

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 260

Topic: Family Support

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

In relation to the decision for DSS to provide \$10.7 million to deliver social services in drought-affected areas, can you detail specifically what services will be provided by for farmers to access? How will these services be provided? When will these services be made available? Please provide a date. How will the department determine if the applicant for the service is to be deemed drought affected?

Answer:

DSS will provide additional funding to existing service providers under the Targeted Community Care (TCC) (Mental Health) Program and the Family Support Program (FSP) in drought-affected areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

The services to be delivered include:

- one-on-one counselling for families dealing with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, family relationship issues and physical health problems;
- family and relationship therapy and counselling for individuals and families, including outreach support for people in their homes and workplaces, as well as telephone and online services;
- referral to other services including clinical services;
- educating communities about the causes and early signs of mental health issues; and
- promoting better general and mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The new services are expected to be in place by May – June 2014.

Department of Human Services Drought Coordinators, based in the drought-affected areas, will ensure services are coordinated and support is accessible to those who need it.

The services are available to all people in drought-affected areas of New South Wales and Queensland as declared at the time the Drought Assistance Package was announced on 26 February 2014, regardless of their 'drought-affected' status.

Please note, a similar Question on Notice was answered at the Senate Estimates Hearing on 27 February 2014. Please refer Community Affairs Legislation Committee Hansard, question by Senator Siewert, page 4.

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Please also refer to Question on Notice (No. 70) provided by the Department of Agriculture. This Question on Notice was answered at the hearing on 27 February 2014 – please see Hansard page CA14, page unknown.