

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 14

**Topic:** Committees and Advisory Boards

**Hansard Page:** 16/02/2012 - CA7

**Senator Fifield** asked:

What are the names of the formal Committees/Advisory Boards which have been established in the portfolio, the numbers of dedicated staff supporting them, the operating costs for the current financial year and the make-up of those boards and committees.

**Answer:**

The definition of 'Committee and/or Advisory Board' used to answer this question is a committee set up by legislation or by significant announcement of government where there is an advisory board that has been announced to assist the Department, the Minister or the Government on different issues. Interdepartmental Committees and internal departmental committees have been excluded.

16 Committees and Advisory Boards have operated within the FaHCSIA portfolio during the financial year to 31 January 2012. Details of these Committees and Advisory Boards are outlined below.

**Committee/Advisory Board:** The Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this council.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The council members are community leaders with backgrounds across industry, philanthropy, academia and the not-for-profit and community sectors.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/pm\\_council\\_homeless/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/pm_council_homeless/Pages/default.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Reform of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 Implementation Advisory Group

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory group.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The members of this advisory group include representatives from across industry, government, academia, union representatives, not-for-profit and community sectors.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Advisory Committee on Social Housing and Housing Assistance

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory committee.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The members of this advisory group include representatives with backgrounds in finance, affordable housing, public housing and tenant needs.

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Disability Policy and Research Working Group (DPRWG)

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** Two

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The DPRWG is a standing committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC). The DPRWG comprises members from Australian, State and Territory Governments' disability agencies, nine jurisdictions in total. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is also a member and the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Productivity Commission both have observer status.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the DPRWG can be found at:

<http://www.dprwg.gov.au/>

**Committee/Advisory Board:** National People with Disabilities and Carer Council

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** One

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The Council consists of up to 29 members, including the Chair, who represent a diverse range of backgrounds and experience. Members include people with disability and their families, carers, industry and union representatives and academics.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/consultation\\_advocacy/Pages/nds\\_carer\\_council.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/consultation_advocacy/Pages/nds_carer_council.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Disability Support Pension Advisory Group

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory group.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The Advisory Group includes members from: National Employment Services Association; Disability Employment Australia; National Disability Services; Australian Federation of Disability Organisations; Mental Welfare Rights Network; People with Disability Australia; and Australian Council of Social Service.

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Australian Disability Enterprises Case Based Funding Reference Group

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There were no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory group.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The Reference Group was made up of representatives from: National Disability Services; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Finance and Deregulation; and FaHCSIA.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the Australian Disability Enterprises Case Based Funding Reference Group can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/DisabilityEmploymentAssistance/Pages/case\\_based\\_funding\\_review.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/DisabilityEmploymentAssistance/Pages/case_based_funding_review.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Advisory Group for Inclusion for People with Disability Through Sustainable Supported Employment

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory committee.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** Advisory Group members for the 2011/12 financial year include representatives from: National Disability Services; Australian Disability Enterprises; social enterprises; academia; social work; and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the Advisory Group for Inclusion for People with Disability Through Sustainable Supported Employment can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/Pages/disability\\_employment.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/Pages/disability_employment.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** The Accessible Cinema Advisory Group (ACAG)

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory committee.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The ACAG includes representatives from: Australian Federation of Disability Organisations; Blind Citizens Australia; Deaf Australia Inc; Deafness Forum; Vision Australia; Action on Cinema Access; Arts Access Australia; Australian Human Rights Commission; Event Cinemas/Greater Union/ Birch Carroll & Coyle; Hoyts Cinemas; Reading Cinemas; Village Cinemas; Motion Picture Distributors Association of Australia; Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; and FaHCSIA.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the ACAG can be found at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/CinemaAccessImplementationPlan.aspx>

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Alice Springs Transformation Plan Joint Steering Committee  
**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this steering committee.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The steering committee includes representatives from: FaHCSIA; Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister; Alice Springs Town Council; Tangentyere Council; and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation

**Additional Information:** Further information about the Alice Springs Transformation Plan Joint Steering Committee can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/AS\\_transformation/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/AS_transformation/Pages/default.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC)  
**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory committee.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The Chairperson is appointed by the Minister for a three year term. 14 members are elected by the four Northern Territory Land Councils: Northern Land Council; Central Land Council; Anindilyakwa Land Council; and Tiwi Land Council.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the ABACC can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/money/Pages/aba\\_committee.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/money/Pages/aba_committee.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** The Inquiry into the National Disability Long Term Care and Support Scheme Independent Panel

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There were no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this panel.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The members of this panel included representatives with a lived experience of disability and caring for people with disability, and with relevant professional expertise.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the Inquiry into the National Disability Long Term Care and Support Scheme Independent Panel can be found at

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/feasibility\\_study.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/feasibility_study.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** The National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group  
**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory group.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The group includes people with expertise in: social insurance principles; disability policy; service provision; performance monitoring; training and curriculum development; academia and research; psychological and intellectual disability; Indigenous disability services; young people; and children with disability.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group can be found at:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-advisory-group/>

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Committee/Advisory Board:** National Children and Family Roundtable

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no departmental staff dedicated solely to supporting this panel.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The Roundtable is made up of 14 child and family experts and advocates including members from peak bodies, academia, service providers, and representatives of carers, children and young people.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the National Children and Family Roundtable can be found at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/Pages/child\\_family\\_roundtable.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/Pages/child_family_roundtable.aspx)

**Committee/Advisory Board:** Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Advisory Council

**Number of Dedicated Support Staff:** There are no FaHCSIA portfolio staff dedicated solely to supporting this advisory council.

**Make-up of the Committee/Advisory board:** The AIFS Advisory Council includes members from: government; academia; and community organisations.

**Additional Information:** Further information about the AIFS Advisory Council can be found at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/aifs/advisorycouncil.html>

**Operating Costs for the Current Financial Year**

For each of the above Committees/Advisory Boards, as the operating costs to the Department are not separately identified in our financial information system, this is not able to be determined without the allocation of significant resources and time.

**Additional Information**

During the Community Affairs Legislation Committee's Additional Estimates hearing on Thursday 16 February 2012, Senator Fifield noted the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Board as an example of an advisory board or committee that he expected would be noted in the Department's answer to this question taken on notice (Hansard transcript Thursday, 16 February 2012, CA7). The Clearinghouse Board has not been included in this answer as it was not established to advise the Australian Government, the Department or the Minister. The Board provides strategic direction and oversees the operation of the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse which was established by COAG. For further information, please see the 2009-10 Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Annual Report at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/publications/index.cfm>