services administers the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS). The scheme assists children with ongoing high support needs, particularly children with disabilities, to access quality child care. SNSS provides a subsidy for child care services to employ additional staff to include children in the activities and experiences of child care.

SNSS was introduced in 1997 with an annual funding allocation of approximately \$10 million. Since that time it has proved to be very popular and demand for assistance is continuing to grow. Expenditure for this financial year is expected to exceed \$20 million, with more than 4,600 children receiving assistance.

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has confirmed that the Government remains committed to ensuring that SNSS support is available to children with ongoing high support needs and that this support is made available in the fairest way possible. However, funds are limited and expenditure on SNSS cannot continue unchecked.

From 15 April 2002 new procedures for the administration of SNSS are being introduced to ensure that the available funds are managed closely and fairly. Children with SNSS funding approved prior to 15 April will not be effected by this change and will continue to receive their current level of funding while they remain eligible. However, all new applications, including requests to extend hours, will be assessed and where SNSS is considered appropriate they will be placed on a waiting list, in order of receipt. Funds that become available as children leave the scheme may be used to fund applications from the waiting list.“

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support ..... Question No: 87**

**Topic: Special Needs Subsidy Scheme**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: What information (written and verbal) is being provided to parents of children with special needs by the Department, the Child Care Access Hotline, or child care services about the SNSS waiting list guidelines and process?

**Answer:**

In April 2002 the following letter detailing the changes to SNSS and a Question and Answer sheet were sent to:

- Child Care Access Hotline;
- FAO Offices; and
- Centrelink National Office for their call centres.

“As you may be aware the Department of Family and Community Services administers the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS). The scheme assists children with ongoing high support needs, particularly children with disabilities, to access quality child care. SNSS provides a subsidy for child care services to employ additional staff to include children in the activities and experiences of child care.

SNSS was introduced in 1997 with an annual funding allocation of approximately \$10 million. Since that time it has proved to be very popular and demand for assistance is continuing to grow. Expenditure for this financial year is expected to exceed \$20 million, with more than 4,600 children receiving assistance.

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has confirmed that the Government remains committed to ensuring that SNSS support is available to children with ongoing high support needs and that this support is made available in the fairest way possible. However, funds are limited and expenditure on SNSS cannot continue unchecked.

From 15 April 2002 new procedures for the administration of SNSS are being introduced to ensure that the available funds are managed closely and fairly. Children with SNSS funding approved prior to 15 April will not be affected by this change and will continue to receive their current level of funding while they remain eligible. However, all new applications, including requests to extend hours, will be assessed and where SNSS is considered appropriate they will be placed on a waiting list, in order of receipt. Funds that become available as children leave the scheme may be used to fund applications from the waiting list.“

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The Question and Answer sheet included :

**Q.** What is the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS)?

**A.** SNSS assists children with ongoing high support needs, particularly children with disabilities, to access quality child care. A subsidy is paid to the child care service to employ additional staff to assist with the inclusion of these children. Currently SNSS provides assistance to over 4,600 children.

**Q.** What changes are happening to SNSS?

**A.** From 15 April all new applications for SNSS that have been recommended for funding will be placed on a waiting list. Funding released as children withdraw from the scheme will be used to offer assistance to those on the waiting list.

**Q.** How long will I have to wait before SNSS funding is available?

**A.** The length of time a person may have to spend on the waiting list will depend on demand and funds being made available as children withdraw from the scheme.

**Q.** How will the waiting list be managed?

**A.** All applications for SNSS will be closely assessed to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS). Those recommended applications, that meet the SNSS Guidelines, will be placed on the waiting list in order of date of receipt by the Department of Family and Community Services.

**Q.** Why is SNSS funding being cut?

**A.** SNSS funding is not being cut. From an initial allocation of less than \$10 million in 1997 expenditure on SNSS has risen to an expected expenditure this financial year of more than \$20 million. SNSS has proven to be very popular and demand is exceeding available funds.

**Q.** Will my child's child care service lose SNSS funding as a result of this decision?

**A.** No. Child care services that receive SNSS funding will continue to receive that funding while the child/children continue to attend the service.

**Q.** If my child moves to another child care service can we take the SNSS funding with us?

**A.** SNSS funding does not automatically follow a child from one service to another. However, where it is assessed that the new service cannot include the child without SNSS, funding may be transferred provided it is at the same level or less than that approved for the old service.

**Q.** Can my child's child care service get extra funding if I want my child to attend for additional hours?

**A.** All applications for SNSS, including those for additional hours, will be closely assessed to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding. The service should try to cover the additional hours through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS).

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

To ensure SNSS continues to support children with high needs, including those seeking to enter child care for the first time or returning after a break, all recommended applications for additional SNSS funding will go onto the waiting list.

**Q.** What if my child's circumstances change after the application has been submitted? Will I have to go to the bottom of the wait list?

**A.** No. It is recommended that if your child's needs change prior to the application being approved that the child's Inclusion Team be advised as soon as possible so the recommendations on the SNSS application can be amended to reflect the new situation.

**Q.** I will lose my job if I cannot get extra hours (or my child into child care). Is this what the Government wants?

**A.** The first step to determine if SNSS is appropriate involves a close assessment to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding. Funding will not be recommended where the service is able to include the child through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS). Those applications that are recommended for additional SNSS funding will be added to the waiting list. SNSS has proven to be very popular and regrettably demand across Australia has exceeded the initial allocation of less than \$10 million. Even though funding has been greatly increased demand appears to be increasing at a greater rate. Accordingly SNSS funds need to be distributed in the fairest way possible which includes equal right of access for people not previously receiving assistance but who now have a need.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 127**

**Topic: Special Needs Subsidy Scheme**

**Hansard Page: CA40**

**Senator Moore** asked:

- (1) How many children are currently on the national waiting list for SNSS?
- (2) Where do the children live by state and territory and by local government area?
- (3) How long are children going to be on the waiting list, to the best of your ability to answer?
- (4) Is the length of time on the waiting list different in each state and territory?
- (5) Are there variations between the state and territories?
- (6) What is the range of special needs, of disabilities, that the children have?
- (7) Is it possible to have those disabilities – because of the range of the scheme – broken down so that we know the different ways in which people can claim through the scheme?
- (8) What is the detail of the application process?
- (9) What information is provided to parents and services regarding the new waiting list?

**Answer:**

(1) On 15 October 2002 there were 629 children on the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS) waiting list. Of these children 175 are already receiving SNSS support and are seeking additional hours.

(2) The number of children on the waiting list in each state and territory is: 158 in Victoria; 215 in NSW; 118 in Queensland; 51 in WA; 60 in SA; 15 in Tasmania; and 12 in NT.

(3) It is not possible to determine how long children will be on the waiting list as it is dependent on funds being released by children leaving the scheme and individual children reaching the top of the waiting list.

(4) Yes. Each State and Territory has children leaving the scheme at differing times.

(5)-(7) The detailed information required to answer the Senator's question in relation to the variations between state and territories is not readily available. I do not consider appropriate the expenditure of resources and effort that would be involved in collecting and assembling information for the sole purpose of answering questions of this nature.

(8) The application process commences with the parent approaching a child care service seeking care. Where the service believes additional assistance is required they contact the local Supplementary Services (SUPS) worker. An Inclusion Support Team is established which includes a representative from the service, the child's primary caregiver, the SUPS worker and, if appropriate, any professionals working with the child. The Inclusion Support Team looks at the needs of the child in relation to inclusion in the service and develops an Inclusion Support Plan. If SNSS assistance is required the service submits an application for SNSS, which includes the Inclusion Support Plan, to the appropriate state or territory office of the department. Applications that meet the eligibility criteria are approved, if funding is available, or are placed on a waiting list until funds become available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

(9) Parents and services are advised that the application has been placed on the waiting list and that it is not possible to advise when funds will become available to allow SNSS to be approved.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 128**

**Topic: Special Needs Subsidy Scheme**

**Hansard Page: CA41**

**Senator Moore** asked: Can you provide the information and questions and answers given to child care service providers of SNSS.

**Answer:**

In April 2002 the following letter advising of the changes to SNSS was sent to child care services currently receiving SNSS funding.

“As you may be aware the Department of Family and Community Services administers the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS). The scheme assists children with ongoing high support needs, particularly children with disabilities, to access quality child care. SNSS provides a subsidy for child care services to employ additional staff to include children in the activities and experiences of child care.

SNSS was introduced in 1997 with an annual funding allocation of approximately \$10 million. Since that time it has proved to be very popular and demand for assistance is continuing to grow. Expenditure for this financial year is expected to exceed \$20 million, with more than 4,600 children receiving assistance.

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has confirmed that the Government remains committed to ensuring that SNSS support is available to children with ongoing high support needs and that this support is made available in the fairest way possible. However, funds are limited and expenditure on SNSS cannot continue unchecked.

From 15 April 2002 new procedures for the administration of SNSS are being introduced to ensure that the available funds are managed closely and fairly. Children with SNSS funding approved prior to 15 April will not be affected by this change and will continue to receive their current level of funding while they remain eligible. However, all new applications, including requests to extend hours, will be assessed and where SNSS is considered appropriate they will be placed on a waiting list, in order of receipt. Funds that become available as children leave the scheme may be used to fund applications from the waiting list.“

The following Question and Answers were also included :

**Q.** What is the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS)?

**A.** SNSS assists children with ongoing high support needs, particularly children with disabilities, to access quality child care. A subsidy is paid to the child care service to employ additional staff to assist with the inclusion of these children. Currently SNSS provides assistance to over 4,600 children.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Q.** What changes are happening to SNSS?

**A.** From 15 April all new applications for SNSS that have been recommended for funding will be placed on a waiting list. Funding released as children withdraw from the scheme will be used to offer assistance to those on the waiting list.

**Q.** How long will I have to wait before SNSS funding is available?

**A.** The length of time a person may have to spend on the waiting list will depend on demand and funds being made available as children withdraw from the scheme.

**Q.** How will the waiting list be managed?

**A.** All applications for SNSS will be closely assessed to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS). Those recommended applications, that meet the SNSS Guidelines, will be placed on the waiting list in order of date of receipt by the Department of Family and Community Services.

**Q.** Why is SNSS funding being cut?

**A.** SNSS funding is not being cut. From an initial allocation of less than \$10 million in 1997 expenditure on SNSS has risen to an expected expenditure this financial year of more than \$20 million. SNSS has proven to be very popular and demand is exceeding available funds.

**Q.** Will my child's child care service lose SNSS funding as a result of this decision?

**A.** No. Child care services that receive SNSS funding will continue to receive that funding while the child/children continue to attend the service.

**Q.** If my child moves to another child care service can we take the SNSS funding with us?

**A.** SNSS funding does not automatically follow a child from one service to another. However, where it is assessed that the new service cannot include the child without SNSS, funding may be transferred provided it is at the same level or less than that approved for the old service.

**Q.** Can my child's child care service get extra funding if I want my child to attend for additional hours?

**A.** All applications for SNSS, including those for additional hours, will be closely assessed to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding. The service should try to cover the additional hours through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS).

To ensure SNSS continues to support children with high needs, including those seeking to enter child care for the first time or returning after a break, all recommended applications for additional SNSS funding will go onto the waiting list.

**Q.** What if my child's circumstances change after the application has been submitted? Will I have to go to the bottom of the wait list?



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**A.** No. It is recommended that if your child's needs change prior to the application being approved that the child's Inclusion Team be advised as soon as possible so the recommendations on the SNSS application can be amended to reflect the new situation.

**Q.** I will lose my job if I cannot get extra hours (or my child into child care). Is this what the Government wants?

**A.** The first step to determine if SNSS is appropriate involves a close assessment to see if the child care service is able to include the child without additional SNSS funding. Funding will not be recommended where the service is able to include the child through the use of existing resources and the support of the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS). Those applications that are recommended for additional SNSS funding will be added to the waiting list. SNSS has proven to be very popular and regrettably demand across Australia has exceeded the initial allocation of less than \$10 million. Even though funding has been greatly increased demand appears to be increasing at a greater rate. Accordingly SNSS funds need to be distributed in the fairest way possible which includes equal right of access for people not previously receiving assistance but who now have a need.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 129**

**Topic: Special Needs Subsidy Scheme**

**Hansard Page: CA42**

**Senator Moore** asked: In the June estimates, the department advised that services would not be penalised for turning away children with disabilities due to the lack of funds – that is, if a child care centre were to turn away a child with special needs because lack of funding. In terms of the overall legislation, was consideration given whether the legislation was in breach?

**Answer:**

The objective of the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme is to increase the access and participation of children with ongoing high support needs in Commonwealth approved child care services. Some children with disabilities already access services outside the SNSS program.

The Department is considering the potential impact based on legislation and has sought legal advice on a range of inclusion aspects.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 94**

**Topic: Costs of Child Care – Affordability**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

The latest CPI figures from the ABS show an increase in the cost of child care of 11 per cent in the September quarter, and more than 17 per cent increase over the last year.

- (a) How does the Government explain this increase?
- (b) What impact has this large increase had on utilisation of places or the CCB budget?
- (c) Given that the Government takes credit for its policy settings in the periods when the cost of child care for families decreases, does it also take responsibility when the cost increases and makes Child Care less affordable?

**Answer:**

- (a) The ABS figures on the cost of child care are an estimate based on a formula approach. This formula is based on average weekly earnings for all employees and on a sample of fees charged by child care services. The earnings used in the ABS calculations are not representative of the earnings of Child Care Benefit customers, which means that out of pocket costs calculated by the ABS do not reflect actual out of pocket costs for Child Care Benefit customers.

Higher premiums for public liability insurance, and anticipated increases in the wages of child care workers may have led to upward pressures on child care fees. However, the increase reported by the ABS is mostly due to the methodology used by the ABS to calculate the cost of child care. There were substantial increases in average weekly earnings in the September 2002 quarter, and this substantially contributed to the rise in out of pocket costs for child care picked up in the ABS figures. FaCS has been discussing the methodology used by the ABS with the ABS.

- (b) There is no evidence at this stage of any impact of the cost of child care either on child care utilisation or on CCB expenditure. Finalised child care usage figures for the September quarter are expected to be available by March 2003.
- (c) See above.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support**

**Question No: 95**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Is the Government aware of the current rash of child care centres being listed on the Australian Stock Exchange?

**Answer:**

The Government is aware that three companies which own or manage child care services have listed on the Australian Stock Exchange this year.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support**

**Question No: 96**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Is the Government aware of the community and sector concern about the potential takeover of community based and small private operators by the large corporate providers?

**Answer:**

The Government is aware that some concerns have been raised in the community regarding the provision of child care by large corporations. The Hon Larry Anthony MP, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, has indicated that he is monitoring the situation.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support**

**Question No: 97**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Has the Department undertaken any analysis of how much of child care benefit budget will go to the following providers: ABC learning; Child care centres Australia and Peppercorn Management in the current financial year?

**Answer:**

No. Child Care Benefit is a payment for families to help with their child care costs, not a payment for child care service providers.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support      Question No: 98**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

The new corporate providers explicitly state that their projected profits are based on the lucrative nature of the new Child Care Benefit revenue stream – Does the Department see any need for Government policy to be developed to address this new development in the child care sector?

**Answer:**

It is inappropriate for the Department to comment on Government policy. Child Care Benefit is paid for care used at all approved child care services, regardless of the type of ownership of the child care service.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support      Question No: 99**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What proportion of the child care industry is currently covered by private businesses that own more than 10 child care services?

**Answer:**

About 1.8 per cent of all approved child care services are currently owned by private businesses that own more than 10 child care services.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support      Question No: 100**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Any restriction on private businesses running all types of services in one area – ie the Family Day Care, Outside school hours care and long day care?

**Answer:**

No.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support      Question No: 101**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Have you received any formal complaints about the three newly floated privates?

**Answer:**

The Department has received no formal complaints about the three child care companies floated this year.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: Child Care Support      Question No: 102**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Minister has said he will 'monitor' them. How is this proposed to be done? What if any mechanism exists for monitoring?

**Answer:**

All long day care centres approved for Child Care Benefit must participate satisfactorily in the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS). The QIAS is administered by the NCAC. The NCAC works closely with the Department and State and Territory Governments to monitor quality child care. The NCAC also has in place a complaints handling system. Any complaints received through this system are investigated.

The Department is also using existing administrative data sources to keep the Minister apprised of how many child care services are owned by larger corporations, and of where those services are located.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 104**

**Topic: New Corporate Child Care Providers**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is the Department aware of speculation that there is a policy of staff and equipment being moved between these centres in order to meet basic accreditation requirements? If so, what is the Government policy on this practice? Is it considered acceptable?

**Answer:**

The Department is aware of speculation but has no evidence of staff and equipment being moved between centres in order to achieve accreditation requirements.

The Government, Department and the National Childcare Accreditation Council would not accept practice of this sort. Specific complaints about these practices would be investigated and appropriate action taken.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 103**

**Topic: Qualified staff and training for child care centres**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is it true that these providers have approached the Government about reducing restrictions on their levels of qualified staff, or proposing alternative training schemes for staff employed in their centres?

**Answer:**

The levels of qualified staff required in child care centres is not determined by the Commonwealth government. These requirements are covered by State and Territory government regulations.

The Commonwealth government has not been approached to reduce restrictions in the levels of qualified staff or asked to consider alternative training schemes for staff employed in centres.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 105**

**Topic: Disadvantaged Area Subsidy (DAS)**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

How much was allocated, and how much was spent, on DAS in the 2001-2002 financial year?

**Answer:**

No specific allocation is provided for DAS that is funded through the Child Care Broadband. \$10.8 million was provided for DAS in 2001-02.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 106**

**Topic: Disadvantaged Area Subsidy (DAS)**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Where has this money (see QON 105) been spent in the last 6 years (by Electorate)?

**Answer:**

Information for the first four years of the period in question is on a database that has been archived. I do not consider appropriate the additional expenditure of resources and effort that would be required to retrieve this information. Expenditure for 2000-01 and 2001-02 is detailed below:

**South Australia**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Adelaide	\$35,763	\$36,510
Barker	\$452,770	\$433,441
Bonython	\$7,875	\$5,137
Grey	\$462,395	\$491,212
Kingston	\$62,063	\$69,548
Mayo	\$179,916	\$274,640
Wakefield	\$248,431	\$289,322

**Western Australia**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Forrest	\$177,629	\$182,729
Kalgoorlie	\$420,145	\$430,472
O'Connor	\$101,524	\$102,280
Pearce	\$47,386	\$53,512
Canning	\$15,261	\$15,715

**Queensland**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Blair	\$193,667	\$211,405
Bowman	\$11,655	\$11,723
Brisbane	\$35,821	\$36,566
Capricornia	\$309,112	\$331,861
Dawson	\$100,932	\$115,499
Dickson	\$22,603	\$27,614
Fadden	\$7,666	\$7,706
Fairfax	\$65,777	\$73,758
Fisher	\$54,669	\$63,092

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Forde	\$18,616	\$34,429
Griffith	\$11,397	\$10,792
Groom	\$80,334	\$96,590
Herbert	-	\$5,137
Hinkler	\$187,122	\$218,699
Kennedy	\$219,740	\$274,433
Leichhardt	\$244,843	\$301,097
Longman	\$14,699	\$14,646
Maranoa	\$333,770	\$382,604
McPherson	\$17,854	\$25,705
Moncreiff	\$9,071	\$12,451
Ryan	\$38,601	\$53,283
Wide Bay	\$81,340	\$97,473

**Australian Capital Territory**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Fraser	\$4,168	\$13,978

**Tasmania**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Bass	\$35,020	\$21,294
Braddon	\$183,589	\$170,272
Franklin	\$64,539	\$60,872
Lyons	\$134,336	\$111,210

**New South Wales**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Berowra	\$41,294	\$34,682
Calare	\$169,493	\$186,790
Charlton	\$11,347	\$12,845
Chifley	\$28,977	\$29,592
Cook	\$12,792	\$12,845
Cowper	\$50,286	\$64,705
Cunningham	\$72,694	\$24,876
Dobell	\$21,015	\$19,738
Eden-Monaro	\$151,104	\$202,977
Farrer	\$145,773	\$189,148
Gilmore	\$106,425	\$118,522
Gwydir	\$223,018	\$172,562
Hughes	\$9,780	\$12,845
Hume	\$182,187	\$200,360
Hunter	\$118,593	\$134,095
Lyne	\$158,330	\$168,524



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Macarthur	\$14,503	\$15,885
Mackellar	\$16,879	\$19,738
Macquarie	\$117,893	\$136,107
Mitchell	\$9,573	\$12,945
New England	\$78,532	\$126,447
Newcastle	\$10,563	\$21,430
Page	\$52,511	\$57,882
Parkes	\$119,097	\$105,153
Paterson	\$10,561	\$14,598
Richmond	\$49,440	\$56,041
Riverina	\$191,493	\$249,774
Shortland	\$51,933	\$54,888
Sydney	\$43,117	\$21,992
Throsby	\$52,714	-
Werriwa	\$15,539	\$17,341

**Victoria**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Ballarat	\$118,153	\$142,454
Bendigo	\$221,141	\$262,253
Burke	\$83,464	\$92,123
Corangamite	\$219,754	\$234,312
Corio	\$114,162	\$125,466
Flinders	\$96,961	\$115,240
Gippsland	\$268,702	\$287,556
Indi	\$212,182	\$253,681
Isaacs	\$21,982	\$22,576
La Trobe	\$122,179	\$119,702
McEwen	\$287,558	\$302,769
McMillan	\$70,615	\$107,190
Mallee	\$133,725	\$169,931
Murray	\$213,987	\$453,316
Scullin	\$9,861	\$7,706
Wannon	\$96,781	\$113,552

**Northern Territory**

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Lingiari	\$215,833	\$327,052

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 107**

**Topic: Disadvantaged Area Subsidy (DAS)**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How many applications have been received for DAS and how many of these have been successful?

**Answer:**

During the 2001-02 financial year 111 services were granted DAS. There is no record of any applications for DAS being rejected during this period.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group : 1.4 Child Care**

**Question No : 108**

**Topic: Mobile Services – Update of Review Process**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

In 2002 Budget Estimates we were advised that the review of Mobile Services commenced in 2001 was being “finalised” – however as at 18 November 2002 there has still been no release of information about the outcomes of the review:

- Why has this review still not been finalised/released?
- Please provide an update of the outcomes of the review process.
- What decisions have been taken about the future of this program?
- What advice has been provided to Special Mobile Service providers?
- Will mobile services now be part of the overall Broadband review that has commenced?
- What is the status of the services that have applied for additional interim funding?
- When is the Minister/Department going to give some funding certainty to these Mobile Services.

**Question:**

Why has this review still not been finalised/released? Please provide an update of the outcomes of the review process.

**Answer:**

The review has been finalised. Services are being notified of the outcome.

**Question:**

What decisions have been taken about the future of this program?

**Answer:**

Mobile services are funded under the Child Care Support Broadband and will be considered in the context of the Broadband redevelopment.

**Question:**

What advice has been provided to Special Mobile Service Providers?

**Answer:**

Services are being notified of the outcome of the review.

**Question:**

Will mobile services now be part of the overall Broadband review that has commenced?

**Answer:**

Yes.

**Question:**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

What is the status of the services that have applied for additional interim funding?

**Answer:**

These services will continue to receive additional funding as a result of the review.

**Question:**

When is the Minister/Department going to give some funding certainty to these Mobile Services?

**Answer:**

The Child Care Support Broadband redevelopment is currently in its very early stages and no prospective funding models have been considered or developed. The redevelopment will consider all elements of the Child Care Support Broadband, and will focus on meeting the needs of children and their families. Redevelopment of the Child Care Support Broadband will be informed by a national consultative process. Input from all parts of the children's services field, families and other stakeholders will be sought. It is expected that findings should be available by mid 2003.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: .... 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 111 & 149**

**Topic: Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care**

**Hansard Page: CA52 and Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: P.80 of Annual Report – “Effectiveness – Independence - SFCS – refers to “information shown below” for performance information on the number of places available under the Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care strategies – this information is nowhere to be found – please provide details.

**Answer:**

The performance information on the number of places available under the Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care strategies is as follows:

At 30 June 2002, the Private Provider Incentive had assisted six long day care centres to open in rural and remote communities where there was a demand for care but no centre-based care was available to meet this need. These services provide 192 approved child care places.

At 30 June 2002, there were 85 services providing 2206 in-home care places.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 112**

**Topic: Improved flexibility in child care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: P.82 of Annual Report “Improved flexibility in child care” – lots of rhetoric (such as “New in-home care services has reduced the number of families who have difficulty accessing mainstream child care services”) but no actual performance info to support their claims of growth in various service types. Provide detailed info on how many services provided under this measure, how many places, how many families and children using these services.

**Answer:**

The performance information on the number of places available under the Greater Flexibility and Choice in Child Care strategies is as follows:

At 30 June 2002, the Private Provider Incentive had assisted 6 long day care centres to open in rural and remote communities where there was a demand for care but no centre-based care was available to meet this need. These services provide 192 approved child care places. There are no statistics available on the number of families using these services.

At 30 June 2002, there were 85 services providing 2206 in-home care places. Data indicates that 862 families and 2 328 children accessed in-home care in the period July-September 2002.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 113**

**Topic: Accreditation of Child Care Centres**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

P.82 of Annual Report – Accreditation of Centres – more than 10% of centres have only been given a one year accreditation – what is the reason for these services only being given a one year accreditation period (instead of the standard three years)? What is being done to ensure these services are being brought up to standard to give them three year accreditation?

**Answer:**

Under the revised QIAS introduced in January 2002, centres meeting the standard required for accreditation are accredited for a fixed period of two and a half years. Under the old Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS) to which the data refers, the accreditation status of long day care centres was determined by a number of factors, including information provided by the centre in its Self Study Report and an assessment made by independent peer reviewers who visited the centre to examine its policies and practices.

Centres assessed as providing good or high quality care against specified Quality Principles were awarded three years accreditation. Two or one year accreditation was awarded to centres providing quality care, but at a lower standard.

The government provides funding to Resource and Training Agencies in all States and Territories to assist long day care centres to meet and improve the standards of care required for accreditation.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: .....1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 114**

**Topic: Funding for Quality Assurance**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

P.82 of Annual Report –how much funding has been provided to the NCAC and to services to assist the development and implementation of the QA system for each of the FDC and OSH processes? – 330 FDC schemes have registered with the NCAC (how many have not and what will happen to them?)

**Answer:**

**Family Day Care (FDC)**

All Family Day Care schemes that are required to do so have registered with the National Childcare Accreditation Council to participate in quality assurance.

All approved Family Day Care services must participate satisfactorily in the quality assurance system in order to continue to be eligible for Child Care Benefit.

The NCAC has allocated \$1,115,241 in 2002-2003 for the management of Family Day Care Quality Assurance (FDCQA).

In addition, the Department funded the development of national training resources to assist FDC services with the implementation of quality assurance. The Meerilinga Training College developed the resources under contract to the Department, to the value of \$773,502.

The Department also provides family day care services with an operational subsidy to support the delivery of quality child care. In 2001-2002 the operational subsidy for family day care amounted to approximately \$55m of child care Broadband expenditure.

**Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)**

OSHC services do not need to register with the NCAC for Quality Assurance until July 2003.

The NCAC has allocated \$883,543 in its budget for 2002-03 as set-up costs to prepare for the implementation and management of OSHCQA.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 115**

**Topic: SFCS – Private Provider Initiative**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Annual Report states that 6 new centres have been set up in rural areas with this funding and another 8 centres have in-principle approval – need further information on how much has been spent, where these centres are located, how many places provided, when are centres to be operational, what criteria were they approved on, etc.

**Answer:**

The following eight centres have been approved and are currently operating.

<b>Name Of Service</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No of Child Care Places</b>	<b>Commenced Operation</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Little Treasure Child Care Centre	Taralga	20	February 2001	\$49,693
Learning Tree Children's Centre	Gilgandra	40	October 2001	\$112,910
Rivergum Child Care Centre	Narromine	29	April 2002	\$60,326
Learning Tree Children's Centre	Kyogle	40	April 2002	\$292,250
<b>Queensland</b>				
Cape Kids Child Care Centre	Weipa	24	May 2001	\$270,029
Little Rascals Child Care Centre	Killarney	29	May 2002	\$350,463
<b>Western Australia</b>				
Harvey Early Learning Centre	Harvey	30	January 2001	\$349,036
Waroona Child Care Centre	Waroona	29	August 2002	\$407,487

Funding is only provided to services once they commence operating.

Selected private providers receive incentives to encourage the establishment of long day care centres in rural and remote communities where there is demand for, but no provision of child care services.

In considering eligibility for private provider incentives, Department of Family & Community Services State/Territory Offices ensure that the operator:

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

- Provides a Child Care Benefit application form certifying that they meet the basic requirements, defined by the legislation, of a 'suitable operator';
- has made an assessment of the need for long day care in the particular community;
- is able to provide licensed care places for children aged 0 – 5 years of age, as far as possible, relevant to the needs of the community;
- can demonstrate the financial capacity to establish the licensed premises and commence operation within a reasonable timeframe;
- has experience in the operation of child care services or is able to employ a person with this experience;
- agrees to appropriately expend the incentives;
- is willing to register and comply with the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System.

If more than one provider expresses an interest in setting up a centre in the same area, State/Territory Offices may apply additional criteria to select the most suitable application. The additional criteria might include such things as:

- the experience of a private provider in establishing and operating long day care centres generally as well as specifically those in rural and regional areas;
- the extent of research into demand and consultation with the particular community;
- understanding of, and ability to meet the particular needs of the community
- demonstrated progress towards establishment of a centre eg. purchase of land, consultation with the licensing authority etc.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** .....1.4 Child Care Support

**Question No: 116**

**Topic: Tender for new child care service in Ballan region**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Recently the Government announced a tender for a new service in the Ballan region (Electorate of Ballarat, Victoria) – is this being funded by DAS or by the Stronger Families and Communities Strategies fund? Why are community based (not for profit) providers unable to tender for this service? What are the reasons for any guidelines precluding them tendering for such a service?

**Answer:**

The tender for a new child care service in the Ballan region in Victoria was under the Private Provider Initiative of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

The Private Provider Initiative is only available to private operators and is not available to non-profit organisations. If a non-profit organisation is considering establishing a long day care in a community where there is no other centre-based care available, or is interested in establishing a centre in an advertised region, they are not precluded from submitting a tender for this service. However, if successful in their tender, such organisations would be offered Disadvantaged Area Subsidy (DAS) funding instead of Private Provider Incentives.

The incentives available to private operators under the Private Provider Initiative are available for two years only.

DAS is recurrent funding to assist non-profit long day care centres with the general costs of operation, provided they continue to meet the criteria.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 117**

**Topic: Annual Report**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: P.83 – SFCS – New places for sick care arrangements – says this is provided elsewhere but cannot be found in AR – please provide details of where, how many, how much etc?

**Answer:**

On page 82 of the Annual Report under improved flexibility in child care there is reference to sick children is included as part of the in-home care measure. One of the eligibility criteria of in-home care is for families where the parent/s or child has an illness/disability.

Data available indicates that 18% of families access in-home care due to the family having a parent or child with an illness/disability.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 118**

**Topic:**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

P.83 – Departmental costs have decreased by nearly 30% (from 12.1c per dollar to 8.7c per dollar this year) – how have these efficiencies been realised? Are there less staff being employed or less projects undertaken?

**Answer:**

Departmental expenditure for Output Group 1.4 has decreased from 2000-01 to 2001-02 due mainly to the reduction in payments to the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) following the cessation of the childcare rebate program. Until 30 June 2001, the department paid the HIC for the delivery of childcare rebate through HIC offices. With the cessation of this program, the payment to HIC is no longer made, hence the reduction in departmental costs in Output Group 1.4.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.4 Child Care Support

**Question No:** 119

**Topic:**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

However, nearly three and half times more was spent on policy advice in this financial year than was budgeted for (\$12m compared to \$3.5m) – what is the reason for this cost blowout and why no commentary in the AR?

**Answer:**

Costs for FaCS core outputs (policy advice, purchasing, funding and relationship management, research and evaluation) are based on data obtained from a staff effort survey. Output costs at the time the 2001-02 Budget was prepared was based on effort surveys for the preceding financial years. The annual report for 2001-02 has output costs calculated on the basis of surveys conducted in the 2001-02 financial year. The difference in Budget vs Actual in 2001-02 is attributable to more staff identifying that their work related to policy advice activities than in previous financial years.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.4 Child Care Support

**Question No: 120**

**Topic:**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Similarly, nearly a third of the budget for “purchasing, funding and relationship management” was not spent (budgeted \$23m, spent less than \$16m) – what is the reason for this and why no commentary? – provide details of the whole \$15m expenditure and why the budget is again \$24m for the current financial year.

**Answer:**

Costs for FaCS core outputs (policy advice, purchasing, funding and relationship management, research and evaluation) are based on data obtained from a staff effort survey. Survey information at the time the 2001-02 Budget was prepared was based on effort surveys for the preceding financial years. The annual report for 2001-02 has output costs calculated on the basis of surveys conducted in the 2001-02 financial year. The difference in Budget vs Actual in 2001-02 is attributable to more staff identifying that their work related to policy advice activities than in previous financial years.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group:** 1.4 Child Care Support

**Question No:** 121

**Topic:**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Research and evaluation shows \$4.3m spent on research – but no further details and only one piece of major research completed – provide details of all research, who undertook it, how much spent on each piece of work, timing and completion dates.

**Answer:**

The amount recorded on Research & Evaluation reflects the allocation of staff time to this activity as recorded through the departments effort survey of staff. In addition, this amount also includes a proportion of overhead costs (such as rent, electricity etc). Amounts recorded against this item does not necessarily reflect any specific piece of research activity, but the estimate of costs of staff undertaking research and evaluation type activities.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 193**

**Topic: Departmental Performance**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

P.86 – Performance Summary – states “Child care services provide resources for parents such as information, education and links to other services, supporting them in better parenting”. Is this a part of their service agreement? Is this something services are funded to provide or is this an added extra they are expected to provide?

**Answer:**

Linking with other community services and having information and resources available to families is good business practice for child care services. This enables services to better support families. Services may do this by having brochures and posters displayed that promote other services in the community, such as health services.

The value of services linking with the wider community is identified in the child care quality assurance systems and in the Handbooks for child care services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 122**

**Topic: In-home Care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: How much money was spent in 2001-02 on the In-home Child Care Program, broken down into rural and metropolitan areas and by State/Territory?

**Answer:**

Expenditure on the In-home care program for 2001-02 was \$1 632 000. This does not include other grant payments to eligible in-home care services such as Regional and Travel Assistance Grant (RTAG), Disabled Supplementary Services (DSUPS) or Child Care Benefit (CCB) payments.

Expenditure data is not available by rural/metropolitan area or by State/Territory as it is not tracked that way. For example, an IHC service may be based in a metropolitan area but provide care for families and children in a rural area.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 123**

**Topic: In-home Care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: What influence does the Commonwealth have over state delivery of such services?

**Answer:**

Approved In-home Care services must meet requirements for Child Care Benefit approval as outlined in A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999, Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000.

Services are also required to meet the requirements outlined in the In-home Care Handbook and the funding agreement with the Department of Family and Community Services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 124**

**Topic: In-home Care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: How many families and children are currently accessing the program? (provide details of number of children, and number of hours used)

**Answer:**

Data indicates that 862 families and 2 328 children accessed in-home care in the period July - Sep 2002.

Information is not available about the number of hours of care used.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 125**

**Topic: In-home Care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Are there any plans for growth to areas where this is not available?

**Answer:**

In-home Care is a targeted measure to ensure that families who do not have access to existing services, or where local services are unable to meet their needs, can obtain child care. In-home care will also be considered as part of the Broadband Redevelopment.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 1.4 Child Care Support**

**Question No: 126**

**Topic: In-home Care**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Will this initiative be part of the Broadband review?  
Is the Department conducting any type of evaluation of the success of this initiative (either interim or ongoing evaluations)?

**Answer:**

Yes. All elements of the Child Care Support Broadband will be examined as part of the redevelopment process.

The department is not currently conducting an evaluation of in-home care, however the department has produced two reports on the experiences of the three in-home care pilot projects and an information booklet to assist new in-home care service providers.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Assistance for People of Workforce Age**

**Question No: 153**

**Topic: Indigenous Payments under CDEP**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

- a) Can you tell me if CDEP participants employed in Federal Departments receive superannuation contributions?
- b) Does ATSIC or the Federal Government Departments provide funds to organisations employing CDEP participants to insure workers against harm?
- c) Are there cases where CDEP participants have been employed on CDEP in Federal Government Departments for many years? If so, how many and how long for? Are any of these people professionally qualified eg. Healthworkers.
- d) )Do they receive leave entitlements or long service leave?
- e) What workplace entitlements or benefits are CDEP participants entitled to?
- f) Why do these position not get a normal training wage such as Work for the Dole?
- g) Can you tell me if there are non-indigenous people being employed under work for the dole schemes in government departments?

**Answer:**

These questions do not belong to the Family and Community Services portfolio.

Questions (a) to (f) belongs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (which is part of the Department of Immigration Multicultural, Indigenous and Ethnic Affairs Portfolio).

Question (g) belongs to Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3 1 Assistance for People of Workforce Age      Question No: 154**

**Topic: Special benefit**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

a) How many people currently receive special benefit in total by state?

b) How many TPV holders receive special benefit in total by state?

**Answer:**

a)

State	Number of special benefit recipients as of 15 Nov 2002
New South Wales	6,117
Victoria	3,407
Queensland	823
Western Australia	761
South Australia	736
Australian Capital Territory	188
Tasmania	90
Northern Territory	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,155</b>

b)

State	Number of special benefit recipients holding TPVs as of 15 Nov 2002
New South Wales	2,205
Victoria	994
South Australia	445
Western Australia	354
Queensland	240
Australian Capital Territory	18
Tasmania	4
Northern Territory	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,262</b>



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Assistance for People of Workforce Age**

**Question No: 155**

**Topic: Special benefit**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Are all special benefit recipients subject to activity testing?

**Answer:**

Currently, the special benefit activity test applies to those receiving special benefit who are of workforce age and are capable of working except sole parents or those with a permanent disability.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Assistance for People of Workforce Age**

**Question No: 156**

**Topic: Special benefit**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

What form does the activity testing take and what Departmental services are available to other groups of special benefit recipients?

**Answer:**

Other groups of special benefit recipients who are considered capable of looking for and undertaking work are required to meet the requirements of the special benefit activity test by:

- registering as a job seeker with Centrelink and completing a 'Looking for work' form; and
- accepting referral to and enrolling with at least one Job Network member; and
- may choose to undertake a range of activities including:
  - job search activities;
  - paid work;
  - voluntary work;
  - a course of part time vocational training; or
  - a part time course that will improve the person's prospects of obtaining work or that will assist the person in seeking work.

Special benefit recipients who are not subject to the special benefit activity test have access to Centrelink social worker services.

Special benefit recipients who are sole parents may also have access to assistance through the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program.

All special benefit recipients have access to Centrelink Financial Information Service Officers who offer a free service to help people improve their standard of living, particularly in retirement and in planning for retirement.

All Centrelink customers have access to the broad range of interpreter services that Centrelink provides.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3 Assistance for People of Workforce Age**

**Question No: 157**

**Topic: Special benefit**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

What if any are the differences between proposed treatment of TPV holders who receive special benefit under the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Special Benefit Activity Test) Bill, and other special benefit recipients?

**Answer:**

The differences between the proposed treatment of TPV holders who receive special benefit under the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Special Benefit Activity Test) Bill and other special benefit recipients are:

- only TPV holders have access to Work for the Dole;
- only TPV holders have access to the Language, Literacy, Numeracy Programme; and
- only TPV holders can be penalised for failing to comply with activity test requirements without reasonable excuse.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**2002-03 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING NOVEMBER 2002**

*Number of Breaches*

- The following table shows the number of breaches imposed over the last 5 financial years (excluding those breaches that were later overturned).

<b>Period</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches</b>	<b>Total Breaches</b>	<b>Yearly Variation</b>
1996/97	47,400	65,700	113,100	
1997/98	60,981	59,737	120,718	6.7%
1998/99	88,159	76,741	164,900	
1998/99 actual (approx)*	112,200	100,700	212,900	76.4%
1999/00	177,759	124,735	302,494	42.1%
2000/01	294,747	92,199	386,946	27.9%
2001/02	226,446	43,457	269,903	-30.2%

- Note: an error in the Centrelink computer system resulted in the under-representation of breach numbers for 1998-99 by an estimated 48,000 breaches, or 4,000 breaches each month. This error has been rectified for all breach data recorded from July 1999 onwards, substantially increasing in the apparent numbers of reported breaches.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 158**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: The Minister has stated that that breaching activity is not a line item in the Budget, that for example a certain level of breaching activity is not factored into Budget considerations. Is this the case?

**Answer:**

Breaching is not a line item. The ongoing impact of breaching is factored into forward estimates via projections of the average rate of payment.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 159**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Are budget forecasts in the forward estimates for expenditure on Newstart and Youth Allowance derived from anticipated customer numbers and average payment rates?

**Answer:**

Yes.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 160**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: What factors are taken into account to determine average payment rates?

**Answer:**

The forward estimates for the payment of income support to unemployed people are calculated on the basis of a number of factors. One of these factors is the 'average rate of payment' that occurred in a previous actual payment period. This average rate of payment figure implicitly takes into account the impact of earnings, breach penalties, rental costs and debt recoveries on unemployment payments. It also takes into account any expected impacts, such as movements in the CPI and the unemployment rate. Neither the actual or forecast average rate of payment are disaggregated into contributing components.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 161**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Does the calculation of average payment rates include the impact of rate reductions and non-payment periods resulting from breaching activity?

**Answer:**

Because of the forecasting methodology outlined in answer to QON 160, no explicit estimate is made of the future impact of breaching on average rates of payment.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 162**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: In each year of the forward estimates what is the estimated impact of breaching activity on average payment rates for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance? What is the total value of this impact?

**Answer:**

It is not possible to estimate the impact of breaching activity on average rates for each year of the forward estimates. Forward estimates do not assume certain breaching levels as they rely on observed average rates of payment adjusted for any expected impacts.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 163**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: If an explicit estimate is not made of the future impact of breaching activity on average payment rates, is a historical impact of breaching activity on average payment rates assumed in calculating average payment rates for the forward estimates? If so what is the total value of this impact on each year of the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

The impact of breaching on forward estimates cannot be disaggregated.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 164**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: If savings from breaching activity impact on average payment rates, how can it be argued that budget forecasts do not assume certain breaching levels?

**Answer:**

The Budget forecasts do not include specific assumptions on the level of breaching. As outlined in the answer to QONs 158 and 160, the impact of breaching affects the average rate of payment, which is used in the forward estimates.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 165**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Please provide an estimate of the financial impact of each of the elements of each recommendation of the Pearce Report?

**Answer:**

It is not possible to provide estimates for each element of each recommendation of the Pearce Report. Many of the recommendations made are already in place. However, although the Department has not sought any formal costing of the recommendations relating to breaches (25(1)(2) and (3)), we have made estimates of their financial impact.

In considering the following estimates, it should be noted that recommendation 25 is vague on some key points. "Fully recoverable" is not defined in the recommendation and we have interpreted it to mean that allowance should be fully restored with, or alternatively without back payment (both alternatives are canvassed in different parts of the report).

"Persistent serious breaches" are also not defined. This could mean that a third failure to satisfy an activity test requirement is a persistent serious breach, which should attract the current penalty of an eight week non-payment period. However, other interpretations are possible, involving both a different definition and a different penalty.

A further caveat is that the following estimates are based on average rates of payment in a single fortnight. The use of a different fortnight would produce slightly different rates. They are also based on the rate of payment prior to the most recent CPI increase. It should also be noted that breach numbers are assumed to be constant in out years for ease of calculation

At the November Senate Estimates hearing we provided estimates of the cost of various options recommended by the Pearce Report. These were generally higher than the following estimates. This is because previous calculations were based on a projection of 2001-02 breach numbers and assumed higher breach numbers than the following calculations. On 9 December 2002 we were able to obtain actual, rather than estimated, breach numbers for the first quarter of 2002-03. This data shows a much greater than anticipated fall in breach numbers since July 2002 and for this reason we have revised our projection of breach numbers for the purpose of the following estimates.

On our revised calculations the Pearce Report's recommendations on the rate and duration of breaching could cost anywhere between \$276 million and \$532 million over a four year period, depending on how the recommendations are interpreted. Some possible scenarios are:

- Maximum penalty is a 25 per cent rate reduction for eight weeks but all penalties are fully recoverable on compliance within four weeks. Assuming that only a negligible number of people would serve a penalty. This would cost approximately \$133 million per year, or \$532 million over four years.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

- All breaches result in a 15 per cent rate reduction for eight weeks, except third breaches, which are considered “persistent serious breaches” and continue to attract a 100 per cent rate reduction. Penalties are not recoverable on compliance. This would cost \$77 million per year or \$308 million over four years.
- Maximum penalty is 25 per cent for eight weeks with no restoration on compliance. Only the second breach changes to a 25 per cent rate reduction but that the duration of all breaches is reduced to eight weeks. This would cost \$69 million per year or \$276 million over four years.
- Maximum penalty is 25 per cent for eight weeks with restoration on compliance but no back payment. Based on the same assumptions as the previous option, and assuming that the average period before compliance would be two weeks, this would cost \$117 million per year or \$468 million over four years.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 166**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Given the Department's support conceptually for a participation supplement and indeed the actual support for a literacy and numeracy supplement, doesn't this recognise that active participation towards getting a job costs money?

**Answer:**

As unemployment payments are designed to support people who are looking for work the Government expects that job seekers will use a certain amount of their allowance on searching for work. Job seekers undertaking an activity to meet their mutual obligation requirements are not required to spend more than 10 per cent of the maximum basic rate of unemployment payments to undertake the activity. If an activity would cost the job seeker more than this they are able to choose another activity. If all activities available would result in the job seekers spending more than 10 per cent they may be exempted from mutual obligation requirements.

The \$20.80 per fortnight Work for the Dole Supplement and proposed Language Literacy and Numeracy Supplement is paid in recognition of the extra cost involved in regular attendance at these programs, which is generally compulsory.

Job Network providers can provide travel assistance where they determine that it would help the job seeker to find employment. Job seekers are not required to look for work that is more than 90 minutes away from their home by the transport available to them.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 167**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: Does the Department accept that the loss of a large proportion of benefit for six months could impact negatively on a jobseekers ability to search for work or comply with their participation requirements? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The Department has no evidence to substantiate this suggestion.

Newstart recipients can have any breach penalty waived by commencing Work for the Dole or, if eligible, can have an activity test breach penalty waived by commencing participation in the Personal Support Programme, a rehabilitation program with CRS, or selected Labour Market Programs. Youth Allowees have a wider range of clean slate options available to them including Work for the Dole, vocational training, labour market and rehabilitation programs, courses (including JPET), and the Personal Support Program.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 168**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked: How does the Department reconcile the negative financial impact of the current breaching regime with the provision of participation support?

**Answer:**

The rationale for sanctions has always been to ensure that unemployment payment recipients do all they can to find work or improve their employment prospects and to ensure that social security payments only go to those who are genuinely unemployed. This is necessary to maintain the integrity of the welfare system and ultimately to help job seekers help themselves.

Under Social Security legislation, job seekers can be required to undertake activities designed to support their participation, and sanctions are designed to reinforce this requirement and provide a deterrence to wilful non-compliance. The breach waiver or 'clean slate' options are specifically designed to ensure that people can avoid the negative financial impact of breaching by participating in activities that will improve their employment prospects.

OECD research suggests that a balance of assistance, incentives and compulsion is required to maximise economic participation of income support recipients.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 171**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Hansard Page: CA54**

**Senator Collins** asked: What comparisons are made with respect to penalty regimes that existed prior to 1996, particularly in the incidence of breaching and what trend data exists?

**Answer:**

There are no data comparisons available with respect to the earlier breach penalty regimes as there is no reliable breach data prior to 1996. This is because it would have required significant resources to track and investigate each cancellation record in order to determine if a breach penalty was applied.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No: 172**

**Topic: Breaching**

**Hansard Page: CA54**

**Senator Collins** asked: Please provide a breakdown, month by month, for breaches since 1996. If that is too difficult give us the quarterly figures. Does the department have any estimate of the financial impact of each of the elements of each recommendation of the Pearce report? Has any assessment of the financial impact of those recommendations been conducted?

**Answer:**

See attached monthly breakdown of breaching data. But note that an error in the Centrelink computer system resulted in the under-representation of breach numbers for 1998-99 by an estimated 48,000 breaches, or 4,000 breaches each month. This error has been rectified for all breach data recorded from July 1999 onwards.

For estimate of financial impact of Pearce report recommendations, see answers to QON 165.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Summary of Breach Numbers**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1996-97</b>	47,436	65,713	113,149
<b>1997-98</b>	60,981	59,737	120,718
<b>1998-99</b>	112,159	100,741	212,900
<b>1999-00</b>	177,759	124,735	302,494
<b>2000-01</b>	297,747	92,199	386,946
<b>2001-02</b>	226,446	43,457	269,903

**Monthly Breakdown**

**1996-97**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches No.</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches No.</b>	<b>Total Breaches No.</b>
July-96	5242	4854	10,096
August-96	4718	4741	9459
September-96	4525	4892	9417
October-96	5201	5501	10,702
November-96	4997	5601	10,598
December-96	4282	4673	8955
January-97	4007	5575	9582
February-97	4309	6128	10,437
March-97	2768	5974	8742
April-97	2911	6760	9671
May-97	1175	4882	6057
June-97	3301	6132	9433
<b>TOTAL BREACHES</b>	<b>47,436</b>	<b>65,713</b>	<b>113,149</b>

**1997-98**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches No.</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches No.</b>	<b>Total Breaches No.</b>
July-97	5282	5635	10,917
August-97	5605	5522	11,127
September-97	4809	5628	10,437
October-97	5106	5637	10,743
November-97	5506	5136	10,642
December-97	5078	4429	9507
January-98	5951	5145	11,096
February-98	5915	5924	11,839
March-98	6147	5557	11,704
April-98	4045	3304	7349
May-98	3594	4145	7739
June-98	3943	3675	7618
<b>TOTAL BREACHES</b>	<b>60,981</b>	<b>59,737</b>	<b>120,718</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**1998-99**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches No.</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches No.</b>	<b>Total Breaches No.</b>
July-98			13,579
August-98			13,880
September-98			16,419
October-98			17,945
November-98			18,154
December-98			17,496
January-99			18,028
February-99			20,306
March-99			19,149
April-99			16,338
May-99			17,127
June-99			24,479
<b>TOTAL BREACHES</b>	<b>112,159</b>	<b>100,741</b>	<b>212,900</b>

Note: an error in the Centrelink computer system resulted in the under-representation of breach numbers for 1998-99 by an estimated 48,000 breaches, or 4,000 breaches each month. This error has been rectified for all breach data recorded from July 1999 onwards. Total breaches per month are approximately correct, but there is no breakdown available between activity test and administrative breach penalties.

**1999-00**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity Test Breaches No.</b>	<b>Administrative Breaches No.</b>	<b>Total Breaches No.</b>
July-99	14,709	8,730	23,439
August-99	15,491	9,530	25,021
September-99	12,689	6,472	19,161
October-99	13,429	8,008	21,437
November-99	14,464	9,109	23,573
December-99	10,533	7,025	17,558
January-00	12,353	10,280	22,633
February-00	12,399	11,774	24,173
March-00	14,662	13,377	28,039
April-00	14,573	11,147	25,720
May-00	22,057	15,185	37,242
June-00	20,400	14,098	34,498
<b>TOTAL BREACHES</b>	<b>177,759</b>	<b>124,735</b>	<b>302,494</b>

**2000-01**

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO  
2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002

Month	Activity Test Breaches No.	Administrative Breaches No.	Total Breaches No.
Jul-00	19410	10688	29,451
Aug-00	23499	12367	34,196
Sep-00	22934	7616	27,996
Oct-00	25913	6672	29,361
Nov-00	26020	6869	29,619
Dec-00	18351	5208	21,687
Jan-01	24527	8222	29,517
Feb-01	25932	8273	30,573
Mar-01	28286	7314	30,778
Apr-01	23500	6043	25,300
May-01	30599	6874	31,184
Jun-01	25776	6053	26,416
<b>TOTAL BREACHES</b>	<b>297,747</b>	<b>92,199</b>	<b>386,946</b>

**2001-02**

Month	Activity Breaches Imposed	Administrative Breaches Imposed	Total Breaches Imposed
July 2001	24,626	4,936	<b>29,562</b>
August 2001	21,858	5,173	<b>27,031</b>
September 2001	19,223	4,525	<b>23,748</b>
October 2001	20,927	4,408	<b>25,335</b>
November 2001	19,700	4,003	<b>23,703</b>
December 2001	13,221	2,850	<b>16,071</b>
January 2002	19,415	4,240	<b>23,655</b>
February 2002	18,483	3,658	<b>22,141</b>
March 2002	17,496	2,912	<b>20,408</b>
April 2002	18,606	2,477	<b>21,083</b>
May 2002	19,039	2,224	<b>21,263</b>
June 2002	13,852	2,051	<b>15,903</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>226,446</b>	<b>43,457</b>	<b>269,903</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No.: 169**

**Topic: Long-term unemployment**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

How many jobseekers were categorised as long-term unemployed (i.e. in receipt of payments for more than 12 months) in March 1996, June 1996, June 1997, June 1998, June 1999, June 2000, June 2001, March 2002, June 2002, and the latest available month?

**Answer:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Long-term unemployed jobseekers (in receipt of income support payments for more than 12 months)</b>
March 1996	314 990
June 1996	300 755
June 1997	351 519
June 1998	382 588
June 1999	349 198
June 2000	310 438
June 2001	278 008
March 2002	282 254
June 2002	272 063
October 2002 (latest available month)	262 452

**Sources:**

1996: Department of Social Security (DSS) administrative data. The long-term duration definition is not specified.

1997: DSS *Labour Market and Related Payments* publication. Long-term duration is defined as customers who have been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for over 12 months.

1998 to 2002: FaCS administrative data. These figures are based on point in time data, using the second last Friday of relevant month. This will be slightly different to the published data in *Labour Market and Related Payments* which provides monthly averages. Long-term duration is defined as income support receipt of 12 months or more. People who did not receive a payment due to their income and/or their partner's income are excluded. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.1 Labour Market Assistance**

**Question No.: 170**

**Topic: Very long term unemployment**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

How many jobseekers were very long term unemployed (i.e. in receipt of payments for more than 2 years) in March 1996, June 1996, June 1997, June 1998, June 1999, June 2000, June 2001, March 2002, June 2002, and the latest available month?

**Answer:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Very long term unemployed jobseekers (in receipt of income support payments for more 2 years or more)</b>
March 1996	N/A
June 1996	123 041
June 1997	173 859
June 1998	237 767
June 1999	236 412
June 2000	211 346
June 2001	206 446
March 2002	201 827
June 2002	194 463
October 2002 (latest available month)	188 597

**Sources:**

March 1996: Not available.

June 1996: Department of Social Security *Statistical Overview 1996*. These figures are based on point in time data for relevant quarter. Very long-term duration is defined for Youth Training Allowance (YTA) as duration on that allowance; for Job Search Allowance (JSA) and Newstart as duration on all allowances, where applicable. This means very long term unemployed people on Newstart Allowance may have a combined duration on Newstart Allowance, Job Search Allowance and/or Youth Training Allowance of over two years.

1997: Department of Social Security *Statistical Overview 1997*. These figures are based on point in time data for relevant quarter. Very long-term duration is defined as customers who have been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for over two years.

1998 to 2002: FaCS administrative data. These figures are based on point in time data, using the second last Friday of relevant month. Very long-term duration is defined by income support receipt of two years or more. People who did not receive a payment due to their income and/or their partner's income are excluded. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability**

**Question No: 174**

**Topic: CSTDA**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

When the Government gains agreement from states and territories to the new Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) will the additional money – the \$125 million over five years – flow from July 1 2002 or will it be paid from the date of signing?

**Answer:**

The final decision is subject to negotiations with the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability**

**Question No: 175**

**Topic: CSTDA**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

The Minister has often pointed out that the Commonwealth share of the funding for the CSTDA has been around 20% of the total. The Minister uses this proportion as a guide, but also as a ceiling on the amount the Commonwealth is prepared to put into the agreement. Can you explain why this is the case?

**Answer:**

Provision of accommodation and related services has long been the responsibility of State and Territory governments.

The first CSDA (1991) aimed to rationalise the roles and responsibilities of governments in service provision as overlaps, duplication and gaps became apparent over the last couple of decades. At the time of the first CSDA, on average, the States were providing around 80% of the accommodation related funding.

The Commonwealth is concerned that the level of commitment by some States and Territories has been eroded away over the life of the CSDA with the Commonwealth putting in a greater share into accommodation related services; as well as providing 100% disability employment services and 100% income support and related services. The Commonwealth wants to ensure that States maintain their effort in this important area of need.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability**  
**Topic: CSTDA**

**Question No: 176**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Isn't it true that the Commonwealth provides some money directly to services – employment services that is – and some money to the states for the other kinds of services?

**Answer:**

Yes, under the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement the Commonwealth is responsible for employment services while management of accommodation and related services is the responsibility of State and Territory governments. The Commonwealth will provide nearly \$2 billion for employment services over 5 years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Agreement compared to \$1.3 billion for the last agreement. In addition, \$2.8 billion will be contributed to State and Territory governments for their area of responsibility compared to \$1.9 billion paid to the States and Territories over the last Agreement.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability**

**Question No: 179**

**Topic: CSTDA**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

What is the basis for the Commonwealth's offer of \$125 million in additional funding for the CSTDA?

**Answer:**

Refer to attached media releases.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**



66.02

Friday, June 28, 2002

**Commonwealth puts extra disability funding on the table**

The Commonwealth recognizes the need for increased accommodation services and is determined to see this need catered for.

The CSTDA streamlines management and administration responsibility with the Commonwealth looking after employment services and the States, other specialist services, and in particular accommodation.

We accept that funding under the CSTDA is a shared responsibility.

In the past, we have funded 100% of employment services and the States have only had to meet 80% of accommodation, with the Commonwealth picking up the remaining 20%

In addition, the Commonwealth fully meets income support costs, which is a further cross subsidy of accommodation because services charge up to 80% of a pensioners DSP. We have increased DSP by linking it to Male Total Average Weekly Earnings which has meant an increase of 5.7% over and above CPI since 1998. Income support for people with disabilities is worth around \$8.3 billion per year.

In addition, many services managed by the States charge for transport to and from services which is often paid for out of the Commonwealth's Mobility Allowance.

We put growth into the last CSTDA that was not consistently matched by the States. We recognize further need, especially in accommodation. We have today offered to put our 20% share on the table. We have offered an additional \$125 million over five years (\$15 million in the first year, \$20 million in the second, \$25 million in the third, \$30 million in the fourth and an extra \$35 million in the fifth year). This new money would be shared between the States on a formula to be agreed by them.

Clearly, we expect the States to put in their share, which would be \$500 million. States or Territories that are not prepared to meet their share will not get the additional funding.

If the States live up to their responsibilities, there would an additional \$625 million for accommodation.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

The only way the Commonwealth can use its power to make the States put in their proper share to accommodation is to offer funds on a matched basis. We are determined to ensure that the States shift to a long-term commitment to disability funding, as the Commonwealth has for the last ten years.

The Commonwealth's offer would mean that in the first year of the new Agreement, there would be a 6% increase in funding available to the States for accommodation. That would be made up of the \$15 million first year additional funds (3%), plus other indexation and supplementation of 3%.

The Commonwealth is committed to a new five year Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement – one which makes a real difference for people with disabilities.

In total we will be contributing over \$4.7 billion over the next 5 years. Which includes the \$547.5m unmet need funding and an increase of 10.26% every year in the Commonwealth's employment responsibilities.

In addition, the Commonwealth entirely funds income support for people with disabilities and carers.

What have the States offered? Most States refuse to commit anything after next year and will not tell anyone what growth or indexation they will provide in the future.

Most States have simply not kept pace with Commonwealth's funding offers in the past.

The best State or Territory Ministers could do is to note the Commonwealth's offer.

I hope that the States and Territories accept this offer and put in their fair share to increase disability accommodation.

**Minister's media contact: Damon Hunt 0419 691 944**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**



150.02

31 October 2002

### **Disability Agreement Ready To Be Signed**

State and Territory Disability Ministers appear to be deliberately holding up settling a third Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).

In doing so, the State and Territory Ministers are holding up increased Commonwealth funding that could already be flowing to disability service providers.

The CSTDA has always left the Commonwealth with 100% responsibility for employment services and paying nationally (although it varies from State to State) a 20% share of accommodation and day services.

State and Territory Ministers indicated on 18 October that they are “promising to allocate more than \$1.2 billion over five years to 2006/07”. If \$1.2 billion represents their 80% share of accommodation and day services, then the Commonwealth is required to put in \$300 million over five years. The Commonwealth’s commitment is relatively higher than the states and territories, so they should be prepared now to sign up to a third Agreement.

Let me make it abundantly clear that the state and territory’s percentage increase in the Communique is not quite as high as the Commonwealth’s percentage increase for accommodation services and nowhere near as high as the percentage increase in the Commonwealth’s total contribution to the CSTDA.

The Commonwealth’s base increase of \$125 million, coupled with indexation using the current Wage Cost Index 2, and supplementation for the superannuation guarantee charge comes to \$320 million over five years

I am amazed that State and Territory Ministers have had this offer since June, and then in October, they announce an offer that does not quite match the Commonwealth increase and still they will not sign up to an Agreement.

I have recently written to them asking for their individual funding commitments over five years.

Presumably, the State and Territory Ministers have spending authority from their Cabinets in order to tell the public through the Communique that they were prepared to spend this money. Therefore, it should be easy for them to detail their commitments so that we can complete the Agreement.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

Given that all Ministers have agreed to greater accountability and transparency for this Agreement, it is quite proper that they provide the same funding details as the Commonwealth, year-by-year for the full five years.

The failure of the State and Territory Disability Ministers to reply to my request means that I am now concerned that they have no funding commitments from their government.

**Minister's media contact: Damon Hunt 0419 691 944**

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2**

**Question No: 180**

**Topic: Support for People with a Disability**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Does this offer correspond to a particular level of unmet need or does it represent the maximum level of additional funds available to the Commonwealth within the constraints of the current Budget?

**Answer:**

Refer to 179.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2**

**Question No: 177**

**Topic: Support for People with a Disability**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Isn't it the case that the Government's Intergenerational Report, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report on unmet need and the Social Policy Research Centre's report on cost pressures for disability services all point to the impact of the ageing of our population and the increased incidence of disability in the community?

**Answer:**

Generally, yes.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.2 Support for People with a Disability**

**Question No: 178**

**Topic: Funding**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop** asked:

Wouldn't these demographic changes suggest that the Commonwealth would be looking seriously at its contribution of funding increasing over time? Please explain?

**Answer:**

The impact of ageing on our population and the increased incidence of disability in the community impact on a number of Commonwealth and State programs. The issues these demographics present are a matter for consideration and resourcing by all governments.

The Commonwealth has significantly increased funding for disability employment services to improve the participation of people with disabilities over the last two budgets and expenditure on income support continues to grow.

In 2001-02, the Commonwealth Government spent nearly \$7 billion on income support for people with disabilities and a further \$1.2 billion on income support for carers. The Commonwealth Government allocated a further \$289 million in 2001-02 for specialist disability employment and related assistance as well as \$104 million for vocational rehabilitation services.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.3 Support for Carers**

**Question No: 181**

**Topic: Print Disability Services for the Blind**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

- a) Is there a commitment to retain free post services to the blind?
- b) Will funding for the production of materials be increased?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes
- b) Funding for the production of material is increased annually in line with indexation.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.3 Support for Carers**

**Question No:182**

**Topic: Print Disability Services for the Blind**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is there a way to ensure that the print subsidy funding is not just used to subsidise the cost of producing education materials for students as this cost should be met by the relevant Departments of Education or educational Institutions?

**Answer:**

The Print Disability Program provides funding for 13 organisations to produce materials in alternative formats for the print disabled of all ages. This material includes magazines, newspapers, novels, tactile maps and text books. Funding is not specifically targeted to production of educational materials for students.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.3 Support for Carers**

**Question No: 183**

**Topic: Print Disability Services for the Blind**

**Written question on notice**

**Senator Bishop asked:**

- a) Please provide details and a copy of the evaluation of the Print Disability Services Program?
- b) What was the cost of this evaluation?

**Answer:**

- a) The Print Disability Services and Postal Concessions to the Blind Review was commissioned in June 2000. The final review report, including the scope of the review, is currently being assessed by the Department. Information on recommendations to be progressed will be determined during this process.
- b) \$73,211.51

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2002-2003 Supplementary Budget Estimates, 21 November 2002**

**Output Group: 3.4 Support for the Aged**

**Question No 184**

**Topic: Pension Bonus Scheme**

**Hansard Page: Written question on notice**

**Senator Mark Bishop** asked:

Can you outline the findings of the evaluation conducted in 2000-01 referred to in the 2001-02 Annual Report?

Can you provide a copy of the evaluation?

What was the cost of this evaluation?

When was the first draft copy of the evaluation provided to the Department and the Minister?

When was the final copy of the evaluation provided to the Department and the Minister?

Why has there been such a delay in the public release of the evaluation?

Does the Department or the Minister disagree with any of the findings of the evaluation?

**Answers:**

The cost of the research for the evaluation was \$95,936 over 2000-01 (p363 2000-01 Annual Report) and 2001-02 (p298 2001-02 Annual Report). The amount of \$83,756 was paid to ORIMA Research Pty Limited and \$12,180 was spent on mailhouse and postage costs in respect of postage of letters to survey respondents.

The Pension Bonus Scheme is a relatively new program (it commenced in 1998) and the evaluation was intended to provide early information on the implementation of the program. The evaluation report was finalised in (January) 2002. The Department has been analysing the findings since receiving the report and considering the possible implications for policy. Currently, ORIMA's evaluation of the Pension Bonus Scheme is being taken into account in respect of issues surrounding the workforce participation of older Australians. No decision has been made to release the report at this time.