

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.6 Ageing and Service Improvement Question No: SQ15-000257

Topic: ACSIHAG

Hansard page: Written

Senator Polley, Helen asked:

Why did the Department limit funding to “projects” and not service delivery?
How many of the unsuccessful funding applications were not for “projects”?
How will successful projects be assessed?

Answer:

The Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants fund (ACSIHAG) was primarily created as a flexible funding source, to better meet the changing needs of older Australians. It was intended to flexibly fund a range of projects but over the years some ongoing service delivery has been funded in a time-limited capacity. Under the recent ACSIHAG round, funding was limited to one-off “projects” in line with the primary ACSIHAG objective, to strengthen the capacity of the aged care sector to deliver high quality care.

Service delivery is usually more appropriately funded from other sources, for example, the Home and Community Care Programme. The funding of service delivery can create expectations of ongoing funding, whereas ACSIHAG funding rounds chiefly offer time-limited, project based funding.

Approximately 234 of the unsuccessful applications were focused on service delivery, rather than projects, and would be more appropriately submitted under programmes such as the Home and Community Care Programme.

Projects successful under this ACSIHAG round will be assessed based on the submission and analysis of regular (6 monthly) progress reports, and a report at the end of the project which would include final versions of any materials created under the project. Analysis of these reports will be undertaken by the respective policy areas with oversight of the ACSIHAG priority under which the application was made.