

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Examination of Budget Estimates 2009-2010

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2

**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

Cross Outcome and Outcomes 1 to 4

28 OCTOBER 2009

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2009-2010

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the budget estimates hearings on 1 and 2 June 2009 and cross portfolio Indigenous issues hearing 5 June 2009

* Please note that the tabling date of 29 October 2009 is the proposed tabling date

FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
Boyce	4	Operation Sunlight		20.08.09
Moore	12	Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations		20.08.09
Moore	11	Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations		29.10.09
Siewert	1	Funding agreements		20.08.09
Boyce	197	Women in management positions		20.08.09
Boyce	198-202	Gender equality for women		20.08.09
Boyce	378	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services – North Queensland		20.08.09
Boyce/Moore	2	Superannuation		17.09.09
Boyce/Moore	3	Paid partial leave		17.09.09
Boyce	9, 10	ESS website		17.09.09
Boyce	5	Ex-gratia payments		29.10.09
Fifield	8	Consultancies		29.10.09
Fifield	7	Budget kits		29.10.09
Aboriginal Hostels Limited				
Adams	317	AHL outcomes success		20.08.09
Adams	318	AHL Closing the Gap strategies		20.08.09
Adams	319	AHL marketing		20.08.09
Adams	320	AHL resident satisfaction		20.08.09
Adams	321	AHL reporting		20.08.09
Indigenous Business Australia				
Boyce	286	Small business loans		17.09.09
Boyce	287	Indigenous home ownership		17.09.09
Adams	322-325, 327, 329, 330	Small business		17.09.09
Boyce	365	Indigenous staffing		17.09.09
Boyce	366, 367	Home ownership		17.09.09
Boyce	368	Investments		17.09.09
Boyce	369-374	Home ownership		17.09.09

Outcome 1: Families

	T12 tabled at hearing	How many staff are working on the Family Support Program – specific resource numbers as at 30 June 2009	25.06.09
	T13 tabled at hearing	Family Support Program – dates and locations of workshops	25.06.09
	T14 tabled at hearing	FRSP online – how many reports were downloaded by providers	25.06.09
Boyce	13	FSP staffing	20.08.09
Boyce	14	Breakdown of administered funding for Family Relationship Services	20.08.09
Boyce	15	Family Relationship Service Providers	20.08.09
Boyce	17	Breakdown of administered funding for Family Relationship Services	20.08.09
Boyce	18	Family Relationship Services	20.08.09
Hanson-Young	21	Parents in same-sex relationships	20.08.09
Fifield	23	Household stimulus package	20.08.09
Fifield	24	Economic Security Strategy letters	20.08.09
Fifield	25	Family Tax Benefit Part A – removing the link to pension indexation	20.08.09
Siewert	27	Indexation	20.08.09
Boyce	29	Indexation rates	20.08.09
Siewert	31	Family payments	20.08.09
Siewert	33	FRSA working group	20.08.09
Siewert	34	FRSP online	20.08.09
Boyce	39, 42	Family relationship services	20.08.09
Boyce	43, 45	Family relationship providers	20.08.09
Boyce	48	Indigenous children's programme	20.08.09
Boyce	51	Playgroup program	20.08.09
Boyce	54, 55	Indigenous parenting support service	20.08.09
Boyce	56	Use of external consultants, policy work and preparation of PPL booklet	20.08.09
Boyce	57	Paid parental leave – communication and evaluation expenses	20.08.09
Boyce	58	Paid parental leave – FaHCSIA resourcing	20.08.09
Boyce	59	Paid parental leave – paymaster administration	20.08.09
Boyce	60	Paid parental leave – benchmarking and modelling	20.08.09
Boyce	61	Paid parental leave – modelling: FTB interaction	20.08.09
Boyce	63	Factors determining net gain/loss from PPL	20.08.09
Boyce	66	Indexation of income threshold	20.08.09
Boyce	67	Paid parental leave	20.08.09
Boyce	69	Modelling increase in leave taken due to PPL	20.08.09
Boyce	70	Early infant care	20.08.09
Boyce	71	Provisions for self employed parents applying for PPL	20.08.09
Boyce	74	PPL working groups	20.08.09
Boyce	19	Underperformance of service providers	20.08.09
Fifield	28	Family payments	20.08.09
Boyce	44	Family relationship services	20.08.09
Boyce	49	Indigenous children's programme	20.08.09
Boyce	52	Playgroup program	20.08.09
Boyce	64	Indexation of income threshold	20.08.09

Boyce	65	Impact of timing of birth on maternity services	20.08.09
Boyce	72	Paid parental leave – communication and evaluation expenses	20.08.09
Boyce	73	2010-2011 evaluation and communication budget	20.08.09
Siewert	35	Family relationship services	20.08.09
Boyce	40	Family relationship service providers	20.08.09
Boyce	75	Staff to administer PPL	20.08.09
Boyce	41	Family relationship service providers	20.08.09
Boyce	20	Family relationship services	17.09.09
Humphries/ Moore	22	\$150,000 threshold	17.09.09
Siewert	30	Child support payments	17.09.09
Boyce	38	Invest to Grow – indexation rates	17.09.09
Boyce	50	Playgroup program	17.09.09
Boyce	32	Paid parental leave	29.10.09
Boyce/ Adams	16	Family Relationship Services funding	29.10.09
Boyce	46	Child care links - indexation	29.10.09
Boyce	47	Indigenous Children's Services program	29.10.09
Boyce	68	Family payments	29.10.09
Fifield	26	Recipients of FTB A and FTB B	29.10.09
Boyce	62	Paid parental leave – cost of the scheme	29.10.09

Outcome 2: Housing

	T1 tabled at hearing by Senator Adams	Media article <i>West Australian</i> , 23 May 2009 titled State houses cost more as list blows out	25.06.09
	T8 tabled at hearing	Performance indicators to determine the success of the Housing Affordability Fund	25.06.09
	T9 tabled at hearing	Variation in NRAS administered expenses in 2008-09 and 2009-10	25.06.09
	T10 tabled at hearing	Processing of NRAS applications – number of extra staff employed and level	25.06.09
	T11 tabled at hearing	Rounds 1 and 2 of NRAS – what information was sought from applicants on performance against benchmarks	25.06.09
Adams	100	Housing in WA	20.08.09
Payne	101	Funding provided to State and Territory Governments	20.08.09
Payne	102	NT division of housing between Indigenous and mainstream	20.08.09
Payne	103	Repairs and maintenance expenditure	20.08.09
Payne	104, 2, 106	Economic stimulus plan - housing	20.08.09
Payne	107	Economic stimulus plan - jobs	20.08.09
Payne	109	Housing for people with disabilities	20.08.09
Payne	110	Location of sites	20.08.09
Ludlam	113	Implementation plans	20.08.09
Ludlam	114	Social housing initiative spending	20.08.09
Ludlam	115	Sustainability criteria	20.08.09
Payne	82	Rent assistance	17.09.09
Payne	83	Remodelling rent assistance	17.09.09
Payne	84	Changes in budget to rent assistance	17.09.09

Payne	85	Rent assistance for the elderly	17.09.09
Payne	88	Adequacy of rent assistance consultants	17.09.09
Payne	89	Rent assistance expenditure in relation to NRAS	17.09.09
Payne	90	Rent assistance	17.09.09
Payne	91	Community housing framework	17.09.09
Payne	76	National Housing Supply Council	17.09.09
Payne	93	Community housing framework	17.09.09
Payne	94	National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)	17.09.09
Payne	95	NRAS assessment process staff	17.09.09
Payne	96	Indexation	17.09.09
Payne	112	Rent assistance ABS year book results	17.09.09
Payne	99	HAF	17.09.09
Payne	78	Housing	17.09.09
Payne	77	Housing	17.09.09
Payne	79-81	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute	17.09.09
Ludlam	98	State and Territory contributions to NRAS	17.09.09
Payne	111	FHOG campaign	17.09.09
Siewert	92	Community housing framework	29.10.09
Payne	97	National Rental Affordability Scheme locations	29.10.09
Payne	87	New applicants for rent assistance	29.10.09
Payne	117	National Affordable Housing Agreement	29.10.09
Ludlam	118	COAG Reform Council	29.10.09
Ludlam	119	Forecasting rent assistance	29.10.09
Payne	108	New construction	29.10.09
Payne	116	National Affordable Housing Agreement	29.10.09
Payne	86	Rent Assistance by State	29.10.09
Payne	120	Rent Assistance by maximum and part rate	29.10.09

Outcome 3: Community Capability and the Vulnerable

	T15 tabled at hearing	Commonwealth Government Victorian bushfires summary report	25.06.09
Boyce	124	Social Inclusion Board	20.08.09
Boyce	125	Voluntary income management	20.08.09
Boyce	127	Income support	20.08.09
Fifield	121-123	Victorian bushfires	17.09.09
Boyce	126	Income management	29.10.09

Outcome 4: Seniors

	T4 tabled at hearing	Answer to QON for Senator Boyce "What were the increases in the maximum age pension rate of 20 Sept 2008 and 20 March 2009	25.06.09
Boyce	129-131	Economic Security Strategy payments	20.08.09
Moore	132	ESS payments and overseas recipients	20.08.09
Boyce	134	Pension review	20.08.09
Boyce	135	Pension increase	20.08.09
Boyce	136	Maximum age pension rates	20.08.09
Boyce	137	Legislative change	20.08.09
Boyce	140	Research funding	20.08.09
Adams	143	Carbon pollution reduction scheme	20.08.09

Adams	144	Age pension appropriation	20.08.09
Fifield	145	National reciprocal transport agreement	20.08.09
Boyce	146	Eligibility for the Seniors Card	20.08.09
Boyce	148	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card numbers	20.08.09
Adams	149	Broadband for Seniors	20.08.09
Fifield	150	Broadband for Seniors tender documents	20.08.09
Boyce	152	Key performance indicator	20.08.09
Boyce	153-155	Pension reform	20.08.09
Boyce, Fifield	156, 157	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	20.08.09
Adams	331-333	Increase in retirement age	20.08.09
Adams	336	Baby boomers	20.08.09
Adams	337	Baby boomers and budget blowout	20.08.09
Boyce	128	Economic Security Strategy payments	20.08.09
Boyce	139	Brotherhood of St Laurence	17.09.09
Boyce	141	Pension bonus scheme	17.09.09
Boyce	133	ESS payments and overseas recipients	17.09.09
Boyce	151	Kiosks	29.10.09
Boyce	138	New pension system	29.10.09
Fifield	147	CSHC and the adjusted taxable income text	29.10.09
Boyce	142	Age pension	29.10.09

Outcome 5: Disability and Carers

	T5 tabled at hearing	Australian disability parking scheme	25.06.09
	T6 tabled at hearing	YPIRAC – breakdown of Commonwealth's expenditure by year, states and territories	25.06.09
		FaHCSIA letter 29.06.09 clarifying evidence provided at hearing 2 June 09 relating to early intervention funding under the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package	20.08.09
Williams	159, 160	Carers	20.08.09
Williams	161	Support services for carers in rural and regional areas	20.08.09
Fifield	168	Carers	20.08.09
Fifield	171	Autism spectrum disorders early intervention panel providers	20.08.09
Fifield	173	ASD playgroups	20.08.09
Williams	162	Counselling support in rural and regional areas	20.08.09
Fifield	172	Autism Spectrum Disorder Outer Regional and Remote Payment	20.08.09
Fifield	174	Autism Spectrum Disorder Playgroups	20.08.09
Siewert	177	Capital gains tax on transfer of properties into a special disability trust	20.08.09
Siewert	179	Special disability trusts and the first home owners grant	20.08.09
Boyce	180	DSP feasibility study	20.08.09
Fifield	183	Web address	20.08.09
Boyce	188	PHaMS sites with met and unmet need	20.08.09
Boyce	181	Analysis of issues between programs	20.08.09
Boyce	185	Australian disability parking scheme consultations	20.08.09
Fifield	169	Australian Disability Enterprises website	17.09.09
Fifield	184	Parking permits	17.09.09
Fifield	175	YPIRAC	29.10.09
Fifield	176	Younger people in residential aged care	29.10.09

Fifield	165	Disability Support Pension	29.10.09
Siewert	178	Special Disability Trusts – care and accommodation guidelines	29.10.09
Moore	163, 164	Disability Support Pension	29.10.09
Fifield	182	Companion card holders	29.10.09
Boyce	187	PHaMS case studies booklet	29.10.09
Boyce	189	People involved in PHAMS	29.10.09
Boyce	190	Mental health updates	29.10.09
Fifield	166	Disability Support Pension	29.10.09
Siewert	158	Disability and carers	29.10.09
Fifield	167	Disability Support Pension	29.10.09
Fifield	170	Autism advisor program	29.10.09
Boyce	191	CBP evaluation	29.10.09
Fifield	186	Funding for not-for-profit organisations	29.10.09
Outcome 6: Women			
	T2 tabled at hearing by Minister McLucas	Media release by Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek MP, dated 1 June 09 <i>Government Announces Review of Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency</i>	25.06.09
	T3 tabled at hearing by Minister McLucas	FaHCSIA Office for Women terms of reference Review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act June 2009	25.06.09
	T7 tabled at hearing	Regional and remote communities visited by the National Council to reduce violence against women and their children	25.06.09
Siewert	37	Delivery of programs – protecting Australia's children funding process	20.08.09
Boyce	192-195	Women's leadership and development program grants	20.08.09
Boyce	196	Respectful relationships sites	20.08.09
Boyce	203, 204	Telephone and online crisis services	20.08.09
Siewert	36	Protecting Australia's children funding process	29.10.09
Outcome 7: Indigenous			
	T1 tabled at cross portfolio hearing	NTER cross agency expenditure report as at 30 April 2009 by agency and theme [included in Additional Information Volume 3, 22 October 2009]	25.06.09
	T2 tabled at cross portfolio hearing by Senator Scullion	Letter from Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion to Hon Paul Henderson, Chief Minister, Northern Territory dated 27,05.09 relating to roll out of OPAL fuel in Central Australia/petrol sniffing	25.06.09
Siewert	207, 209-215	Alice Springs town camps	20.08.09
Siewert	217	Alice Springs town camps & Tangentyere negotiations	20.08.09
Siewert	218-220	Tangentyere negotiations	20.08.09
Siewert	221-225, 232	Tenancy management	20.08.09
Siewert	233-235	CAAHC	20.08.09
Siewert	236-239	NT Government/Territory housing tender	20.08.09
Siewert	240	Community housing framework/accreditation	20.08.09
Siewert	241	Alice Springs town camp	20.08.09

Siewert	242	Town camp and territory housing	20.08.09
Siewert	243	Alice Springs town camp	20.08.09
Siewert	244-246	Territory housing outcomes	20.08.09
Siewert	254	Social inclusion of Indigenous people	20.08.09
Payne	259	Ceasing CDEP providers	20.08.09
Payne	262	Provision of information to ceasing CDEP providers	20.08.09
Payne	265-267	Lease negotiations	20.08.09
Payne	274	Housing in Queensland	20.08.09
Payne	282, 283	Home ownership - NSW	20.08.09
Siewert	284	CIRCA report	20.08.09
Siewert	297	Consultative mechanisms	20.08.09
Humphries	298	Town camp residents	20.08.09
Adams	308	CDEP	20.08.09
Adams	309	CDEP employment placements	20.08.09
Boyce	340	Indigenous parenting support service	20.08.09
Siewert	376	BasicsCard approval for Tilmouth Well roadhouse	20.08.09
Siewert	205	Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA)	20.08.09
Siewert	206	Desecration of sacred site Numbulwar	20.08.09
Siewert	226	Tenancy management	20.08.09
Siewert	251	Territory housing outcomes	20.08.09
Payne	258	Wallaga Lake - asbestos	20.08.09
Payne	260, 263	CDEP	20.08.09
Payne	270	Maningrida community consultation	20.08.09
Scullion	300	CDEP participant exits	20.08.09
Boyce	301	Native title bodies	20.08.09
Boyce	302	Native title bodies – education activities	20.08.09
Adams	304, 305	NTER taskforce	20.08.09
Adams	310, 311, 313-316	Alcohol	20.08.09
Boyce	341, 342	Housing in Kowrowa	20.08.09
Boyce	354, 356	Native title	20.08.09
Boyce	359	Alcohol	20.08.09
Boyce	361, 362, 364	Alcohol management	20.08.09
Siewert	289	Community stores licensing - Yuendumu	20.08.09
Boyce	348	Staffing and OHS	20.08.09
Payne	375	Letter to the Minister on Asbestos at Wallaga Lake	20.08.09
Siewert	247	Territory housing outcomes	17.09.09
Siewert	230	Maintenance	17.09.09
Siewert	248-250	Territory housing outcomes	17.09.09
Payne	268	Maningrida	17.09.09
Payne	269	Maningrida community consultation	17.09.09
Payne	273	\$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara	17.09.09
Payne	275	Housing in Queensland	17.09.09
Payne	278	Home ownership - NSW	17.09.09
Scullion	296	SIHIP	29.10.09
Adams	307	Remote housing	17.09.09
Boyce	344-347	Staffing and OH&S	17.09.09
Boyce	349, 350	Funding for Aboriginal communities	17.09.09

Boyce	355	Native Title	17.09.09
Boyce	363	Alcohol management	17.09.09
Boyce	377	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services – North Queensland	17.09.09
Siewert	216	Alice Springs town camps	17.09.09
Siewert	227, 228, 231	Maintenance	17.09.09
Siewert	253	Territory housing outcomes	17.09.09
Boyce	358	Alcohol management	17.09.09
Payne	276	Housing in Queensland	17.09.09
Siewert	290	Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory expenditure breakdown	17.09.09
Boyce	360	Alcohol management	17.09.09
Siewert	229	Maintenance	17.09.09
Scullion	292	Township leases	17.09.09
Scullion	299	Town camps	17.09.09
Adams	303	NTER Taskforce	17.09.09
Boyce	53, 338, 339	Indigenous Parenting Support Service	29.10.09
Payne	277	Home ownership - NSW	29.10.09
Adams	306	Remote housing	29.10.09
Adams	312	Alcohol	29.10.09
Scullion	379	Lease negotiations in the 16 priority SIHIP communities	29.10.09
Payne	293	Territory housing outcomes	29.10.09
Siewert	252	Territory housing outcomes	29.10.09
Scullion	255	SIHIP	29.10.09
Payne	256	Wallaga Lake - asbestos	29.10.09
Payne	295	SIHIP - employment	29.10.09
Siewert	208	Alice Springs town camps	29.10.09
Boyce	343	Housing in Kowrowa	29.10.09
Payne	271, 272	\$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjajara	29.10.09
Payne	280, 281	Home ownership - NSW	29.10.09
Payne	288	National Indigenous Representative Body	29.10.09
Payne	291	Indigenous housing delivery	29.10.09
Scullion	294	SIHIP	29.10.09
Payne	279	Home ownership - NSW	29.10.09

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 004

Topic: Operation Sunlight

Hansard Page: CA5

Senators Boyce asked:

What has been the cost of those adjustments to date?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA6 of Hansard for 1 June 2009.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 011

Topic: Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

Hansard Page: CA15

Senator Moore asked:

Is the spreadsheet you have with you a public document? Can it be tabled?

Answer:

The attached table provides a list of National Agreement and National Partnership Agreements that exist under the FaHCSIA portfolio. The information provided is a high level summary of roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments under each agreement. The summary is intended as a guide only and may not capture all relevant activity under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 011

- **Topic:** Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

Hansard Page: CA 15

Senator Moore asked:

Is the spreadsheet you have with you a public document? Can it be tabled?

Answer:

The attached table provides a list of National Agreement and National Partnership Agreements that exist under the FaHCSIA portfolio. The information provided is a high level summary of roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments under each agreement. The summary is intended as a guide only and may not capture all relevant activity under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009



Australian Government
 Department of Families, Housing,
 Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

FaHCSIA's Commonwealth/State National Agreements and National Partnerships Agreements

Domain	Agreement	Key Commonwealth responsibilities	Key State/Territory/Local Responsibilities
Housing	National Affordable Housing Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income support and rental subsidies Immigration and settlement Financial sector regulation Commonwealth taxation arrangements Competition policy Housing data collected by ABS/Centrelink Coordination of homelessness data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and homelessness services Housing for Indigenous people Land use, supply, tenure and planning Housing related financial support State and local taxes and charges Infrastructure policy and services Tenancy and NFP sector regulation Collection and publication of data
	National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth measures under the implementation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of State and Commonwealth supported measures under the implementation plan
	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal and essential services delivery (to 2013) Community Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of housing projects Municipal and essential services (uptake to 2013)
	National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Housing projects Monitoring of project outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and Project Management Project details in implementation plan
	National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan – <i>Schedule C: Social Housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for Approval of Housing projects – via a National Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and Project Management Project details in implementation plan
Indigenous	National Indigenous Reform Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance structures and language services Strategic Investment and Aboriginal Benefits Account Support related National Agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support related National Agreements.
	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a coordination mechanism for service delivery Leadership for the Integrated service planning and delivery mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Integrated service planning and delivery mechanism
	National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation (led by DEEWR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,280 Cwlth service delivery jobs by 1 July 2009 Advisory service for procurement practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 720 State service delivery jobs by 1 July 2009 Change management of procurement practices

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Disability	National Disability Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability employment services • Income support • Leadership for the disability reform agenda and National Disability Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability services (except employment) • Implementation of the disability reform agenda and National Disability Strategy
Concessions	National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of fringe benefit and transport concessions to designated pensioners

Key Roles and Responsibilities is a high level summary of roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments under each agreement. Caution – The table is intended as a guide only and may not capture all relevant activity under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 012

- **Topic:** Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Boyce asked:

The agreements themselves: are they publicly available documents?

Answer:

National Agreements and National Partnership Agreements created under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (with the exception of the National Partnership for Certain Concessions for Seniors and Pension Card Holders) are available on the Council of Australian Government website. This site can be accessed at www.coag.gov.au.

The National Partnership for Certain Concessions for Seniors and Pension Card Holders is available on the Ministerial Council For Federal Financial Relations website. This site can be accessed at <http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au>

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 001

- **Topic:** Funding Agreements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a. Why does FaHCSIA include Clause 22 in the proposed Terms and conditions of funding agreements? The clause states: “22.1. Even though you are not in default, we can terminate this Agreement, or reduce its scope, at any time by giving you written notice.”
- b. Does the Department intend to withdraw or modify the clause for July 2009 FaHCSIA Funding Agreements?

Answer:

- a. The Terms and Conditions were recently reviewed with assistance from the Australian Government Solicitor. Clause 22 (right to terminate or to reduce the scope of the Agreement) is a standard non-fault clause in Australian Government contracts. It recognises that Governments may require this option if there is a significant change in policy; however, this clause is rarely invoked.
- b. No. The Department will continue to have Terms and Conditions consistent with the Australian Government standard. If the Funding Agreement were terminated or reduced in scope under clause 22, the Funding Recipient would be compensated for their costs (if any) relating to the termination or reduction of the scope of the Funding Agreement.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 197

- **Topic:** Women in management positions

Hansard Page: CA82

Senator Boyce asked:

How many women are we talking about with a 1.27 per cent increase?

Answer:

Our estimate is approximately 25,000 women.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 198

- **Topic:** Gender Equality for Women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How will EOWA increase its influence over Australian employers to achieve equality for women in the next 12 months?

Answer:

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) will continue to assist employers to achieve EEO through: the compliance reporting process (in accordance with the *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999*); provision of educational services; communications and research; and building partnerships, and engaging business leaders in incentive-based initiatives.

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Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 199

- **Topic:** Gender Equality for Women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

EOWA's Key Performance Indicators use percentages as a means of measuring an increase in women's participation in the workplace. Can EOWA detail how many women are included in its sample size for measuring the percentage success in each program? How are people chosen to be included in the sample?

Answer:

The Key Performance Indicators use percentages based on data provided by all organisations reporting to Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA). In 2008, approximately 2800 organisations reported to EOWA covering just over one million female employees.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 200

Topic: Gender Equality for Women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Given the government's announced plans for a publicly funded Paid Parental Leave scheme, what is the timetable for phasing out the program to increase paid maternity leave in the workplace?

Answer:

There is currently no formal Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) program to increase paid maternity leave in the workplace.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 201

Topic: Gender Equality for Women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Does EOWA have any programs for the encouragement of Paid Paternity leave?

Answer:

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) has no formal programs for the encouragement of paid paternity leave.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross Portfolio

Question No: 202

Topic: Gender Equality for Women

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What information did EOWA provide the government in regards to a national paid maternity leave scheme prior to the budget announcement on this issue?

Answer:

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Public Inquiry into Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave. The submission included EOWA data on the provision of paid maternity and paternity leave in private sector organisations which report to EOWA.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 378

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services – North Queensland (ATSICLS-NQ)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Has FaHCSIA ensured that the recommendations of the Walshe review were implemented?

Answer:

- The January 2007 review of Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Legal Services, undertaken by Michael Walshe & Associates:
 - confirmed that service delivery, financial management and corporate governance standards were of an unacceptably low standard, and
 - recommended that the TSRA seek an alternative model for Legal Services delivery by (1) examining if there are other Torres Strait Islander organisations with good corporate governance standards and good focused management capacity that could be funded to supply Legal Aid Services to Torres Strait Islander people, and (2) if it is considered that this is unlikely to achieve the desired result, then an open tender to provide such services should be conducted.
- The outcomes of the Walshe Report were presented to the March 2007 TSRA Board meeting. It was endorsed by TSRA Board Decision no. 802 that the TSRA seek an alternative service provider through an open tender process.
- Since the Walshe Report was completed, the TSRA have conducted two open tender processes for the provision of Indigenous Legal Services
 - Tender 1: advertised twice in September 2007 and 30 October 2007 for the Indigenous Legal Services contract from 1 October 2007 to 30 June 2008, and
 - Tender 2: advertised from March 2008 for the Indigenous Legal Services contract from 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Service – North Queensland (ATSICLS-NQ) were the successful applicant in both tender processes.
- The Attorney General's Department were the probity advisors in both 2007 and 2008 tender processes.
- The TSRA used the recommendations from the Walshe Report in development of the tender process, assessment of tender applications and briefings to the TSRA Board for decisions on Legal Services.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 002

- **Topic:** Superannuation

Hansard Page: CA5

Senators Boyce and Moore asked:

How much do employees receive under the two most common schemes?
Can you provide a breakdown of how many are in each scheme?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA44 of Hansard for 1 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 003

- **Topic:** Paid Partial Leave

Hansard Page: CA5

Senators Boyce and Moore asked:

How many staff used the scheme in 2008-09?

How long on average do people take paid partial leave for?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA44 of Hansard for 1 June 2009.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 009

- **Topic:** ESS Website

Hansard Page: CA14

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Did the department produce the video of Minister Plibersek that appeared on this website?
- b) Who would have paid for that video?

Answer:

There are two videos on www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au that feature Minister Plibersek. One video introduces the Housing section of the site and the other appears as part of the Ask A Question section of the site.

The Department did not produce either video. The Department prepared the script and facilitated the Minister's involvement in the video that appears as part of the Ask A Question section of the site.

Both videos were produced by Australian Parliament House Broadcasting and were at no cost to the Department.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 010

- **Topic:** ESS Website

Hansard Page: CA14

Senator Boyce asked:

How often do you provide updates to PM&C for the website?

Answer:

The Department currently provides weekly updates to the PM&C www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au website.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 005

- **Topic:** Ex-gratia payments

Hansard Page: CA8

Senator Boyce asked:

You made \$27.3 million in ex gratia payments in 2008-09 but, going forward, you only have budgeted in 2009-10 for \$4 million or so in ex gratia payments. I had a look back and you made \$7.7 million in payments in 2007-08.

- (a) Why the difference?
- (b) Does the department make any ex gratia payments at its own behest or are they all ministerially directed?

Answer:

- (a) The \$27.3 million in ex-gratia payments made in 2008-09 includes payments made to people affected by the North Queensland floods, the North Western Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires. These payments include the Income Recovery Subsidy and Funeral/Memorial Assistance. Given the timing of these disasters and the fact that these payments are available for a limited period, the majority of the payments for these disasters were made in the 2008-09 financial year.

The estimate of \$4.1 million in ex-gratia payments in 2009-10 represents the remaining payments related to these disasters expected to be made.

These amounts do not include the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment which is funded as a Special Appropriation under the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*.

- (b) The legal authority for providing ex-gratia payments lies with the executive power of the Commonwealth under section 61 of the Constitution. In practice, the Prime Minister and/or Cabinet provide the authority for ex-gratia payments to be made, the Minister approves detailed guidelines for those payments and the Department applies the guidelines and makes payments when people lodge claims.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 008

- **Topic:** Consultancies

Hansard Page: CA12

Senator Fifield asked:

Have there been any new consultancies entered into by the department since the February estimates?

Answer:

This question was answered during the Senate Estimates Hearing on 1 June 2009 (refer to the attached extract from the Hansard).

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Senator FIFIELD—Thank you for that. Have there been any new consultancies entered into by the department since the February estimates?

Dr Harmer—We would probably need to take that one on notice. The full list of consultancies commissioned by the department will of course be in our annual report, as it has been for some years.

Mr Hunter—Senator, I cannot give you the information from February, but I can give you a total figure of many we have let for the year, if that is helpful.

Senator FIFIELD—Thank you.

Mr Hunter—We have let—

CHAIR—To what date?

Mr Hunter—As at 30 April we have let 206 this year, compared to 281 in 2007-08 and 312 in 2006-07.

Senator FIFIELD—Can you provide a figure for the value of those consultancies?

Mr Hunter—The 206 as a total figure is \$14.5 million year-to-date as at 30 April.

Senator FIFIELD—And the 281?

Mr Hunter—That was \$28.9 million.

Senator FIFIELD—And that is 281 individual consultancies.

Mr Hunter—Yes.

Senator FIFIELD—I appreciate that the full list of consultancies will be in the annual report, but is that something that you are able to take on notice and provide a list of?

Mr Hunter—It will be in the annual report as well as Austender.

Senator FIFIELD—So we can go to Austender for the full list of those?

Mr Hunter—Yes.

Senator FIFIELD—Thank you. Austender is a good thing—very handy.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 007

- **Topic:** Budget Kits

Hansard Page: CA11

Senator Fifield asked:

- a) Could you please provide advice as to the numbers of each of those booklets which were produced, the cost of producing those booklets and also the distribution of those booklets (the broad categories they were sent to and including but not limited to members of parliament)?
- b) Could you also break that down further to numbers of copies provided to government members of parliament and numbers of copies provided to the opposition and other parties?

Answer:

a) For Budget 2009-10, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) produced 2020 copies of the Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS). The total production cost was \$18,282.00 (GST inclusive). The PBS was distributed to the:

- Budget media lock-up. Copies of the PBSs, Budget Kits and Media Statements were also provided to the lock-up for opposition parties, coordinated by the Treasury.
- House of Representatives and Senate Tabling Offices
- Ministers Macklin, Plibersek, Roxon, Evans, Ludwig and Wong as well as Parliamentary Secretaries Shorten and Stephens
- Community Affairs Committee
- FaHCSIA Executive, staff and portfolio agencies
- Other Australian Government Departments
- Library and research organisations including the Library Deposit Scheme, Information Research Centre and Parliamentary Library
- Pension Review Reference Group.

The Department produced 2100 FaHCSIA Portfolio Budget Kits at a total cost of \$11,357.00 (GST inclusive). This kit was distributed to the:

- Budget media lock-up. Copies of the PBSs, Budget Kits and Media Statements were also provided to the lock-up for opposition parties, coordinated by the Treasury.
- Ministers Macklin, Plibersek, Roxon, Evans, Ludwig and Wong as well as Parliamentary Secretaries Shorten and Stephens
- Community Affairs Committee
- FaHCSIA Executive, staff and portfolio agencies
- Other Australian Government departments
- Library and research organisations including the Library Deposit Scheme, Information Research Centre and Parliamentary Library
- Pension Review Reference Group.

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The Department produced the Single Indigenous Budget Submission (SIBS) kit and the Indigenous Ministerial Statement. 2700 kits were produced at a total cost of \$10,989.00 (GST inclusive). 4639 Ministerial Statements were produced at a total cost of \$5,346.00. The kit was distributed to the:

- Budget media lock-up. Copies of the PBSs, Budget Kits and Media Statements were also provided to the lock-up for opposition parties, coordinated by the Treasury.
- Minister Macklin
- FaHCSIA Executive, staff and portfolio agencies
- Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs
- Indigenous affairs community groups, councils and stakeholders such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

The Ministerial Statement was included in the SIBS kit, 1800 copies were provided to The Treasury, and 139 copies for the Parliamentary Paper series.

The Department produced 600 copies of the Women's Budget kit at a total cost of \$3,630.00 (GST inclusive). This kit was distributed to:

- All Senators and Members of Parliament
- Other Australian Government Departments
- Women's group stakeholders such as the Office of Women's Policy and the ACT Office for Women
- Attendees of the Women's Budget kit launch.

The Department also produced 10,000 copies of a booklet titled *Australia's Paid Parental Leave Scheme* at a total cost of \$8,096.00 (GST inclusive). This booklet was included in the FaHCSIA Portfolio Budget Kits and distributed to:

- Stakeholder groups and organisations such as the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
- Other Australian Government Departments
- Stakeholders such as the Community and Public Sector Union, Australian Retailers Association and the National Tourism Alliance
- Attendees of the Women's Budget kit launch.

A *Secure and Sustainable Pensions* booklet was produced by The Treasury. 3300 copies of the booklet were provided to FaHCSIA at a cost of \$7,425.00 (GST inclusive). This booklet was distributed in the FaHCSIA Portfolio Budget Kits, except those that were provided in the Budget media lock-up. In addition, the booklet was distributed individually to:

- Carer stakeholder groups such as Carers Australia, National Disability Services and State carer groups
- Peak disability groups such as the National Council on Intellectual Disability Inc. and Blind Citizens Australia Ltd
- People who made submissions to the Pension Review.

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b) The number of copies provided to government members of parliament, the opposition and other parties were:

Product	Government Members	Opposition and other parties
Portfolio Budget Statement	Ministers Macklin, Plibersek, Roxon, Evans, Ludwig and Wong as well as Parliamentary Secretaries Shorten and Stephens Quantity: 105	The Treasury provide agency PBSs, Budget Kits and Statements to the lock-up for opposition parties.
Portfolio Budget Kit	Ministers Macklin, Plibersek, Roxon, Evans, Ludwig and Wong as well as Parliamentary Secretaries Shorten and Stephens Quantity: 127	The Treasury provide agency PBSs, Budget Kits and Statements to the lock-up for opposition parties.
Single Indigenous Budget Submission kit and the Indigenous Ministerial Statement	Minister Macklin Quantity: 30 (+ 100 additional copies of the Ministerial Statement)	The Treasury provide agency PBSs, Budget Kits and Statements to the lock-up for opposition parties.
Women's Budget kit	All Government Senators and Members of Parliament Quantity: 115	All non-Government Senators and Members of Parliament Quantity: 111
<i>Australia's Paid Parental Leave Scheme</i>	Included in Portfolio Budget kits (see above) Quantity: 127	The Treasury provide agency PBSs, Budget Kits and Statements to the lock-up for opposition parties.
<i>Secure and Sustainable Pensions</i>	Included in Portfolio Budget kits (see above) Quantity: 127	The Treasury provide agency PBSs, Budget Kits and Statements to the lock-up for opposition parties.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 317

- **Topic:** AHL Outcomes Success

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Can you provide more information as to the success of Aboriginal Hostels in ensuring Indigenous people can access education, employment, health & other services?

Answer:

AHL owns and operates 50 hostels nation-wide which help Indigenous people to access education, employment opportunities, various health services, legal and other services. In addition, the company funds a further 66 community run hostels through the Community Hostel Grants program.

-

- In the health sector, AHL operates the Hetti Perkins Home for the Aged in Alice Springs (40 beds) and has three renal hostels (76 beds) in Broome, Darwin and Alice Springs. Two more renal hostels are currently being built in Townsville and Port Hedland. AHL has 7 Medical Transient hostels (171 beds) for Indigenous people accessing hospital or medical treatment.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 318

- **Topic:** AHL Closing the Gap Strategies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

In relation to the 'strategies' that close the gap, can you provide examples of how this will be done?

Answer:

AHL has 9 categories of hostels. These are Transient/Homeless, Homeless, Medical Transient, Tertiary Education and Training, Secondary Education, Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP), Aged Care, Renal Dialysis and Substance Use Rehabilitation. Each category provides accommodation and support addressing one or more of the seven 'building blocks' identified by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to reduce the current Indigenous disadvantage gap.

Please see [Attachment A](#) for more information on how AHL's accommodation services contribute to the seven building blocks.

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ATTACHMENT A

1. Healthy Homes

- All hostels run and funded by AHL provide ‘healthy homes’ for residents, for whatever period people stay with us. We accommodate all residents with dignity in healthy, safe, well-maintained, hygienic premises that are alcohol and drug free. We provide three nutritious meals a day, including special diets where needed. Laundry facilities are provided for residents.
- A safe environment is provided by AHL for mothers and babies and young children around the time that the mothers give birth. Our safe accommodation is also available for homeless people and for those who have to be away from their communities for various reasons, including to access to medical treatments.

2. Safe Communities

- AHL provides a safe environment for our residents. We strictly enforce an alcohol and drug-free policy and violent behaviour results in eviction. AHL hostels have established links with local police and support services. Some hostels provide a single-sex environment where this is appropriate to clients’ needs. AHL staff undergo criminal record checks before employment.
- Parents and carers are required to supervise their children while staying in hostels. In these ways, we offer a working model of safety for families and communities, as well as providing safe hostel services that enable Indigenous people to improve the quality of their lives.

3. Health

AHL makes a major contribution to better health outcomes through supporting Indigenous people who need medical treatment and encouraging preventative health actions.

Well over 1000 beds per night are provided or funded in hostels specifically for medical cases, including specialist hostels that provide accommodation and support for people needing medical outpatient treatment, renal dialysis and for women requiring ante-natal and post-natal care.

AHL funds hostels that specifically cater for people (and in some cases, also their families) undertaking substance use rehabilitation. We also help residents to access other essential health services.

AHL provides residents with three nutritious meals per day and provides special diets to meet specific needs (such as for renal dialysis patients).

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4. Early Childhood

More than half of AHL's residents are children and our hostels are designed and managed to provide a safe and healthy environment for families, including babies and pre-school children.

AHL supports specific accommodation and hospital transfer services for mothers and babies around the time of childbirth. Other young children may accompany their mothers, reducing risks of anxiety or developmental impacts of separation from parents.

The company supports early childhood development and health, providing direct services within hostels and links to other health, parenting skills and child development services.

5. Schooling

Building on AHL's work (described above) to support early childhood development, AHL provides accommodation for school age children from kindergarten through to tertiary education in environments that are conducive to learning. AHL ensures that school age children staying for any longer than one week in our hostels attend a local school.

Secondary Education hostels support over 500 students to complete their secondary education. Hostels are equipped with computer and recreational facilities, supporting the emphasis on good academic and health outcomes. Houseparents enforce regular school attendance.

6. Economic Participation

AHL hostels are a vital starting point for many people looking for work. Many rely on staying at an AHL hostel to take up paid employment while making arrangements for permanent housing.

AHL accommodation in central locations also helps students, apprentices and trainees from rural or remote areas develop skills that lead to employment.

AHL directly contributes to Indigenous economic participation as we are a major employer of Indigenous people across Australia providing real jobs in remote, rural and urban locations.

AHL has a strict 'No Pay, No Stay' policy which means that all residents contribute to hostel operating costs.

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7. Governance and Leadership

AHL leads by example, following ‘best practice’ corporate governance principles.

AHL supports approximately 70 Indigenous community organisations to operate their own hostels. AHL actively and continuously supports and advises these organisations regarding improvement of their corporate governance, business practices and financial management.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 319

- **Topic:** AHL Marketing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

If AHL is going to continue to market the company externally, will you be using an external company to help with this, or will it be done internally?

Do you have a breakdown as to this budget?

Answer:

AHL's marketing strategy is dedicated to improving awareness in the Indigenous communities about the services of AHL and the access to services and opportunities that it provides. AHL's marketing is handled internally. AHL does not intend to engage an external consultant at this point in time. \$80,000 was allocated from our budget for 'public relations' for the 2008-09 financial year for such items as AHL publications, newspaper advertising, promotional events and the AHL website.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 320

- **Topic:** AHL Resident Satisfaction

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

In relation to ensuring the satisfaction of residents, how is this being done?
Are you doing this by survey, or personally speaking to residents?

Answer:

AHL conducts an annual satisfaction survey of all hostels. It consists of a short paper questionnaire to rate resident hostel satisfaction on various criteria. It is then collected and the data analysed and used to improve services.

AHL has an email address, 24-hour hotline and contact officer for any resident complaints or feedback. Residents can also speak directly to their Hostel Manager or Regional Manager.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 321

- **Topic:** AHL Reporting

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Will you be reporting on the continued success in relation to your work with communities?

Answer:

AHL reports on all of its work activities, including community relationships and partnerships, in our quarterly reports to the FaHCSIA Minister and in our Annual Report.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 286

- **Topic:** Small Business Loans

Hansard Page: CA21

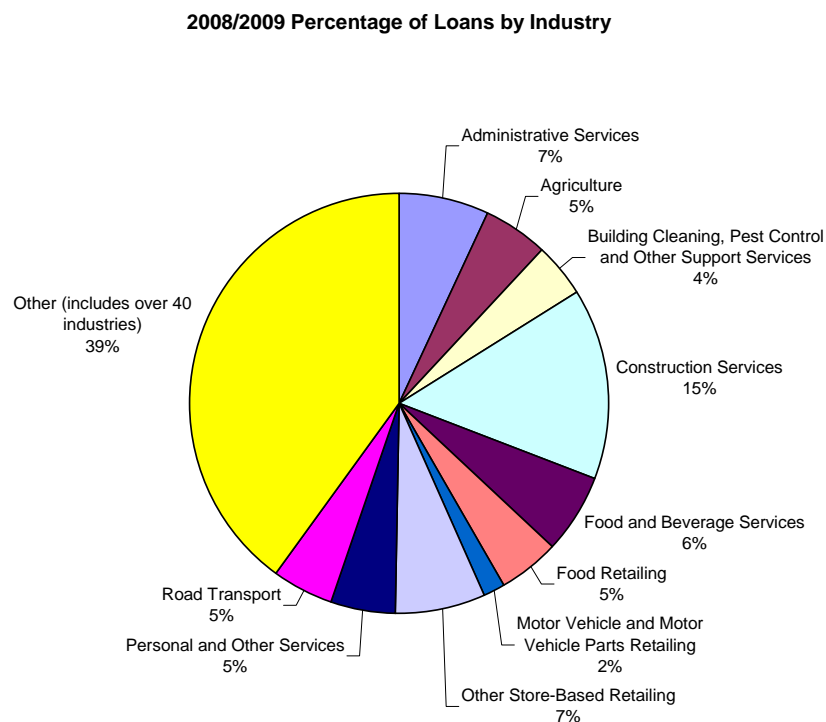
Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a list of how many (Small Business) loans you have got, the value of those loans, the industry sectors that the loans are in, any people who have defaulted on their loans?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2009, IBA had a portfolio of 319 small business loans for a total of \$56 million.

The loans are in the following industry sectors:



The above chart shows that IBA’s borrowers have businesses that are widely distributed across industry sectors. The “Other” section includes a large number of industries. Annexure 1 provides a list of all industry categories for IBA’s business loan clients.

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As at 31 May 2009, 75 business loans were in default. This represents the number of businesses two or more payments in arrears.

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Industry Categories for Indigenous Business Australia Business Loans

Accommodation
Advertising Services
Agricultural Product Wholesaling
Agriculture and Fishing Support Services
Allied Health Services
Amusement and Other Recreation Activities
Aquaculture
Architectural, Engineering and Technical Services
Automotive Repair and Maintenance
Bakery Product Manufacturing
Building Cleaning, Pest Control and Gardening Services
Building Completion Services
Building Installation Services
Building Structure Services
Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services
Child Care Services
Civic, Professional and Other Interest Group Services
Cleaning Compound and Toiletry Preparation Manufacturing
Clothing, Footwear and Personal Accessory Retailing
Creative and Performing Arts Activities
Dairy Cattle Farming
Electrical and Electronic Goods Retailing
Employment Services
Farm Animal and Bloodstock Leasing
Fishing
Forestry Support Services
Fruit and Tree Nut Growing
Fuel Retailing
Furniture, Floor Covering and Other Goods Wholesaling
Furniture, Floor Coverings, Houseware and Textile Goods Retailing
Hardware, Building and Garden Supplies Retailing
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
Horse and Dog Racing Activities
Land Development and Site Preparation Services
Leather Tanning, Fur Dressing and Leather Product Manufacturing
Legal and Accounting Services
Machinery and Equipment Repair and Maintenance
Management and Related Consulting Services
Meat and Meat Product Manufacturing
Medical Services
Mineral, Metal and Chemical Wholesaling
Motion Picture and Video Activities
Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Wholesaling
Motor Vehicle and Transport Equipment Rental and Hiring

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Motor Vehicle Parts and Tyre Retailing
Motor Vehicle Retailing
Museum Operation
Mushroom and Vegetable Growing
Non-Store Retailing
Nursery and Floriculture Production
Other Administrative Services
Other Construction Services
Other Food Product Manufacturing
Other Goods and Equipment Rental and Hiring
Other Manufacturing
Other Mining Support Services
Other Personal Services
Other Social Assistance Services
Other Wood Product Manufacturing
Personal Care Services
Pharmaceutical and Other Store-Based Retailing
Polymer Product Manufacturing
Postal and Courier Pick-up and Delivery Services
Preschool Education
Printing and Printing Support Services
Private Households Employing Staff and Undifferentiated Goods
Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing
Property Operators
Pubs, Taverns and Bars
Real Estate Services
Recreational Goods Retailing
Residential Building Construction
Road Freight Transport
Road Passenger Transport
Scenic and Sightseeing Transport
Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming
Software Publishing
Specialised Food Retailing
Sports and Physical Recreation Activities
Structural Metal Product Manufacturing
Supermarket and Grocery Stores
Travel Agency and Tour Arrangement Services

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 287

- **Topic:** Indigenous Home Ownership

Hansard Page: CA23

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide a table of all the homeownership on Indigenous land projects and where they are at?

Answer:

IBA is seeking to implement the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land (HOIL) program in a number of communities. Those communities where engagement has been substantial and there is client interest in home ownership are shown in the attached table. In addition to these communities IBA has given HOIL presentations in Cherbourg, Wujal Wujal, Northern Peninsula Area, Jumbun, and Palm Island in Queensland. Follow up visits to these communities are being arranged.

NGUIU (NT)	IBA has been implementing HOIL in Nguiu since 2007. In Nguiu, nine loans have been approved to date, with another loan approved in Melville Island. IBA is also working with another 20 families who are interested with home ownership. IBA is also building four houses at Nguiu specifically for sale to aspiring home buyers wanting a new house.
GROOTE EYLANDT / BICKERTON ISLAND (NT)	Agreement was reached for 40 year Township leasing arrangements with a renewable leasing option for the three communities of Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra in December 2008. IBA staff consulted with key stakeholders in May 2009 and there is genuine interest in the HOIL program.
MAPOON (Qld)	Following visits by IBA and State agencies there is strong interest in home ownership in Mapoon. World Vision Australia (WVA) is now working with the community and Shire Council one week each month to: assess interest and financial capacity for home ownership; facilitate Indigenous Land Use Agreements and town planning for home ownership; and develop local leasing and loan repayment systems, and policies. A think-tank is being facilitated by WVA with community representatives and key stakeholders in early July.
HOPE VALE (Qld)	IBA has visited the community on four occasions to promote the Millers Block Loan Scheme to community members. 17 Residents have expressed interest in home ownership.

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YARRABAH (Qld)	Presentations were made to the Council in April 2008 and February 2009, and follow up visits are being planned. The Council is supportive of HOIL.
WALGETT (NSW)	Visits from the Prime Minister and Minister Macklin to Walgett in 2008 have generated strong interest in home ownership. IBA continues discussions with New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) regarding the subdivision of land in 64 discrete Aboriginal reserves across NSW and has been actively promoting HOIL in Walgett.
AIRPORT RESERVE (WA)	IBA has had discussions with a large number of leaseholders who are interested in home ownership. However, land tenure issues continue to be a barrier for HOIL implementation in Western Australia, and little progress can be made until these are resolved.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 322

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Has there been much success in the level of Indigenous people wanting to own a small business?

Answer:

For the period July 2006 to May 2009, the following were achieved:

- 5055 enquiries were received by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) from Indigenous Australians interested either in going into business or already in business and wanting to access IBA's business support and loan services.
- Clients received the benefit of 2,349 items of business support. Note that some clients would have accessed more than one item of business support.
- Of the foregoing, 263 clients had business loans approved by IBA. It is recognised that some business support clients would have proceeded into business through other financing options.

IBA also recognises that many Indigenous Australians establish or acquire a business without accessing IBA's services.

According to the ABS August 2006 census:

	No. self-employed	No. employed in population	Self-employed as a per cent of all employed
Indigenous Australians	7 thousand	123 thousand	5.5 per cent
Total Australian population	1.49 million	9.1 million	16.4 per cent

These statistics show that Indigenous Australians are under-represented in owning and operating businesses, indicating the importance of continuing to provide business support and business loans tailored to the needs of this population group.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 323

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What have been the major highlights of this program, and the main setbacks?

Answer:

The aim of the program is to assist Indigenous people to succeed in business. There are three products provided:

Commercial loans are provided to assist Indigenous people to acquire, establish or grow a business where they are unable to access finance from mainstream financial institutions due to inability to meet bank lending criteria.

Business Support provides clients with access to business consultants who can assist them to establish business or develop the business related skills required to manage and succeed in business. Support includes, but is not limited to, feasibility studies, business plans, marketing advice, mentoring and small business management training.

Economic Development Initiatives (EDIs) support Indigenous economic and business development by funding projects that facilitate the development of business related skills, knowledge, research of economic opportunities and support to overcome barriers and access relevant information and assistance, particularly in regional and remote areas.

The highlights of the program are outlined below. Highlights are based on consolidated results for the period July 2006 to May 2009.

- 263 loans totalling \$50 million have been approved across 50 industry sectors.
- 745 jobs have been created or supported through the businesses receiving an IBA business loan.
- 2,349 business support projects have been undertaken totalling \$23 million.
- Business success is inextricably linked to the provision of integrated business support during the development and establishment phase of the business cycle and through the critical first year of operation, therefore the provision of business support to one client may span a number of years.
- 151 economic development initiatives totalling \$4.3 million have been undertaken. Highlights from EDI projects include:

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- 88 workshops with 1,034 participants. Workshops are specifically designed to target identified skill gaps and to stimulate Indigenous entrepreneurs to consider small business opportunities in a supported group setting; and
- Intensive regional capability project at Galiwinku Northern Territory where 17 small businesses were established supporting 13 full time and 30 part time jobs in this remote island location. This was a joint project between IBA and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, which will jointly undertake scoping assessments in another five remote locations with the view to expanding this model during 2009/10.
- Improving service to clients through a process of continual review of service delivery and product refinement that has been undertaken over the past two years. Improvements have resulted in an overall reduction in the processing time for loan approvals from 30 days average as at 30 June 2008 to 5 days average as at 31 May 2009 and a reduction in the time taken from approval to release of funds (settlement) from 51 days as at 30 June 2008 to 36 days as at 31 May 2009.

Setbacks for the program include maintaining the success rate of businesses during the current global economic crisis. IBA has witnessed a marked reduction in the viability of its clients' businesses during the financial year, as evidenced by loans two or more payments in arrears increasing from 57 in June 2008 to 75 in May 2009.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 324

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Do you have specific targets, and will you be reporting as to the success of this program?

Answer:

Targets for the program are outlined in the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Portfolio Budget Statements. The program's success is reported in Indigenous Business Australia's (IBA's) Annual Report, each year.

The targets for 2008/2009 are:

Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicator	Target
Survival rate for new businesses funded past the first year	60%
Percentage of clients who have started and remained in business who have been assisted through business support or economic development initiatives	20%
Deliverables:	
Business Support: number of approvals	600
Economic development: number of initiatives approved	50
Loans: number of new loans approved	70
Employment: jobs created/supported through the program	220

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 325

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Can you provide examples and evidence of success in relation to Indigenous small business owners?

Answer:

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) can cite many examples and evidence of success of its Indigenous small business clients. The following examples have been adapted from IBA's recent annual reports and newsletters and include a cross section of clients in various locations and industries. In each case the client has given permission for their client information to be published.

1. Peppers Fish N Chips (Mr and Ms Carmen and Barry Irish – Bairnsdale Vic.)

It's been said that the fish and chips from *Peppers Fish N Chips*, owned and operated by Carmen and Barry Irish, are the best anywhere from Melbourne to Sydney – high praise for the popular takeaway and restaurant in Bairnsdale, Victoria.

With the assistance of an IBA loan and business consultant, Carmen and Barry purchased a run down business that had been on the market for six months and turned it into a busy upmarket takeaway that receives strong local support.

Carmen and Barry work seven days in the business, buying fish directly from the boats of local fishermen and filleting it themselves. They cook in only the best oil and cater to everybody's tastes. The hard work has paid off - the owners are proud to show off their premises and have seen a four-fold increase in turnover since taking over the business.

After a challenging beginning, Carmen and Barry are now able to pass on their hardworking values and skills, giving local Koori kids a go. Carmen and Barry also provide a great example of how hard work can lead to success.

2. Render One (Fiona Wegner and Russell Boston – Cairns Qld.)

With backgrounds in finance and the local building industry, Fiona Wegner and Russell Boston combined their families' experience and knowledge to establish Render One. Render One is a family owned and operated manufacturing company with three Indigenous employees, the core business of which is developing high quality textural coating systems (render).

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Fiona's husband, Joni Wegner and business partner, Russell Boston, have a combined 35-years experience in render systems and during this time have used most render products available on the market. Russell's career includes owning and operating his own business and roles across Australia, the United Arab Emirates and South East Asia.

Joni's knowledge comes from his father, Werner, who had a background in industrial chemistry which spanned over 40 years. This knowledge and Joni's experience in the building industry led to him to research and develop a render system that utilises the latest chemicals and technologies available, suitable for all climates and a complete range of surfaces.

In the 11 years prior to the establishment of Render One, Fiona worked as a financial controller at an Indigenous ante-natal women's shelter in Cairns. This role allowed her to establish a network of business contacts that later provided vital support and advice.

"In this role, I identified the need for society to recognise strong, independent Indigenous women who can be role models for our Indigenous youth. I believe that we need to challenge ourselves to become better people. Too many Indigenous people get comfortable in their environment when they can be so much more. I believed in what we wanted to do and wanted to take that step to challenge myself and my family. What better way to be recognized than to develop a company that offers a product to meet the needs of the market and make a commitment to give all that you have to offer to make that company a success".

It was this vision that led her, in 2007, to step out of her comfort zone and explore other avenues.

"The products that Render One manufactures had been used by our family for years and were a proven success, we knew this was something that we could stand behind, but just needed support to get started".

Fiona was put in contact with IBA's Cairns office, which introduced Fiona to a business consultant. The wealth of knowledge and support provided by IBA and the business consultant was instrumental in seeing an idea grow into the manufacturing company that is now Render One.

Render One's product has many advantages over their competitors' products: it is economical, versatile, water resistant, fire-resistant, non-toxic and long lasting, but they do not rest on their laurels. IBA's support has assisted them to grow in other areas. They are dedicated to in-house research and development, ensuring continuous growth as they aim to be a leader in the architectural coating industry. They aim to control all aspects of the business internally from sand extraction to the end product supplied and delivered to the customer. To promote future growth and alleviate the shortfall of skilled applicators in the industry they plan to incorporate a training program and facility centre.

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Fiona is philosophical about the future. “Our journey so far has seen many highs and lows fraught with obstacles and constant learning. Having the ability to adapt with the ever changing economical environment, I believe, is the key to a successful business. Working as a team is the key to overcoming the obstacles facing today’s business owners”.

Business support and planning advice, such as offered by IBA, is critical to business success, an idea supported by Fiona. “I believe that without the right support and guidance the most planned and proficient business ideas would have an extremely hard time developing. Due to the support and advice that we have received from IBA I believe Render One can overcome any obstacles that may come our way”.

With commitment and business acumen like that, Render One is well positioned for a bright future.

3. Mucky Mutts Mobile Dog Wash (Rodney Abbott – Coffs Harbour, NSW)

The dogs of Coffs Harbour are a clean and well groomed pack of hounds thanks to Rod Abbott and Mucky Mutts Mobile Dog Wash.

Rod had established his own business, clipping and grooming dogs from his home. However, winter meant a significant downturn in business and Rod had an opportunity to purchase a mobile dog wash. With the assistance of a loan and business consultant through IBA, Rod Abbott was able to purchase an established mobile dog wash business and he hasn’t looked back. The expansion that this allowed saw Rod going from a winter with no customers, to a busy washing season. Summer was an even busier period, grooming and clipping the pooches of Coffs Harbour.

The expansion of the business has given Rod piece of mind, with the family enjoying the benefits of self-employment and a more secure future.

The continued success of the business has meant that Rod has been successful in recently obtaining an additional loan from IBA for the purchase of a new van.

Rod’s experience with IBA, in his words, was “fantastic from day one”.

“Without IBA, we wouldn’t have been able to get started” he said.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 327

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Will there be an establishment of an Indigenous Specific Chamber of Commerce?

Answer:

On 5 June 2009 Indigenous Business Australia received a proposal to fund a national and representative Indigenous business body. The working title of the proposed body is 'Indigenous Business Council of Australia'.

The proposal has been deemed to be consistent with both Indigenous Business Australia's Corporate Plan and Strategic Plan.

Indigenous Business Australia is currently completing its evaluation of the proposal, including checks to ensure that the proposal is consistent with other government initiatives.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 329

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Has there been much success with Indigenous training programs?

Answer:

It is noted that agencies other than Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) have primary responsibility for vocational training, in particular, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

As an element of its business support package, IBA provides business-related training for clients who aspire to get into business or who are already operating a business. This business-related training is focused on equipping Indigenous business-people or aspiring business-people with the skills and knowledge to better manage their businesses.

Examples of business-related training include workshops on managing a small business and training in the use of financial management software. In addition, the business planning process that we facilitate for many of our clients prior to commencement of their business assists clients to undertake that ongoing planning function once the business is under way.

IBA also provides mentoring services to Indigenous people in business, to advise them on establishing their businesses and managing them effectively.

All of the training and mentoring is provided to clients through appropriately qualified business consultants.

The access to business-related training and mentoring that IBA provides contributes to the success of clients businesses. Other factors that determine the success or otherwise of a clients business include the clients vocational skill, the business concept and marketability, the clients prior business experience, the adequacy of capital for their business and each clients ability to deal with opportunities and risks that they encounter in their business.

Given the multitude of inter-related factors, it is not possible to single out the extent to which business-related training in isolation has contributed to the success of the business.

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IBA is attempting to provide Indigenous skills development opportunities in the construction industry, which in turn could lead to employment opportunities.

In this respect, IBA has developed house designs for remote area construction, in a modular configuration that can be built with limited supervision.

The next planned phase is to work with the timber industry to develop a panelised system so the modules can be put together by following a construction manual, without the need for sophisticated trade skills.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 330

- **Topic:** Small Business

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Do you have information as to the success rates of people being provided with training and this training resulting in any form of employment?

Answer:

It is noted that agencies other than Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) have primary responsibility for vocational training, in particular, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

As an element of its business support package, IBA provides business-related training for clients who aspire to get into business or who are already operating a business. This business-related training is focused on equipping Indigenous business-people or aspiring business-people with the skills and knowledge to better manage their businesses. This leads to self-employment and the employment by business proprietors of other staff, who might be Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Examples of business-related training include workshops on managing a small business, training in the use of financial management software. In addition, the business planning process that we facilitate for many of our clients prior to commencement of their business assists clients to undertake that ongoing planning function once the business is under way.

IBA also provides mentoring services to Indigenous people in business, to assist them to establish their businesses and to manage them effectively.

All of the training and mentoring is provided to clients through appropriately qualified business consultants.

IBA's small business development model integrates business support with business lending, although business support is available to clients whether or not they require a business loan.

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The business-related training and mentoring provided by IBA are two of many factors that contribute to the success of a client's business. Such factors include their vocational skill, the business concept and marketability, the clients prior business experience, the adequacy of capital for their business and each clients ability to deal with opportunities and risks that they encounter in their business. Given the multitude of inter-related factors, it is not possible to single out the extent to which business-related training has contributed to the success of the business.

For the period July 2006 to May 2009, 745 jobs have been created or supported as a result of the businesses receiving an IBA business loan.

IBA is attempting to provide Indigenous skills development opportunities in the construction industry, which in turn could lead to employment opportunities.

In this respect, IBA has developed house designs for remote area construction, in a modular configuration that can be built with limited supervision.

The next planned phase is to work with the timber industry to develop a panelised system so the modules can be put together by following a construction manual, without the need for sophisticated trade skills.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 365

- **Topic:** Indigenous staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many indigenous people does the IBA employ in management or leadership roles? Can the IBA outline these roles?

Answer:

Under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* the IBA Chairperson and at least four other IBA Directors are to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

IBA's General Manager is Indigenous and there is one Indigenous female in a Senior Executive Service role.

Three Indigenous females are employed as Executive Level officers (one is on secondment to the ACT Government).

Six Indigenous employees are in regional manager roles at APS6 equivalent, in Darwin (two), Broome, Mt Isa, Adelaide and Townsville.

IBA's General Manager has responsibility to the IBA Board for the strategic leadership of the organisation, and ensuring the efficient and effective operations of its major programs in Investment, Home Ownership and Business Development as well as policy and corporate support activities. He is responsible for managing the IBA asset base of close to \$1 billion for the economic development of Indigenous Australians.

IBA's Assistant General Manager, Corporate (SES Band 1), is responsible for leadership and management of Corporate support activities that enable IBA's programs to function efficiently. This includes Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications and Advertising, Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison, Media, Projects, Security and Records Management.

IBA's Senior Manager, Retail Portfolio (EL2 equivalent), is responsible for managing the portfolio of investments in retail including development of a shopping centre, and several community stores. She is a Board Director on the boards of Tennant Creek Supermarket Pty Ltd, Leonora Investments Pty Ltd and Western Linen Industries Pty Ltd (not operating and in the process of being deregistered).

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IBA's Manager (Lending) Systems Administration (EL1 equivalent) has day to day responsibility for the efficient and effective running of two computerised loan management systems to track loan enquiries and applications and loan repayments.

IBA has a number of manager roles in regional areas occupied by Indigenous employees whose responsibilities include:

- leading a small team;
- managing a portfolio of home loans for Indigenous people in the region;
- attracting and assessing applications for home loans;
- promoting small-medium business development by Indigenous people;
- assisting Indigenous people to develop small-medium businesses by making mentoring and business support services available; and/or
- managing loan applications and submissions for approval.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 366

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many Indigenous people have become home owners using an IBA grant in 2008-09?
How does this compare to 2007-08?

Answer:

IBA does not provide grants to Indigenous people to enable them to become home owners.

IBA's Home Ownership Program provides home loans to eligible Indigenous people to enable them to achieve home ownership. IBA approved 348 home loans during 2008-09. This level of approvals is significantly lower than 2007-08 when 474 new loans were approved.

The response to Question 369 explains the reason for the lower level of loan approvals for the Home in 2008-09 compared to 2007-08.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 367

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the IBA provide a breakdown of where houses were purchased by IBA business in 2008-09?

Answer:

IBA does not purchase houses. IBA makes home loans that enable Indigenous people to buy their own home.

The table below shows the breakdown of the number of home loan approvals for each IBA's regions for 2008-09.

Region	Number of loans approved
Adelaide	8
Brisbane	45
Broome	6
Canberra	7
Coffs Harbour	37
Darwin/Alice Springs	41
Hobart	9
Melbourne	44
Perth	26
Rockhampton	17
Sydney	33
Tamworth	16
Townsville	27
Wagga Wagga	32
Total	348

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 368

- **Topic:** Investments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the IBA provide figures as to how many investments were approved in 2008-09, how many were refused, and how these figures compare to 2007-08?

Answer:

IBA undertakes a detailed financial assessment and completes thorough due diligence of each proposal presented and refers those most likely to succeed to the IBA Board for consideration. Unfortunately, not all proposals meet the requirements of commercial viability, or provide an opportunity for Indigenous participation in the form of ownership and employment.

As the tables below show, for 2008–09 there were eighteen investment proposals presented for approval by the IBA Board with eighteen being successful and zero proposals being declined. This equates to an increase of nine approved proposals and zero declined proposals on the 2007-08 financial year.

Summary of investment proposals considered by the IBA Board, 2008–09

Status of proposal	Number
Approved and settled	7
Approved but not yet settled	9
Approved but will not proceed	2
Not approved	0
Total	18

Summary of investment proposals considered by the IBA Board, 2007–08

Status of proposal	Number
Approved and settled	3
Approved but not yet settled	4
Approved but will not proceed	2
Not approved	0
Total	9

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Question No: 369

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In terms of Output 1.2, the IBA made 474 home loans in 2007-08, and has a target of making 360 loans in 2008-09? Can the IBA explain why the target for 2008-09 is less than the amount of loans approved in 2007-08 and whether the IBA will reach this target?

Answer:

IBA's budget for home lending in 2007-08 included a one-off transfer of \$25 million in additional funds from IBA's internally generated profits. This enabled a total of 474 loans to be approved with a value of \$113.9 million.

IBA's budget for home lending under Output 1.2 in 2008-09 was significantly lower as there were no additional funds transferred to the program. Also the current economic climate has resulted in and a lower level of early loan discharges. These factors resulted in loan approvals for 2008-09 totalling 348 with a total commitment of \$86.1 million.

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Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 370

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the IBA provide details of how many lessees, if any, defaulted on their home loan payments in 2008-09? How does this compare to 2007-08?

Answer:

In regard to the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land program there has been no defaults in home loan payments by lessees as the loans approved to date are all still proceeding to final settlement.

However, IBA experiences a relatively low level of arrears in respect to borrowers under its Home Ownership Program. The table below identifies the number of loan accounts in arrears and the value of arrears as a percentage of IBA's total outstanding portfolio balance as at 31 May 2009 and 30 June 2008 respectively. The loans in arrears more than 60 days as at 31 May 2009 represented 0.045% of the total outstanding portfolio balance which is in line with the previous financial year's performance, and continues to compare favourably with those from other targeted lending programs.

IBA Home Ownership Program

	As at 30 June 2008		As at 31 May 2009	
	No. of accounts	Value as % of portfolio balance	No. of accounts	Value as % of portfolio balance
Less than 60 days	252	0.032	249	0.030
More than 60 days	59	0.046	58	0.045

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 371

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the procedure for when a lessees defaults on a loan? Has the IBA ever had to foreclose a loan and if so, how many?

Answer:

IBA's procedures that apply in respect of defaulting borrowers under the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Program will essentially be the same as applying under the Home Ownership Program and these are set out below.

When an IBA home loan account falls into arrears, IBA sends reminder letters requesting payment (up to a total of four) to the borrower at progressive intervals. At the same time, IBA endeavours to make personal contact with borrowers to determine the reason for non-payment and assist with corrective options where appropriate.

If the arrears are not cleared by 60 days without arrangement, or there are repeated defaults in making loan payments, IBA also may charge a late payment fee.

In serious arrears situations IBA may elect to proceed with legal recovery action under its mortgage security. In limited situations this can result in IBA taking possession of, and subsequently selling, secured property assets. If there is any residual loan balance after the sale of a property, IBA initially seeks to recover the residual balance from the borrower under a negotiated payment arrangement without the need for further legal processes.

Under the Home Ownership Program IBA foreclosed on five loan accounts in 2008-09. In 2006-07 and 2007-08 IBA foreclosed on thirteen loan accounts in each year.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 372

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The funding provided for the IBA to provide home loans has increased from \$15,273,000 in 2008-09 to \$29,817,000 in 2009-10. Given that the IBA is not increasing its target of providing loans to 360 Australians, what are the reasons for the fund increase? Are the increases due to the market?

Answer:

The amounts of \$15,273,000 and \$29,817,000 identified against Program 1.2 Home Ownership Program in Table 2.1 of the Portfolio Budget Statements for 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively are not Capital (Loan) funds. Rather these amounts represent the cost of delivering the Home Ownership Program.

The major reason for the large increase in 2009-10 is that it includes an expense of \$11,445,000 as a Fair Value Write Down Adjustment on the Home Ownership Portfolio.

IBA's home lending budget each year is based on an estimate of funds that will be received from loan repayments and those loans repaid in full (loan discharges) and any additional capital injections.

Based on 2009-10 projections for loan repayments and loans that will be repaid in full, IBA estimates that it will be able to fund 360 new home loans.

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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 373

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the current percentage of Indigenous home ownership when compared to all Australians? Has this improved in the past 12 – 36 months?

Answer:

The Indigenous rate of home ownership in 2006 was 36 per cent. The non-Indigenous rate of home ownership has remained constant at around 70 per cent.

It is not possible to determine the level of improvement in the Indigenous home ownership levels over the last 12 - 36 month as there has been no reliable home ownership data collection since the 2006 Census.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 374

- **Topic:** Home Ownership

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In 2007-08, the IBA approved 50 home loans in Coffs Harbour, which was the second highest area of loan approval areas behind Darwin (73). Given that the Indigenous population of Coffs Harbour was just 1,791 in the last census, why is the IBA approving a high proportion of loans in Coffs Harbour?

Answer:

The Indigenous population of 1,791 refers to the Coffs Harbour Statistical Subdivision only. IBA offices service a wide catchment area.

The IBA Office at Coffs Harbour services an area stretching from Tweed Heads in the north to Woy Woy in the south. The Indigenous population for this region is 34,701.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

T12

Output Group: 1

1 June 2009 - Senator Boyce asked:

How many staff are there on FSP – specific resource numbers as at 30 June?

Answer:

As at 30 June 2009, a total of 72 Full Time Equivalent staff will be working on the Family Support Program (FSP) in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. It is expected that 25 additional staff will transfer from the Attorney-General's Department as a result of recent Machinery of Government changes.

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FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

T13

Output Group: 1

1 June 2009 - Senator Boyce asked:

FSP – what are the dates and locations of the workshops?

Answer:

Please see table below for the dates and locations of the workshops for the Family Support Program:

ACT	Canberra	9 June 2009
NSW	Sydney CBD	15 June 2009
	Sydney West	16 June 2009
	Regional - Coffs Harbour	26 June 2009
VIC	Melbourne CBD	10 June 2009
	Melbourne Sth East	11 June 2009
QLD	Brisbane	17 June 2009
	Townsville	18 June 2009
TAS	Hobart	24 June 2009
SA	Adelaide	12 June 2009
NT	Alice Springs	18 June 2009
	Darwin	19 June 2009
WA	Perth	16 June 2009

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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

T14

Output Group: 1

Senator Siewert asked: FRSP Online - How many reports were downloaded by providers?

Answer:

From 29 November 2008 until 1 June 2009, a total of 224 National Reports and 4316 Organisational Reports have been generated by providers through the FRSP Online Reporting Gateway.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 013

- **Topic:** FSP Staffing

Hansard Page: CA87

Senator Boyce asked:

What are the numbers when we get to July 2011, when the transition is complete?

Answer:

Numbers of staff in the two Family Support Program (FSP) Branches from 1 July 2009 are approximately 88 Full Time Equivalents.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 014

- **Topic:** Breakdown of Administered funding for Family Relationship Services.

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you please provide a breakdown of the administered funding for Family Relationship Services into three main streams?

Answer:

- The Family Support Program (FSP) comprises three service streams. The Family Relationship Services (FRS) falls within two of those streams.
- The breakdown of FRS Administered funding under the FSP for 2009-10 is:
 - \$78.79 million for Family and Parenting Services; and
 - \$154.419 million for Family Law Services

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 015

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Service Providers

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Boyce asked:

I have a recollection that the FRSP providers were also recommended at some stage to be the people who would provide advice to families that included a person with a disability and were intending to develop wills, trusts and the like. Did that ever occur?

Answer:

Yes, the Family Relationship Services for Carers delivers family counselling and mediation services to assist families requiring succession planning mediation. The program provides support and expert advice to parents to help them develop a plan for the future care of their son or daughter, providing peace of mind to parents and continuity of care for the person with disability.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 017

- **Topic:** Breakdown of administered funding for Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: CA94

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you please provide a list of service provider's locations and how much funding received for 2008-09 and if possible 2009-10?

Answer:

Attachment A is a list of the funded organisations locations and the funding received for 2008-09 and 2009-10 periods.

Organisation	Locations/ Catchment area's	State	Funding 08-09	Funding 09-10
Centacare Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn	Bega, Cootamundra, Red Hill, Moruya, Watson and West Wyalong	ACT	\$863,015.72	\$882,002.07
Centrelink	Western Queensland	ACT	\$200,000.00	\$204,400.00
Marymead Child and Family Centre	Canberra	ACT	\$907,302.13	\$932,372.78
Relationships Australia, Canberra Region	Canberra and Region	ACT	\$4,673,101.18	\$4,880,936.49
Anglican Counselling Service (Diocese of Armidale)	Tamworth, Inverell, Moree, Armidale	NSW	\$531,266.03	\$542,953.88
Anglicare Diocese of Sydney	Sutherland, Wollongong, Campbelltown, Penrith, Northern Beaches, Turramurra, Ashfield, Kensington, Parramatta, Bega, Nowra	NSW	\$3,678,184.81	\$4,142,977.17
Centacare Bathurst	Bathurst, Dubbo, Lithgow	NSW	\$847,656.87	\$866,305.32
Centacare Broken Bay	Gosford, Wyong, Brookvale, Waitara, North Ryde	NSW	\$1,196,593.60	\$1,222,918.66
Centacare Catholic Family Services Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes	Forbes, Narromine, Broken Hill	NSW	\$473,543.27	\$650,372.22
Centacare New England North West	Tamworth	NSW	\$2,003,908.61	\$1,897,147.40
Centacare Newcastle	Hamilton, Taree	NSW	\$458,336.20	\$468,419.60
Centacare Parramatta	Parramatta, Blacktown	NSW	\$444,675.90	\$454,458.77
Centacare Sydney	Bankstown, Fairfield, Sydney City, Sutherland	NSW	\$4,303,352.91	\$4,198,378.97
Centacare Wagga Wagga	Griffith, Leeton, Wagga Wagga	NSW	\$757,728.79	\$1,022,398.82
Centacare Wollongong	Wollongong, Campbelltown	NSW	\$1,609,492.68	\$1,036,651.29
Community Connections North Coast	Lismore	NSW	\$69,978.77	\$71,518.30
Community Programs	Grafton	NSW	\$147,933.63	\$151,188.17
Interrelate	Dubbo, Orange, Coffs Harbour, Burwood, Newcastle, Dural, Lismore, Sutherland, Port Macquarie, Gosford, Taree, Bathurst, Maitland	NSW	\$15,480,056.51	\$15,617,216.22
Lifecare: Counselling and Family Services (NSW)	Bankstown, Campbelltown, Wyong, Penrith	NSW	\$692,556.06	\$707,792.29
Macquarie Legal Centre	Merrylands	NSW	\$282,271.23	\$288,481.20
Manning Support Services	Taree	NSW	\$75,732.58	\$77,398.70
Newcastle Family Support Services	Newcastle	NSW	\$312,276.80	\$319,146.89

Relationships Australia, New South Wales	Broadmeadow, Wollongong, Turrumurra, Parramatta, Bondi, Gosford, Lane Cove, Campbelltown, Penrith, Maitland, Singleton, Blacktown, Bathurst, Brookvale, Sydney City, Wyong	NSW	\$16,992,593.38	\$16,970,331.64
The Family Centre Community Projects	Tweed Heads	NSW	\$174,865.42	\$178,712.46
UnitingCare	Nowra, Parramatta, Gosford, Sydney City, Newcastle, Campbelltown, Penrith, Dubbo, Cabramatta, Coffs Harbour, Wyong, Fairfield	NSW	\$9,423,089.72	\$9,833,101.57
Anglicare NT	Northern Territory	NT	\$988,082.67	\$1,009,820.49
Centacare NT	Northern Territory	NT	\$2,458,962.52	\$2,518,169.70
Relationships Australia, Northern Territory	Northern Territory	NT	\$2,252,584.26	\$2,625,921.50
Centacare Brisbane	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Caboolture, Cherside	QLD	\$5,393,258.14	\$5,391,902.49
Centacare Cairns	Cairns	QLD	\$371,002.62	\$379,164.68
Centacare Central Queensland, Rockhampton	Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald, Far West, Mackay	QLD	\$3,548,168.27	\$3,568,109.90
Centacare Toowoomba	Toowoomba, Roma, Charleville	QLD	\$2,567,672.55	\$2,486,344.65
Centacare Townsville	Townsville, Mt Isa	QLD	\$2,553,178.45	\$2,674,886.70
Community Services Australia Ltd	Ipswich	QLD	\$754,800.00	\$809,975.88
Foundations - Child And Family Support Ltd	Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Logan	QLD	\$1,345,840.20	\$1,375,448.68
Kinections	Brisbane, Ipswich	QLD	\$1,847,202.85	\$1,887,841.31
Kyabra Community Association	Brisbane	QLD	\$156,891.50	\$160,343.11
Lifeline Community Care Queensland	Brisbane, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay, Burnett	QLD	\$6,894,244.72	\$7,267,189.17
Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland	Toowoomba	QLD	\$349,936.29	\$362,744.89
Mackay Children's Contact Service	Mackay	QLD	\$229,389.23	\$234,435.79
Men's Information and Support Association	North Brisbane	QLD	\$190,954.94	\$195,155.95
Mercy Family Services Qld	Ipswich	QLD	\$114,298.64	\$116,813.21
Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Association	Caboolture, Strathpine	QLD	\$385,325.40	\$393,802.56
QPASTT	Brisbane	QLD	\$205,382.25	\$209,900.66
Relationships Australia, Queensland	Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Strathpine, Townsville, Upper Mount Gravatt	QLD	\$12,004,491.56	\$12,464,207.64
Sunshine Coast Family Contact Centre Association	Sunshine Coast	QLD	\$131,699.57	\$238,650.40
Toowoomba Childrens Contact Centre	Toowoomba	QLD	\$218,115.64	\$222,914.18
Youth and Family Service (Logan City)	Logan	QLD	\$868,005.32	\$887,101.44

Anglican Community Care	Mount Gambier	SA	\$1,230,888.57	\$1,207,174.72
Anglicare SA	Adelaide	SA	\$1,433,830.89	\$1,465,375.17
Centacare Adelaide	Adelaide, Noarlunga, Mount Gambier	SA	\$1,914,970.96	\$1,957,100.32
Centacare Port Pirie	Port Pirie, Port Augusta	SA	\$2,225,303.10	\$2,334,564.92
Lutheran Community Care	Adelaide	SA	\$290,814.59	\$297,212.51
Relationships Australia, South Australia	Adelaide, Berri	SA	\$7,698,138.33	\$7,880,745.48
UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide	Adelaide, Noarlunga	SA	\$1,994,261.65	\$2,095,573.85
UnitingCare Wesley Bowden	Pt Augusta, Pt Lincoln	SA	\$174,080.37	\$177,910.14
UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide	Port Adelaide	SA	\$63,447.41	\$64,843.25
UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie	Port Pirie, Port Augusta	SA	\$312,547.55	\$567,423.60
Whyalla Counselling Service	Whyalla	SA	\$50,208.55	\$51,313.14
Anglicare Tasmania	Hobart	TAS	\$364,141.96	\$372,153.08
Centacare Tasmania Family Services	Hobart, Burnie, Devonport, Launceston	TAS	\$1,489,414.39	\$1,770,181.51
Positive Solutions: Mediation, Counselling, Training	Hobart, Launceston	TAS	\$488,610.31	\$499,359.74
Relationships Australia, Tasmania	Hobart, Burnie, Devonport, Launceston	TAS	\$4,694,059.09	\$4,899,266.68
Anglicare Victoria	Melbourne, Gippsland	VIC	\$610,982.04	\$583,543.64
Australian Greek Welfare Society	Melbourne	VIC	\$99,228.33	\$101,411.35
Berry Street Victoria	Melbourne, Shepparton	VIC	\$1,292,406.35	\$1,220,683.29
Bethany Community Support	Geelong	VIC	\$929,689.31	\$955,252.47
Brotherhood of St Laurence	Fitzroy	VIC	\$196,887.04	\$201,218.55
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat	Ballarat, Warrnambool, Mallee, Mildura	VIC	\$2,122,421.53	\$2,173,945.80
Centacare Catholic Family Services Vic	Melbourne, Geelong, Morwell	VIC	\$3,733,838.69	\$4,069,648.09
Centacare Diocese of Sandhurst Victoria	Bendigo, Shepparton, Wodonga	VIC	\$2,993,360.88	\$3,064,285.42
Child and Family Services Ballarat	Ballarat, Warrnambool, Mallee, Mildura	VIC	\$418,284.33	\$675,486.59
Childrens Protection Society	Heidelberg	VIC	\$147,732.95	\$150,983.07
City of Greater Geelong	Geelong	VIC	\$29,711.36	\$30,365.01
Community Connections Victoria	Warrnambool	VIC	\$1,434,640.83	\$1,374,631.73
Community West	Melbourne	VIC	\$270,364.59	\$276,312.61
Drummond Street Relationship Centre	Melbourne	VIC	\$836,027.48	\$854,420.08
Eastern Access Community Health	Ringwood	VIC	\$2,344,985.80	\$2,430,198.67
Family Mediation Centre	Melbourne, Morwell, Traralgon	VIC	\$5,967,639.65	\$6,001,758.01
GordonCare for Children	Dandenong, Frankston	VIC	\$1,144,846.66	\$1,130,175.29
Goulburn Valley Family Care	Shepparton	VIC	\$151,757.64	\$114,216.31
LifeWorks Relationship Counselling & Education Services	Melbourne, Geelong	VIC	\$2,063,603.97	\$2,109,003.26

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre	Melbourne	VIC	\$169,252.19	\$172,975.74
Stepfamily Association of Victoria trading as Stepfamilies Australia	Melbourne	VIC	\$49,262.74	\$50,346.52
The Cairnmillar Institute	Melbourne	VIC	\$233,513.11	\$134,596.96
The Salvation Army	Bendigo, Shepparton, Wodonga	VIC	\$223,237.90	\$228,149.13
Upper Hume Community Health Service	Albury, Wodonga, Shepparton	VIC	\$545,838.16	\$516,966.60
Upper Murray Family Care	Albury, Wodonga	VIC	\$1,484,013.94	\$1,560,340.48
Agencies for South West Accommodation A.S.W.A.	Bunbury	WA	\$99,662.20	\$101,854.77
Anglicare WA	Perth, Albany, Broome, Pilbara, Kimberley	WA	\$7,387,854.11	\$7,568,723.59
Catholic Marriage Education Services	Perth	WA	\$86,616.89	\$88,522.46
Centacare Geraldton	Geraldton	WA	\$1,802,768.47	\$2,133,534.27
Centrecare WA	Perth, Kalgoorlie	WA	\$3,913,480.43	\$4,042,444.79
CLAN WA	Perth	WA	\$114,541.87	\$117,061.79
Men's Outreach Service	Broome	WA	\$190,107.41	\$194,289.77
Ngala Community Services	Perth	WA	\$126,260.35	\$129,038.08
Relationships Australia, Western Australia	Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Port Hedland	WA	\$9,172,847.75	\$8,972,595.60

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 018

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: CA95

Senator Boyce asked:

Are the Family Relationship Service Providers meeting the needs of the communities in terms of: are there large numbers of people who are unable to get into the service or is there under subscription of services?

Answer:

The Department sets client targets for each funded service based on consultation with the organisation and a needs analysis of local regions to ensure community needs are met. Client targets are entered in the Department's funding agreement with funded services.

Progress towards client targets is reported by each funded service through the Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP Online) which is regularly monitored by the Department. In 2007-08 and in 2008-09 an estimated 86% of funded services provided services to more than the minimum number of clients than contained in their agreements and 13% of funded services did not meet their target numbers. Family Relationship Centres do not have client targets and are not included in these figures.

The database does not contain information about waiting times or lists for clients. Funding services are expected to manage waiting lists by ensuring clients are prioritised, receive interim support or are referred to other services as appropriate. The department's contract managers meet regularly with funded services to discuss progress towards meeting targets and strategies to manage an excess or lack of demand for services at any particular time.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 021

- **Topic:** Parents in same-sex relationships

Hansard Page: CA99

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Would parents in a same-sex relationship be entitled to PPL under the new scheme?

Answer:

The Government intends the Paid Parental Leave Scheme will not discriminate against same sex couples. Details of the scheme are being finalised in the context of developing the legislation.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 023

- **Topic:** Household Stimulus Package

Hansard Page: CA103-104

Senator Fifield asked:

Which [Household Stimulus] payments would non-families constitute?

Answer:

The 3,215 'non-families' customers referred to are those who received a Training and Learning Bonus as part of the Household Stimulus Package while overseas. This figure may include recipients of payments such as ABSTUDY, Austudy, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit and Youth Allowance.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 024

- **Topic:** ESS Letters

Hansard Page: CA104

Senator Fifield asked:

For each payment categories: did recipients receive a letter under the signature of the Minister or from the department – also take to read Centrelink and if such communication was in addition to the usual communication which may have already been going out to advise these recipients of other things. Could you also provide the cost of those forms of communication?

Answer:

Please refer to Question on Notice number 67 from the Additional Estimates hearing in February 2009 for a copy of letters relating to the Economic Security Strategy. As at 7 January 2009, the total print/mail and postage costs of these letters were \$2,967,787.

Customers who received a bonus payment under the Household Stimulus Package received a letter containing the particulars of the bonus payment they were receiving. These letters were co-signed by the respective policy Minister and the Minister for Human Services. The total print/mail and postage cost of these letters at 31 May 2009 was \$ 1,109,903.

These letters were in addition to any standard customer communication.

The vast majority of the bonus payments have been made. However, letters will continue to be sent as eligibility for the payment is established.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 025

- **Topic:** Family Tax Benefit Part A – removing the link to pension indexation.

Hansard Page: CA105

Senator Fifield asked:

In Table 1.2 of the FaHCSIA Portfolio Budget Statement (Reform of family payments – Family Tax Benefit A (FTB-A) – removing the link to pension indexation) there appears to be a steep rise in the savings for 2012-13. What is the explanation for that stark increase? [Do you want to explain the cumulative increase in indexation?]

Answer:

The figures shown in each of the years represent the difference in expenditure as a result of increasing Family Tax Benefit Part A maximum rates for children aged 0-12 years and 13-15 years on the basis of movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) only, rather than retaining the link to pension indexation and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

The increase in the 2012-13 figure arises from a larger difference than in the previous years between the projected CPI figure used to index FTB Part A maximum rates and the projected MTAWE figure used to determine pension indexation.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 027

- **Topic:** Indexation

Hansard Page: CA110

Senator Siewert asked:

- How many of those families are on parenting payment single? Could you break-up the grouping of those that are on income support and those that are not?

Answer:

Of the estimated 1.1 million families who will be affected by the measure to increase maximum rates of FTB Part A (for children under the age of 16 years) by the Consumer Price Index only, around half (570,000) currently receive an income support payment. Of the families on income support payments, around 319,000 receive Parenting Payment Single.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 029

- **Topic:** Indexation Rates

Hansard Page: CA112

Senator Boyce asked:

- Would you be able to tell me how many years in the past 10 years the CPI has been higher than the MTAWA rate? Have you done any modelling into the future on that topic? (*Family Tax Benefit A – Removing the Link to Pension Indexation - 2009-10 Budget Measure*)

Answer:

In the ten years from July 1999 to July 2008 inclusive, for the Family Allowance/Family Tax Benefit Part A maximum rate for 0-12 year olds CPI was higher than MTAWA twice, and for the maximum rate for 13-15 year olds the CPI was higher than MTAWA rate four times.

The department has undertaken limited modelling to cost the measure.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 031

- **Topic:** Family Payments

Hansard Page: CA113

Senator Siewert asked:

- Is a potential increase in payments because of a decrease in child support payments because people are losing their jobs, being factored into any expenditure decisions?

Answer:

Possible increases in unemployment are taken into account through increases in the FTB eligible population, rather than through reduced child support payments.

The FTB Part A estimates model allowed for an increase in the unemployment rate between 2008-09 and 2009-10. This raised the FTB Part A population estimate by 40,000 children for 2008-09 and by a further 40,000 children for 2009-10.

The FTB Part A estimates model is driven by a combination of the estimated child population and the forecast average rate.

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Outcome Number: 1

....Question No: 033

- **Topic:** FRSA Working Group

Hansard Page: CA117

Senator Siewert asked:

What is happening with the working groups or the follow on? Any possible resourcing implications?

Answer:

From 30 June 2009 the Joint Sector Working Groups on Service Agreements and Funding, and Quality and Performance Measurement will cease.

It is anticipated that future issues related to quality and performance measurement will be referred as appropriate to a new Working Group which will be established in consultation with Family Relationship Services Australia (FRSA).

Any future issues regarding Agreements and Funding will be actioned as part of the Department's general operational processes.

The Joint Sector Working Group on Workforce Development will continue into the new financial year.

There are no resourcing implications in regard to these working groups.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 034

- **Topic: FRSP Online**

Hansard Page: CA119

Senators Siewert asked:

How many reports were downloaded by providers?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T14.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 039

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department provide a breakdown of the number of clients assisted through each family relationship service provider, and whether or not there is an oversubscription of any services, or an under-subscription of any services in any areas for the last financial year and also to date for this financial year?

Answer:

The Department sets client targets for each funded service based on consultation with the organisation and a needs analysis of local regions to ensure community needs are met. Client targets form part of the Department's funding agreement with service providers and are not publicly disclosed. For similar commercial-in-confidence reasons the number of clients assisted through each family relationship service provider cannot be provided.

Progress towards client targets is reported through the Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP Online) which is regularly monitored by the Department.

The table below provides details of the number of registered clients seen by State for all Family Relationship Services activities.

Number of Registered Clients by State		
State	2007-08	2008-09 #
ACT	5,703	6347
NSW	53,631	51758
NT	3,826	3643
QLD	40,859	44014
SA	14,253	16247
TAS	9,387	8719
VIC	46,077	47077
WA	16,021	20758
TOTAL	189,757	198563

Data as at 7 July 2009 and is subject to change as providers have 28 days to input data from date client seen.

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In 2007-08 and in 2008-09 an estimated 86% of funded services provided more than their minimum target numbers of clients specified in their Agreements and 13% of funded services did not meet their targets. Family Relationship Centres do not have client targets and are not included in these figures.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 042

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the status of funding agreements for each FRSP (i.e have funding agreements been contracted for the next financial year)?

Answer:

As at 3 July 2009, 130 of 196 funding variations and/or agreements have been signed and returned to the Department. Negotiations are still being undertaken for the remaining 66 variations and/or agreements, with the expectation of finalisation within the next two weeks.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 043

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How are payments made to the organisations? Do they meet milestones in order to receive their instalment of funding? What milestones do they need to meet? And have all providers met their milestones?

Answer:

Payments for Family Relationship Services are made in January and June of each year by electronic transfer.

In order for an organisation to receive a payment they must meet milestones specified in their funding agreement.

In 2008 milestones included:

1. signing of the Funding Agreement;
2. submission of Annual Service Plan;
3. receipt of Service Plan Establishment Report;
4. submission of an Independently Audited Annual Financial Acquittal Report;
5. submission of an annual Status Report;
6. client activity information to be entered into FRSP Online, FaHCSIA's data collection system, no later than 28 days after an activity has occurred; and
7. participate in and achieve a satisfactory Annual Service Assessment conducted by the Department.

All organisations have met their milestones to the satisfaction of the Department.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 045

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services Providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How does the Department measure whether a service is oversubscribed or underutilised?

Answer:

The Department sets client targets for each funded service based on consultation with the organisation and a needs analysis of local regions to ensure community needs are met. Client targets are entered in the Department's funding agreement with funded services.

Progress towards client targets is reported by each funded service through the Family Relationship Services Program (FRSP Online) which is regularly monitored by the Department.

The database does not contain information about waiting times or lists for clients. Funded services are expected to manage waiting lists by ensuring clients are prioritised, receive interim support or are referred to other services as appropriate. The department's contract managers meet regularly with funded services to discuss progress towards meeting targets and strategies to manage demand for services.

In 2007-08 and in 2008-09 an estimated 86% of funded services reported an increase in number of clients serviced which was over minimum client targets in their funding agreements and 13% of funded services did not meet target numbers. Family Relationship Centres do not have client targets and are not included in these figures.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 048

- **Topic:** Indigenous Children's Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Have all funding offers been made for the new financial year? Have all funding agreements been signed and when will the organisations receive the funding from the Department?

Answer:

All funding offers have been made for 2009-10.

Funding agreements are in the process of being signed.

Organisations will receive the funding on execution of the agreement by both parties. This is expected to occur during July 2009.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 051

- **Topic:** Playgroup Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Have all funding offers been made for the new financial year?
- b) Have all funding agreements been signed and when will the organisations receive the funding from the Department?

Answer:

- a) Most funding offers have been made except for the Intensive Support Playgroups, where negotiations are expected to be complete in July 2009, and they are expected to be sent to funding recipients in early July 2009.
- b) Funding agreements are in the process of being signed.
- c) Organisations will receive the funding on execution of the Agreement by both parties. This is expected to occur during July 2009.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 054

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Have all funding offers been made for the new financial year?
Have all funding agreements been signed and when will the organisations receive the funding from the Department?

Answer:

a) Yes.

b) Funding Agreements are in the process of being signed. Organisations will receive the funding on execution of the Agreement by both parties. This is expected to occur during July 2009.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 055

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Are all providers continuing to be funded? Have any providers ceased to exist and are there any new providers?

Answer:

- a) All service providers are continuing to be funded.
- b) No providers have ceased to exist.
- c) There are no new providers for Indigenous Parenting Support Services.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 056

- **Topic:** Use of external consultants, policy work and preparation of PPL Booklet

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Did the Government pay any external consultants to work on their response to the Productivity Commission Report? If yes, who were they and how much were they paid? If no, which Department did the policy work and prepared the 29-page booklet “Australia’s Paid Parental Leave Scheme” which was released on Budget night?

Answer:

No external consultants were used to develop the Government’s policy position on Paid Parental Leave. FaHCSIA led the policy work and the preparation of the booklet on PPL, with input from other Commonwealth agencies.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 057

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – Communication and Evaluation Expenses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

There is \$2.35 million budgeted for “communication and evaluation” expenses for the 2009-10 financial year, please provide details of exactly how this will be spent, given the scheme will not come into effect until half-way through the 2010-11 financial year?

Answer:

There is \$200,000 allocated for evaluation activity. Any Baseline data needed for the evaluation should be collected prior to the PPL scheme’s commencement.

There is \$2.15 million allocated for development in 2009-10 of a communications strategy which will commence half-way through 2010. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that parents, employers and the community are informed about how the scheme will operate.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 058

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave – FaHCSIA Resourcing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

According to the FaHCSIA Budget Statements, it will be FaHCSIA administering the program. Has a special group or taskforce been assembled within FaHCSIA to manage the introduction of Paid Parental Leave? If so, how many people are currently employed in that capacity in the 2009-10 financial year and what number is that expected to grow to over the five year period to 2013-14? Can the Department provide expected staff numbers for each financial year of that period?

Answer:

FaHCSIA has established a new branch to develop and implement the scheme from 1 July 2009.

FaHCSIA was allocated resources for an Average Staffing Level (ASL) of 18 in the 2009–10 year, 18.33 in the 2010–11 year and 5 for the 2011-12 and subsequent years.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 059

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave – Paymaster Administration

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What role will FaHCSIA play in the implementation of the scheme, given that business will be paymasters? Is it expected that Centrelink or another body would administer the scheme? Who would business have to deal with in order to ensure they received the advanced payments so they could pay their employees?

Answer:

FaHCSIA is leading the development and implementation of the scheme in close consultation with DEEWR and with input from other agencies.

The scheme will be administered by the Family Assistance Office (Centrelink and Medicare Australia). The paymaster function will be administered and coordinated by Centrelink.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 060

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave – Benchmarking and Modelling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Which Department, if any, will be responsible for benchmarking the current levels of Paid Parental Leave and the potential for employers to roll-back their support as the Government steps in with the taxpayer funded scheme?

On what modelling was the costing of the scheme based? Was it the Productivity Commission or another body? If it was another body, which one? And how much did this modelling cost the Commonwealth?

Answer:

The Government will be evaluating the Paid Parental Leave scheme and this will include monitoring the level of employer provided paid parental leave.

The costing of the scheme used Centrelink administrative data, ABS data and some of the assumptions used by the Productivity Commission in its final report.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Output Group: 1

Question No: 061

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave – Modelling: FTB interaction

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What modelling was completed to examine the impact of Paid Parental Leave on, and its interaction with, the Family Tax Benefit transfer system, effective marginal tax rates etc.? Can the Department release this modelling?

Answer:

The modelling of the scheme was undertaken by the Productivity Commission and the results of this analysis are in Appendix L of its final report which has already been released.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 063

- **Topic:** Factors determining net gain/loss from PPL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government has said that 14% of working families will be worse off under this scheme and will have the option to remain under the current system. Please outline the factors that determine whether a family will be worse off?

Answer:

The net gain from PPL will generally be lower for families in which the receiving parent pays a higher marginal rate of tax on the payment, where family income falls within the withdrawal range for FTB Part A maximum rate or base rate and where the family would have otherwise been eligible for the Baby Bonus and FTB Part B during the PPL period.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 066

- **Topic:** Indexation of income threshold

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Will the \$150,000 threshold be indexed and at what to?

Answer:

The \$150,000 income test will be kept in line with the income limits on Family Tax Benefit Part B and Baby Bonus. The first indexation of the Paid Parental Leave income limit will occur on 1 July 2012. Indexation will be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 067

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Unlike other family payments, the \$150,000 threshold applies only to the primary carers income and not the family income. Can the Department explain the reasoning behind allowing a women who earns \$140,000 each year with a multi-millionaire partner to claim the allowance, but not allowing a couple whose primary care provider is the sole earner and earns \$150,000 each year to access the scheme?

Answer:

One of the objectives of the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme is to encourage women, particularly low income women, to participate in the workforce. The Government believes that it is appropriate to have this incentive for all eligible women irrespective of their partner's income.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 069

- **Topic:** Modelling increase in leave taken due to PPL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

On what modelling was the assumption made that the scheme would result in the increase of average leave taken by women after childbirth by around 10 weeks? Please provide details of this advice?

Answer:

The Productivity Commission estimated that new mothers are likely to extend their leave from work by an average of ten weeks following the introduction of the proposed statutory paid parental leave scheme.

Details of this analysis can be found in Appendix G of the Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, *Paid Parental Leave: Support for Parents with Newborn Children*, February 2009.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 070

- **Topic:** Early infant care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government states that 6 months is the right amount of time for a women to care for her baby after childbirth. For what reasons does the Department consider that this is the right amount of time?

Answer:

There is compelling evidence of child and maternal health and welfare benefits from a period of absence from work for the primary caregiver of around six months and a reasonable prospect that longer periods (nine to twelve months) are beneficial.

Details of the evidence supporting this proposition can be found in Appendices D and H of the Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, *Paid Parental Leave: Support for Parents with Newborn Children*, February 2009.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 071

- **Topic:** Provisions for self employed parents applying for PPL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What provisions will be made for self-employed parents in administering the payments?
How will the income test operate in relation to self-employed parents? What deductions/tax offsets will be taken into account to work out their income?

Answer:

Eligible self-employed parents will be paid their PPL directly from Centrelink.

The income test will be based on the Adjusted Taxable Income of the claimant.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 074

- **Topic:** PPL working groups

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department provide details of any current working groups looking at the administration of the PPL? What plans are there for the coordination between Centrelink, the ATO, FaHCSIA and DEEWR, etc?

Answer:

An Inter-Departmental Committee has been established to provide strategic direction and coordination to the further development and implementation of the Australian Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme. The membership of the IDC currently includes:

- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Chair)
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Deputy Chair)
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Human Services (including Centrelink and Medicare Australia)
- Treasury (including the Australian Taxation Office)
- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Australian Public Service Commission

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 019

- **Topic:** Underperformance of Service Providers

Hansard Page: CA96-97

Senator Boyce asked:

Is there any way of quantifying the number of service providers who have not come to expectations? Have any lost their contracts in the past two years?

Answer:

No organisation has had their contract terminated due to underperformance in the past two years.

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Outcome: 1

Question No: 028

- **Topic:** Family Payments

Hansard Page: CA110-111

Senator Fifield asked:

Why were families living overseas paid the economic stimulus payments?

Answer:

Eligibility for the Economic Security Strategy payment was linked to eligibility for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A. Entitlement to the Back to School Bonus was also linked to FTB Part A. Payment of the Single Income Family Bonus was linked to receipt of FTB Part B.

FTB may continue to be paid in some circumstances where the child and/or the recipient are temporarily absent from Australia.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 044

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What information is collected from the service providers and how is it collected? How often is this information collected and who receives it? What legal implications are there if the service providers do not provide this information?

Answer:

The following information provided by the service providers is continuous and is collected by the FRSP Online forms used during the interaction with clients. Service providers are required to input this data into the FRSP Online database within 28 days of collecting it:

- Client Details
- Client Activity Case
- Client Activity Course
- Client Activity – Community Development
- Session Details
- Referral Details
- Referral Take-up Details
- Client Activity Outcome and Parenting Agreement
- Client Feedback
- Support Activity Details
- Support Activity Session Details

The Department also requires service providers to supply the following information as outlined within their funding agreement:

- Annual Financial Acquittal Report.
- Annual Service Report.

This reporting information is a requirement of the Family Relationship Services funding agreement and failure to submit information requested may result in a breach of the agreement. A breach of an agreement may result in remedial actions being undertaken to ensure program compliance or may ultimately lead to termination of the agreement.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 049

- **Topic:** Indigenous Children's Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Are all providers continuing to be funded? Have any providers ceased to exist and are there any new providers?

Answer:

One service provider will not continue to be funded and the organisation was advised by the Department on 19 May 2009. There are no new providers for the Indigenous Children's Program.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 052

- **Topic:** Playgroup Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Are all providers continuing to be funded?
- b) Have any providers ceased to exist and are there any new providers?

Answer:

Two Intensive Support Playgroup providers will not continue to be funded.

Funding for 2009-11 has been allocated for these services and the Department will be conducting a process to select new providers shortly.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 064

- **Topic:** Indexation of income threshold

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the expected date of confinement a factor in whether someone would opt out of PPL? Is it not the case that women who take the Paid Parental Leave in the first 18 weeks of the financial year are likely to lose more in tax and in family payments than someone who takes it at the beginning of a calendar year, especially if they intend to take the full 12 months maternity leave as most women do?

Answer:

The expected date of confinement is a factor that may influence whether someone may opt out of PPL.

It is not the case that women who take PPL in the first 18 weeks of the financial year are likely to lose more in tax and in family payments than someone who takes PPL at the beginning of a calendar year. How much a family will lose in tax and family payments due to receipt of PPL depends not only on the timing of the birth but also the timing of any return to work, the family income, the proportion of income earned by each parent, the number and ages of the children and whether or not the family are private renters.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 065

- **Topic:** Impact of timing of birth on maternity services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What consideration has been given to the impact on maternity services if women time their pregnancies for the beginning of the financial year to maximise their benefit? Has any research been conducted about how our hospital system would cope?

Answer:

The Productivity Commission analysed the tax implications of births spaced at three month intervals across the financial year and did not find systematic evidence of financial benefits for families having children at the start of the financial year. Therefore it is not expected that women will time their pregnancies to maximise the benefit they obtain from Paid Parental Leave (PPL) and thus no consideration has been given to the impact on maternity services.

No research was conducted on the potential impact of the PPL scheme on the hospital system.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 072

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – Communication and Evaluation Expenses

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Budget provides \$2.35 million for Communications and Evaluation. Can the Department provide some information on what format this will take, what actual communication will be done and what evaluation will be undertaken prior to the program starting?

Answer:

There is \$200,000 allocated for evaluation activity. Any Baseline data needed for the evaluation should be collected prior to the PPL Scheme's commencement.

There is \$2.15 million allocated for development of a communications campaign which will commence half-way through 2010. The purpose of the campaign is to ensure that parents and employers are informed about how the scheme will operate.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 073

- **Topic:** 2010-2011 Evaluation and communication budget

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In the following year, when the actual program starts, there is a budget allocation for \$7.4 million for communication and evaluation. Can the Department provide some information on what format this will take, and what actual communication will be done? What communication will be done in this year compared to the previous year? How much of this budget will be spent on advertising?

Answer:

In the 2010-2011 year, the \$7.424 million has been allocated as follows:

- \$661,000 Baseline data collection for parents/children and employers
- \$6,763,000 Communication costs

The actual level of expenditure that will occur for each of these items is not known at this stage.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 035

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: CA114

Senator Siewert asked:

Is there a recent trend that is coming out of that data provision of the types of services that people are accessing or want?

Answer:

Based on the data available the top two presenting needs are *Post Separation Parenting* and *Dealing with Relationship Difficulties*.

Clients presenting with *Post Separation Parenting* difficulties comprised 31% and those presenting with *Dealing with Relationship Difficulties* comprised 24% of the total number of FRSP clients seen in the 2008-09 financial year as at 13 July 2009. These two presenting needs were also the major ones in the 2007-08 financial year.

Data from services also shows increasing presenting needs from 2007-08 to 2008-09 related to: *Conflict issues* (17.1%), *Communication Difficulties* (16.1%), *Relationship Breakdown* (14.4%) and *Parenting Difficulties* (13.7%).

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 040

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Service Providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department provide details of any services that have closed down or ceased to operate and the reasons for each case?

Answer:

One Family Relationship Service funded to cover the Broken Hill NSW area voluntarily terminated its funding agreement with the Department and a replacement provider was found.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 075

- **Topic:** Staff to Administer PPL

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many extra staff will be required to administer the PPL? Can the Department break these numbers down by position?

Answer:

Resources for staffing for the implementation and administration of Paid Parental Leave were allocated to the following agencies:

- Department of Families, Housing, Community services and Indigenous Affairs;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Centrelink;
- Medicare; and
- Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

In total, these resources provide for an average staffing level over the years of the forward estimates as follows:

Financial Year	ASL
2008-09	3.7
2009-10	64.1
2010-11	205.7
2011-12	164.3
2012-13	154.9

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 041

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Service (FRS) Providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How are the funding contracts for Family Relationship Services maintained? Are they renewed yearly and do they have funding certainty (i.e. funding guaranteed for three years)?

Answer:

All FRS services funded prior to the introduction of the New Family Law Reforms received funding under three-year funding agreements.

Services approved for funding under the New Family Law Reforms were to receive funding as follows:

- 2006-09 – three years;
- 2007-09 – two years (in 2007 an extension of one year was announced to make agreement periods three years); and
- 2008-11 – three years.

In April 2009 the Minister agreed to align FRS funding to 30 June 2011. As a result FRS providers will have funding agreements that run for four years (2007-11), three years (2008-11); or two years (2009-11); to align the end dates to 30 June 2011.

The funding terms of providers' agreements will be considered over the next two years as part of the ongoing design of the Family Support Program.

Some FRS streams have recently been renewed for one year:

- Family Relationships for Carers, which had its funding extended for one year to 30 June 2010.
- Family Support Drought Service Response Teams, which had its funding extended to 30 June 2010.
- Funding for the National Illicit Drug Strategy – Strengthening Families, has been approved for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010. From 1 May 2010 a refocused Program will commence to better align the Strengthening Families Program with the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 020

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services

Hansard Page: CA97

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide the general answers from the customer feedback questions?

Answer:

In 2007-08, around 50,000 clients completed a service provider feedback form. Not all clients answer each question on the feedback form. The majority of clients that completed the form assessed themselves as receiving some benefits from the services across a range of indicators as set out below in the table.

Question	Positive Response
1. You were treated with respect	93.0%
2. You received an explanation of the nature and limits of confidentiality surrounding the service	78.1%
3. You received competent and professional service	80.1%
4. You were clear about the expectations you and your Practitioner/s were working towards	75.4%
5. Your expectations were met	78.9%
6. You are able to apply new skills and knowledge to your relationship/s or situations	77.1%
7. You would use this service or another FRSP service in the future	75.7%
8. You were shown respect for your cultural background and language tradition	53.2%
9. Overall, how would you rate any benefit you received	96.1%

This indicates good outcomes and customer satisfaction for clients from the various family relationship services.

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Output Group: 1

Question No: 022

- **Topic:** \$150,000 threshold

Hansard Page: CA100-101

Senator Humphries and Senator Moore asked:

Could you put in context where else [in addition to PPL] the \$150,000 figure is used as the income threshold within the families area.

Answer:

- The \$150,000 Paid Parental Leave income test will be based on the mother's income in the financial year prior to the date of the birth or claim whichever is earlier.
- Family Tax Benefit Part B has a current year primary earner or sole parent income limit of \$150,000, as well as a secondary earner income test.
- The Baby Bonus has a current year income limit of \$75,000 based on the estimated combined income of both parents in the 6 months following a birth (equivalent to \$150,000 per annum).

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 030

- **Topic:** Child Support Payments

Hansard Page: CA113

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide some examples of how family tax benefit eligibility could be affected if the level of child support that a payee parent was receiving were to decrease?

Answer:

The amount of family tax benefit received may increase if the amount of child support were to decrease. Although, the level of change of FTB is also impacted by other elements eg. income of both payer/payee, age of children etc.

Family Tax Benefit – Part A

Family Tax Benefit in general is assessed on a financial year basis, and maintenance income is taken into account for the ‘above base rate’ amount of FTB Part A (further information on the Maintenance Income Test is below). If an individual’s child support entitlement changes during the year, their maintenance income estimate would be adjusted and FTB entitlement changed accordingly. Generally, a decrease in the amount of child support received will lead to an increase in FTB.

Where an individual is on a low income and in receipt of a low child support amount, below the Maintenance Income Free Area, any decrease in child support would not increase their FTB Part A rate, as they are already eligible for the maximum rate.

Where an individual on a low income has already received child support in that financial year which places them over the Maintenance Income Free Area, the individual would not be entitled to the maximum rate of FTB Part A, but would receive the maintenance income-tested rate. Providing the FTB Part A rate is above the base rate, a reduction in maintenance will generally result in some increase in FTB Part A.

Where an individual is on a moderate income, and therefore is only entitled to the base rate of FTB Part A under general income testing arrangements, any change in child support would not affect their FTB entitlement.

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Family Tax Benefit – Part A

If a payee's income is more than \$44,165 for the 2009-10 financial year, their payment will reduce by 20 cents for each dollar above \$44,165, until it reaches the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A. If a payee's income reaches \$94,316 a year (plus \$3,796 for each Family Tax Benefit child after the first), Family Tax Benefit Part A will reduce by 30 cents for every dollar over that amount until their payment reaches nil.

If a payee is eligible for more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A, a maintenance (Child Support) income test will also apply. For child support to reduce the rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A it must be above the maintenance income free area (Table below). For each dollar of income above the maintenance income free area Family Tax Benefit Part A is reduced by 50 cents in the dollar, until the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A is reached.

Maintenance Income Free Area per Year

Status	Child support received (per year)
Single parent or member of a couple receiving maintenance	\$1,335.90
Couple, both receiving maintenance	\$2,671.80
For each additional child add	\$445.30

Note: Valid as at 1 July 2009

Family Tax Benefit – Part B

Single parent families with income at or below the adjusted taxable income limit of \$150,000 (20 March 2009) receive maximum rate FTB Part B. In couple families the primary income earner must have an income at or below the adjusted taxable income limit of \$150,000 and the secondary income earner is subject to an income test of 20 cents for each dollar over \$4,672 (1 July 2009). FTB Part B is not affected by the level of child support.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 038

- **Topic:** Invest to Grow - Indexation Rates

Hansard Page: CA121

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the indexation that is being used there?

Answer:

Invest to Grow is indexed by Wage Cost Index 3, currently valued at 2.5%.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 050

- **Topic:** Playgroup Program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce

- a) With regards to the Playgroups programme, can the Department disclose the current status of funding agreements and contracts?
- b) Is funding for the programmes indexed and to what is it indexed to?

Answer:

a) See QoN 51.

b) Indexation for 2009-10 for the Playgroup Program is in accordance with the Wage Cost Indexation Number 3, currently valued at 2.5%.

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Output Group: 1

Question No: 032

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: CA116

Senator Boyce asked:

How much would federal public servants receive under this scheme [PPL] on top of the scheme they already have? (Based on the figures for the numbers of people who took paid parental leave in the past 12 months from the federal public service)

Answer:

The department does not have information on the number of people who took paid leave in the past 12 months across the Australian Public Service (APS).

It is not possible to ascertain the impact of Paid Parental Leave (PPL) on public servants as a group since the net gain from PPL for each family will depend on a number of factors such as total family income, the proportion of income earned by each member of a couple, the number and ages of their child/ren, the timing of the birth of the baby and any return to work.

It is estimated that parents receiving PPL will get an average net benefit of around \$2,000 (after tax and other offsets such as the Baby Bonus and Family Tax Benefit).

At 30 June 2007, total ongoing female employees made up 57% of the APS ongoing workforce. About 6% of ongoing female employees used maternity leave in 2006-07.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 016

- **Topic:** Family Relationship Services Funding

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Boyce/Adams asked:

The PBS states \$94 million for Family Relationships Services (FRS) budget expenses to \$99.288m to \$94.487m. Why?

Do you anticipate a lessening of need for these programs?

Answer:

This particular variation is due to the current funding of the Family Support and Drought Response Teams initiative concluding on 30 June 2010. FaHCSIA continues to work with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to improve service responses and other rural challenges as part of the drought policy reform agenda.

Family Support and Drought Response Services have been funded on an annual basis since 2003/04. Ongoing need is assessed as part of the funding process.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 046

- **Topic:** Child Care Links - Indexation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is funding for Child Care links programme indexed and what is it indexed to?

Answer:

Child Care Links is indexed by Wage Cost Index 3, currently valued at 2.5%.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 047

- **Topic:** Indigenous Children's Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

With regards to the Indigenous Children Services programme, can the Department disclose the current status of funding agreements and contracts? Is funding for the programmes indexed and to what is it indexed to?

Answer:

Funding agreements for 2009-11 are in place for all service providers delivering the Indigenous Children Program, with the exception of Centrecare Inc (Djooraminda) in WA as negotiations on the funding agreement are still continuing.

Indigenous Children Program is indexed by Wage Cost Index 3, currently valued at 2.5%.

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 068

- **Topic:** Family Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In the 2008-09 financial year around 281,000 families received the baby bonus, is this correct? Does the Department expect that number would rise in the coming years or fall? Can the Department provide details for the estimated number of recipients for each year of the 5 years to 2013-14?

Answer:

The latest estimate of the number of families granted the Baby Bonus in the 2008-09 financial year is 278,000 in respect of around 283,000 children.

The number of grants of Baby Bonus in future years is expected to decline due to the introduction of Paid Parental Leave (PPL).

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Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 026

- **Topic:** Recipients of FTB A and FTB B

Hansard Page: CA105

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you advise how many families are expected to receive FTB A and how many will receive FTB B for each of the relevant financial years? For the budget year and the out years as well.

Answer:

Budget estimates of Family Tax Benefit expenditure are based on the number of eligible children not families.

In 2009/10 it is estimated that there will be 2,967,000 FTB A, 1,225,000 FTB B children.

Since FTB B is paid in respect of the youngest child in a family the number of children is equivalent to the number of families attracting FTB B. With FTB A the number of families can be calculated using a factor of 1.96 children per family. This factor comes from a snapshot of the FTB A population as at September 2009.

Exact projections are uncertain due to many customers claiming their payment as a lump sum or who choose to defer payment until after the end of the entitlement year. Families can claim FTB for up to two years after the entitlement year.

Forward estimates allow for future expenditure on reconciliation outcomes, such as top-ups and overpayments as well as lump sum payments for previous entitlement years.

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Output Group: 1

Question No: 062

- **Topic:** Paid Parental Leave – Cost of the Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The booklet “Australia’s Paid Parental Leave Scheme” claims that families would be on average \$2,000 better off under the scheme than under the current arrangements.

The Government estimates 148,000 parents would be eligible for the scheme each year, and around 14 per cent will not take up the scheme, bring the figure to around 127,000 recipients a year.

Does this not mean that the cost to the Government will be an additional \$254 million each year than the estimates?

Answer:

The Government estimates that 148,000 new parents will be eligible for PPL each year. Parents will be able to choose whether or not they receive PPL. Due to a range of factors it is estimated that around 14 per cent of these eligible parents will choose not to take up the scheme.

The net administered cost of the scheme when it is fully implemented will be approximately \$260 million per year.

The five year cost of \$731 million for the scheme includes a small amount of expenditure in the 2008-09 financial year and only two and a half years in which the scheme will operate (from 1 January 2011).

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T1 L06-09
TABLED BY SENATOR ADAMS

West Australian

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009

19

AUSTRALIAN

06

State houses cost more as list blows out

KIM MACDONALD

Taxpayers will fork out millions of dollars for new State-owned houses boasting home theatres, walk-in wardrobes, alfresco dining areas and ensuite bathrooms as the waiting list blows out to a record 20,000 applicants.

The extravagant features are part of the designs successfully submitted by Ventura Homes, which was one of seven builders to win a Government tender to build public housing.

BGC failed to win the contract, despite being told by the State Government that their designs for their three-bedroom, one-bathroom homes were the cheapest.

The exact cost of building the state-owned dwellings is unknown but it is understood that BGC could build four or five of its designs for the cost of three of the Ventura designs.

BGC Residential, which has long been one of the State's biggest public housing builders, wrote to the State Government this week querying why the more expensive designs had been chosen.

Group building manager Martyn Goddard said it appeared irresponsible for the State Government to spend money on the extravagant features instead of building more homes.

"We were told outright by the

Government that we had the cheapest bid, but they thought the other designs were better value for money but larger homes have always been better value for money on a square-metre basis when compared to a smaller home," he said.

The Ventura Homes design for its four-bedroom house has 180sqm of living space, including a paved and roofed alfresco dining area, home theatre, a separate family room, two bathrooms including an ensuite attached to the main bedroom, a walk-in wardrobe and a double carport.

The three-bedroom design is bigger, at 206sqm, and it includes the same features except it has an activity room and a computer room instead of a fourth bedroom. It is understood two other designs by Ventura were successful.

BGC submitted a design for a three-bedroom, one-bathroom home with a single or double carport with 113 to 130sqm of space.

Housing and Works Minister Troy Buswell said yesterday the builders chosen for the first 90 homes in the public housing project would deliver better value for money. He could not confirm or deny that BGC was cheaper.

"My advice clearly indicates (the successful bidders represent) better value for money than was previously achieved and that was the goal," he said.

BIG VIEWS

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Outcome 2.2

Senator Payne asked: What are the performance indicators to determine the success of the Housing Affordability Fund?

Response:

The PBS provides three Performance Indicators for measuring the success of the Housing Affordability Fund.

1. Proportion of dwelling lots sold that deliver the savings required under project funding agreements;
2. Proportion of projects in which goals are fully met; and
3. Proportion of sites/dwelling for which practical completion certificates have been accepted.

In addition to the measurements contained in the PBS, each funding agreement offered to successful applicants has a range of performance measures specific to the individual project.

Performance information will become available during 2009-10.

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Outcome 2.1

Senator Payne asked: Please explain the variation in NRAS Administered Expenses in the 2008-09 and 2009-10?

Response:

The figure of \$25.2 million quoted in the FaHCSIA 2008-09 Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) was made up of \$23.616 million (Administered Expense) and \$1.587 million (Departmental Expense).

In the 2009-10 FaHCSIA PBS the Departmental expense figure is included in Program Support (\$8.495 m) for 2009-10.

The 2009-10 PBS (Table 2.1.2.1) only refers to the NRAS Administered Expense for 2009-10 of \$23.505 million.

The variation in NRAS Administered Expense between the 2008-09 PBS estimate for 2009-10 (\$23.616m) and the estimate provided in the 2009-10 PBS (\$23.505 m) is due to the allocation of a lower Indexation parameter to NRAS between the financial years. The Notes to Table 2.1.2.1 state that indexation for the NRAS Administered funds will be applied through Additional Estimates when Indexation parameters have been received from the Treasury.

The indexation parameter for NRAS is based on the Rent component of the CPI.

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T10

Outcome 2.1

Senator Payne asked: In relation to the processing of NRAS applications, how many extra staff were employed and what level were the staff?

Response:

Permanent staff on temporary transfer to the assessment centre:

1x EL2 (Assessment Centre Manager)

1x EL1

1 x APS 6

1 x APS4

Additional non-ongoing/contract staff engaged specifically for the assessment process:

1 x EL1 (Team leader)

12 x APS 6 (12 assessors)

1x APS 4 (admin support)

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T11

Outcome 2.1

Senator Ludlum asked: for rounds 1 and 2 of NRAS what information was sought from applicants on performance against benchmarks?

Response:

For Rounds 1 and 2 of NRAS, all applicants have been required to provide information on:

26 (f) How the proposal maximises affordable housing outcomes for tenants, including building and design features that reduce the overall cost for tenants (this could include, for example, use of water tanks, grey water tanks, solar options, etc.)

27(a) Proximity of dwellings to services and amenities, for example to transport, schools shops, health services and employment opportunities relevant to the needs of the proposed tenants.

27c) Universal design principles or other measures that make properties more accessible to people who are ageing or live with disabilities (this could include handrails, ramps, special taps etc.)

For Rounds 1 and 2, the Department scored these criteria, on the extent to which the proposals demonstrated how the Project(s) contributed to these requirements of sustainability, accessibility outcomes and universal design principles. Scores ranged from 0-5 with 0 being no information provided through to 5 being excellent information with significant evidence to support the claims made by the applicant. This information was collated along with scores against all other criteria to reach an overall score for each application.

For the Third Round of NRAS, FaHCSIA is proposing that, in addition to criteria addressing accessibility, applicants will be required to provide information on:

- i) the energy rating of the dwelling;
- ii) the extent to which the dwelling incorporates efficient lighting, environmentally friendly hot water systems, ventilation and water tanks; and
- iii) compliance of the dwellings with the soundproofing requirements of the state, territory or local government area in which the dwelling will be located.

To assist NRAS applicants assess the proposed dwellings and provide this information, FaHCSIA has negotiated a licence with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) to develop a *Sustainable and Accessible Housing Checklist* which will enable applicants to provide comprehensive responses.

It is proposed that the Checklist will form part of the NRAS Round 3 Application and Assessment processes.

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In relation to Round 1 and Round 2, as part of the Special Conditions attached to the offer of Incentives, successful participants will be required to complete the Checklist (as soon as it is available). The information from this process will give FaHCSIA a more complete understanding of the environmental sustainability of all NRAS dwellings.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 100

- **Topic:** Housing in WA

Hansard Page: CA32

Senator Adams asked:

I refer to an article in the *West Australian* on Saturday 23 May 2009. Their criticism was of new state owned houses boasting home theatres, walk-in wardrobes, al fresco dining areas and en suite bathrooms... Would you go just go through and make sure that in those four-bedroom, two-bathroom homes, we do not have a home theatre and all the issues that I discussed?

Answer:

As at 1 June 2009 none of the dwellings approved under Stage 1 construction incorporated home theatres.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 101

- **Topic:** Funding provided to State and Territory Government

Hansard Page: CA33

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide us with the progressive payment amounts and the totals as at 7 June?

Answer:

The total amount paid as at 9 June 2009 for stage 1 construction and repairs and maintenance was \$260,000,000. For the progressive payments refer to the table below.

State	March 09	April 09	May 09	June 09	Total	Year to date
NSW – Repairs and maintenance	\$16,300,000	\$16,300,000	\$16,300,000	\$16,301,000	\$65,201,000	\$84,761,000
NSW – Stage 1 Construction		\$6,520,000	\$6,520,000	\$6,520,000	\$19,560,000	
VIC – Repairs and maintenance	\$12,400,000	\$12,400,000	\$12,400,000	\$12,376,000	\$49,576,000	\$64,449,000
VIC – Stage 1 Construction		\$4,958,000	\$4,958,000	\$4,957,000	\$14,873,000	
QLD – Repairs and maintenance	\$10,012,000	\$10,012,000	\$10,012,000	\$10,012,000	\$40,048,000	\$52,062,000
QLD – Stage 1 Construction		\$4,005,000	\$4,005,000	\$4,005,000	\$12,014,000	
WA – Repairs and maintenance	\$5,061,000	\$5,061,000	\$5,061,000	\$5,061,000	\$20,244,000	\$26,317,000
WA – Stage 1 Construction		\$2,025,000	2,024,000	2,024,000	\$6,073,000	
SA – Repairs and maintenance	\$3,800,000	\$3,800,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,690,000	\$14,990,000	\$19,487,000
SA – Stage 1 Construction		\$1,499,000	\$0	\$2,998,000	\$4,497,000	
TAS – Repairs and maintenance	\$1,170,000	\$1,170,000	\$1,161,000	\$1,161,000	\$4,662,000	\$6,061,000
TAS – Stage 1 Construction		\$467,000	\$466,000	\$466,000	\$1,399,000	
ACT – Repairs and maintenance	\$806,000	\$805,000	\$805,000	\$805,000	\$3,221,000	\$4,188,000
ACT – Stage 1 Construction		\$323,000	\$322,000	\$322,000	\$967,000	
NT – Repairs and maintenance	\$515,000	\$515,000	\$515,000	\$513,000	\$2,058,000	\$2,675,000
NT – Stage 1 Construction		\$217,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$617,000	

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Total	\$50,064,000	\$70,077,000	\$68,249,000	\$71,610,000	\$260,000,000	\$260,000,000
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 102

- **Topic:** NT division of housing between Indigenous and Mainstream

Hansard Page: CA34

Senator Payne asked:

Of the 12 in the Northern Territory, can you come back to us on notice with a division between whether it was Indigenous housing or otherwise?

Answer:

All the repairs and maintenance carried out on the twelve properties in the Northern Territory, as at 30 April 2009, were to general public housing dwellings.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 103

- **Topic:** Repairs and Maintenance Expenditure

Hansard Page: CA35

Senator Payne asked:

Are you able to give the committee a dollar breakdown for each of the states where repairs and maintenance had been done?

Answer:

The table below shows a breakdown of the expenditure on repairs and maintenance projects undertaken by jurisdictions as at the end of April 2009.

State	Total expenditure on repairs and maintenance
NSW – Repairs and maintenance	\$13,646,798
VIC – Repairs and maintenance	\$24,755,389
QLD – Repairs and maintenance	\$2,124,938
WA – Repairs and maintenance	\$867,064
SA – Repairs and maintenance	\$7,598
TAS – Repairs and maintenance	\$245,784
ACT – Repairs and maintenance	\$1,490,791
NT – Repairs and maintenance	\$372,502
Total	\$43,510,864

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 104

- **Topic:** Economic Stimulus Plan - Housing

Hansard Page: CA37

Senator Payne asked:

How many houses have been demolished to construct new ones?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2009 jurisdictions have advised the following demolitions have taken place:

Jurisdiction	Number of demolitions
South Australia	0
Queensland	0
Tasmania	0
Victoria	0
New South Wales	180
Northern Territory	0
Western Australia	0
Australian Capital Territory	0

NSW have advised that all of the dwellings that have been demolished (as at this date) were considered unsuitable for occupation. The number of new dwellings built through the Social Housing Initiative represent an increase in the social housing stock.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 105

- **Topic:** Economic Stimulus Plan - Housing

Hansard Page: CA38

Senator Payne asked:

Are they purchasing existing dwellings which will be converted to public housing stock as part of the program?

Answer:

No Nation Building- Economic Stimulus funding provided by the Australian Government has been used to purchase existing dwellings.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 106

- **Topic:** Economic Stimulus Plan - Housing

Hansard Page: CA39

Senator Payne asked:

If there were a property company engaged in that process and they were providing services to a state or territory government to do that in relation to the purchase of existing dwellings for the state government under this package, would those services be paid for from funds that are provided to the state government under the stimulus package?

Answer:

No, Social Housing Initiative funding can only be used to meet the cost of constructing new dwellings.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 107

- **Topic:** Economic Stimulus Plan - Jobs

Hansard Page: CA40

Senator Payne asked:

Can you please clarify for me whether the figure of 2,100 jobs referred to in the statement of 5 May is correct?

Answer:

The figure in question came from a media release from the New South Wales Government. Commonwealth estimate of jobs is the responsibility of the Treasury.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 109

- **Topic:** Housing for people with disabilities

Hansard Page: CA41-42

Senator Payne asked:

In terms of the funding that the Commonwealth has provided to the states, what proportion of the houses funded under stage 1 are going to be suitable for tenants with disabilities?

Answer:

As answered in Question on Notice No. 108, 74% of dwellings from Stage One are planned to be constructed using Universal Design Standards. Many of these dwellings will be suitable for tenants with disabilities. An exact number can not be furnished without more detail on the specific tenant requirements.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 110

- **Topic:** Location of sites

Hansard Page: CA42

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide the committee with a breakdown (by postcode) of the locality of each of the sites?

Answer:

Below is the information on the locality for each of the sites under Stage 1 construction.

NSW		VIC		QLD		WA		SA		TAS		ACT		NT	
Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total
2026	7	3020	20	4006	26	6018	3	5007	1	7000	1	2602	7	810	8
2036	9	3021	7	4011	7	6028	4	5011	5	7009	22	2604	5	812	3
2111	21	3024	31	4012	61	6030	29	5012	2	7015	5	2605	10	830	6
2112	17	3029	18	4020	17	6031	7	5015	1	7018	2	2607	1	836	2
2113	26	3030	23	4021	10	6036	12	5017	6	7050	6	2614	2	860	1
2144	6	3037	20	4036	16	6054	2	5023	10	7109	8	2615	7	870	2
2145	5	3043	5	4051	26	6055	1	5032	1	7120	6	2903	4	Grand Total	22
2147	41	3046	13	4053	27	6057	7	5038	6	7250	1	2904	2		
2151	24	3072	69	4077	21	6059	3	5041	12	7253	9	2905	2		
2160	17	3073	4	4105	20	6061	19	5043	20	7270	1	2913	16		
2161	87	3087	6	4128	12	6062	2	5083	2	7320	2	Grand Total	56		
2163	7	3088	17	4159	6	6069	30	5084	21	TBC	2				
2165	5	3089	1	4160	6	6102	2	5085	5	Grand Total	65				
2166	1	3134	6	4165	28	6103	1	5095	28						
2168	10	3136	23	4207	20	6105	2	5112	10						
2170	18	3137	5	4285	8	6107	1	5113	35						
2190	42	3152	1	4305	9	6109	1	5114	29						
2191	12	3175	34	4350	8	6112	8	5115	1						
2197	7	3199	27	4519	12	6153	1	5116	1						
2208	13	3216	18	4550	12	6158	1	5163	16						
2213	9	3220	14	4560	6	6162	2	5169	4						
2250	45	3266	1	4670	8	6163	12	5253	1						
2256	13	3280	10	4700	10	6167	7	5290	6						
2257	15	3337	10	4701	19	6169	1	5345	1						
2259	16	3338	10	4702	8	6170	1	5373	2						

NSW		VIC		QLD		WA		SA	
Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total
2283	7	3340	15	4703	19	6210	1	5606	20
2284	18	3350	28	4800	2	6225	1	Grand Total	246
2285	42	3356	14	4802	6	6230	25		
2290	17	3357	1	4812	6	6308	4		
2323	20	3500	5	4815	8	6312	5		
2324	9	3550	27	Grand Total	444	6317	2		
2325	28	3556	5			6320	1		
2330	8	3561	2			6330	11		
2333	11	3564	2			6335	2		
2337	18	3579	10			6375	3		
2350	15	3631	1			6401	7		
2430	11	3658	1			6410	1		
2440	9	3677	2			6430	4		
2444	10	3689	3			6432	1		
2446	8	3725	1			6450	8		
2450	3	3754	20			6530	10		
2452	5	3756	6			6537	2		
2460	5	3757	3			6609	2		
2478	4	3806	5			6640	1		
2480	11	3809	2			6707	5		
2502	5	3810	20			6714	2		
2519	4	3820	13			6720	15		
2526	18	3824	11			6722	12		
2528	6	3825	2			6765	2		
2529	11	3840	11			Grand Total	286		

NSW		VIC	
Postcode	Total	Postcode	Total
2541	4	3842	2
2560	1	3844	21
2580	16	3852	1
2620	17	3856	1
2640	5	3875	2
2750	2	3910	4
2761	6	3971	4
2770	22	3977	25
2830	2	3995	2
Grand Total	851	3996	2
		Grand Total	667

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 113

- **Topic:** Implementation Plans

Hansard Page: CA47

Senator Ludlam asked:

Just staying with the social housing stuff for the moment, are the implementation plans public documents, or are they confidential for some reason?

Answer:

The implementation plans are publicly available through the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations at

www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_partnership_agreements/default.aspx

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 114

- **Topic:** Social Housing Initiative Spending

Hansard Page: CA48

Senator Ludlam asked:

Rather than reading those in, is that something you would be able to just table for us? (Splits around the approvals for the social housing initiative spending around inner/outer metro).

Answer:

Based on stage 1 construction approvals as at 31 May 2009, below is a table of the split between inner and outer metro.

Demographic Classification	Stage 1 - Construction No of Dwellings	Value
NSW		
Inner Metropolitan	353	\$95,343,606
Outer Metropolitan	62	16,709,022
Provincial	217	\$57,222,333
Rural	219	\$56,319,039
NSW Total	851	\$225,594,000
VIC		
Inner Metropolitan	86	\$25,215,138
Outer Metropolitan	309	\$78,314,999
Provincial	123	\$27,055,234
Rural	149	\$40,946,629
VIC Total	667	\$171,532,000.00
QLD		
Inner Metropolitan	157	\$45,525,000
Outer Metropolitan	116	\$37,586,000
Provincial	86	\$27,615,000
Rural	85	\$27,839,000
QLD Total	444	\$138,565,000
WA		
Inner Metropolitan	57	\$11,831,933

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Demographic Classification	Stage 1 - Construction No of Dwellings	Value
Outer Metropolitan	109	\$22,168,637
Provincial	10	\$2,167,952
Rural	110	\$33,875,479
WA Total	286	\$70,044,000
SA		
Inner Metropolitan	100	\$22,844,000.00
Outer Metropolitan	40	\$9,085,900.00
Rural	106	\$19,936,100.00
SA Total	246	\$51,866,000.00
Tasmania		
Inner Metropolitan	23	\$7,237,000
Outer Metropolitan	21	\$4,660,000
Provincial	10	\$2,206,000
Rural	9	\$1,416,000
To be identified	2	\$612,000
Tasmania Total	65	\$16,131,000
ACT		
Inner Metropolitan	56	\$11,147,000
NT		
Rural	5	\$2,200,000
Inner Metropolitan	17	\$4,921,000
NT Total	22	\$7,121,000

Please note the explanation for the different classification used above.

Inner metropolitan areas are located in a capital city and comprises well-established, inner suburbs. Outer metropolitan areas are located in capital cities and contains areas of more recent urban expansion. Provincial areas are divisions within major provincial cities. Rural areas include locations without a major provincial city.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 115

- **Topic:** Sustainability Criteria

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Ludlam asked:

- a) Are you able to table for us, to the degree to which you have managed to compile the data, what you have assessed so far as it relates to the sustainability criteria – that is, the numbers that you were just reading to me then?
- b) Will you be reporting that material as a matter of course?

Answer:

- a) Environmental sustainability features in the approved dwellings for stage 1 are:

State	Dwelling total number	Environmental Sustainability Features		
		Ceiling Insulation	Solar hot water systems	Water conservation or other measures
NSW	851	851	0	851
VIC	667	667	497	404
QLD	444	No data available	No data available	No data available
WA	286	No data available	No data available	No data available
SA	246	246	215	246
TAS	65	No data available	No data available	No data available
ACT	56	56	56	56
NT	22	22	22	22
Total	2637	1842	790	1579

- b) Yes, for Stage 1, where this information has been available it has been provided.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 082

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Did your branch provide any input into the Harmer Pension Review Report, or provide advice to the Government for its response to the Harmer Report involving any changes to Rent Assistance?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 083

- **Topic:** Re-modelling Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has the Department been involved in any modelling or re-modelling of the Rent Assistance scheme?

Answer:

Yes.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 084

- **Topic:** Changes in Budget to Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

- a) Were there any changes in the Budget to the way Rent Assistance is paid, the amount paid, or who it is paid to?
- b) Did this include any changes affecting seniors, carers or those with disability in the private rental market, as per Dr Harmer's findings in the Harmer Pension Review Report?

Answer:

- a) No
- b) No

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 085

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance for the elderly

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What information do you collect (or Centrelink collect on your behalf) to know if Rent Assistance, particularly for the elderly, is sufficient?

Answer:

The Department collects information on the rent liabilities and amount of Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) paid. The Department does not define the level of assistance regarded as sufficient. The Department does calculate the proportion of all people paying more than 30 per cent of their income on rent after CRA is taken into account. This is published in the Annual Report.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 088

- **Topic:** Adequacy of Rent Assistance consultants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have you used any consultants in the last 12 months to examine the adequacy of Rent Assistance?

Answer:

No.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 089

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance expenditure in relation to NRAS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the expenditure on Rent Assistance expected to change when other programmes come online – such as the new social housing coming online? The National Rental Affordability Scheme?

Answer:

To be eligible for Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA), a customer must be an Australian resident and qualify for a social security income support payment or more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit A or service pension and must pay a minimum amount of rent, called the rent threshold. CRA is then paid at the rate of 75 cents for each dollar above the rent threshold up to a maximum rate. CRA rates are based on a customer's family situation and the amount of rent they pay.

People renting in National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) dwellings and community housing dwellings may be eligible for CRA if they meet the above criteria. It is not possible to project what impact NRAS may have on CRA outlays, some people will move from private rental (who may or may not be receiving CRA) to NRAS dwellings and others will move from community housing (where CRA is payable) or public housing (where CRA is not payable).

Similarly the impact of the additional 20,000 social housing dwellings on CRA outlays will depend on whether these dwelling are held by community housing organisations or state and territory housing authorities and on the rental situation of the tenants before moving into one of the dwellings.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 090

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

- a) Will people living in the NRAS homes be eligible for Rent Assistance? What proportion of people do you expect to be eligible for Rent Assistance?
- b) Has this been factored into the forward estimates? Can you explain the modelling associated with this?

Answer:

- a) Yes.

See question 089. The Department has not made an estimate of the proportion of people living in NRAS approved dwellings who are expected to be eligible for Rent Assistance.

- b) No.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 091

- **Topic:** Community Housing Framework

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What progress has been made to date on the development and implementation of the Commonwealth's community housing accreditation framework?

Answer:

A report on developing a National Regulatory System for Community Housing will be considered by Housing Ministers in September 2009.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 076

- **Topic:** National Housing Supply Council

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

The 2008-09 Budget outlined funding for the establishment and operation of the National Housing Supply Council of \$10.2 million over five years. An estimated expenditure of \$2.3 million was budgeted for the current year. Can the Department advise whether the annual operations of the Council, including the preparations of its first annual report, will involve any significant deviation from this estimate?

Answer:

It is not anticipated there will be a significant variation from the estimated expenditure for the National Housing Supply Council in 2008-2009.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 093

- **Topic:** Community Housing Framework

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is interim accreditation under the existing Qld or NSW accreditation schemes considered acceptable?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 094

- **Topic:** National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)

Hansard Page: CA 19

Senator Payne asked:

Were there any bids from Western Australia which were not deemed to be compliant?

Answer:

There were no proposals for NRAS received from Western Australia under Round 1 which were deemed to be non-compliant. Round 2 assessments are still underway.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 095

- **Topic:** NRAS Assessment Process Staff

Hansard Page: CA19

Senators Payne asked:

How many and at what levels?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T10.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 096

- **Topic:** Indexation

Hansard Page: CA21

Senators Payne asked:

Please explain the variation in NRAS Administered Expenses in the 2008-09 and 2009-10?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T9.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1 June 2009

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 112

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance ABS Year book results

Hansard Page: CA44

Senator Siewert asked:

Could I have your most up-to-date figures for the type of information that is provided in the yearbook – that is, the average rent assistance, average rent paid per fortnight for individuals and families under the reporting groups that you traditionally report on, such as parenting single and disability support pension?

Answer:

The number of income units that are receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) by average rent assistance and average rent paid by payment type and income unit type as at 13 March 2009 is as follows:

<i>Primary payment type/Income unit type</i>	<i>Individuals and Families Number</i>	<i>Average rent assistance^(a) \$ per fortnight</i>	<i>Average rent paid^(b) \$ per fortnight</i>
All recipients	1,002,178	94	370
Primary payment type^(c)			
Parenting Payment (single)	162,946	109	432
Disability Support Pension	199,398	96	312
Age Pension	185,320	87	301
Newstart Allowance	181,962	90	336
Family Tax Benefit Part A	131,938	92	553
Youth Allowance	66,024	76	270
Parenting Payment (partnered)	27,625	124	516
Other	46,965	93	343
Income unit type			
Single – no dependent children	515,728	86	280
Couple – no dependent children	88,632	89	389
Single – 1 or 2 dependent children	187,808	104	433
Single – 3 or more dependent children	37,846	122	486
Couple – 1 or 2 dependent children	117,166	99	530
Couple – 3 or more dependent children	52,047	115	558
Couple – temporarily separated	2,951	109	386

(a) Average Rent Assistance is taken to be 14 times the daily entitlement to Rent Assistance for 13 March 2009.

(b) Average rent is the average rent taken into account in working out entitlements for 13 March 2009.

(c) One member of a couple is treated as the reference person for the income unit, based on the type of payment they receive. The general order of priority is Pensions, Allowances, Family Tax Benefit. An income unit will be reported as receiving Parenting Payment (partnered) only if neither member of the couple receives another social security payment. They will only be reported as receiving FTB Part A if neither receives a social security payment.

Source: Housing Data Set 13 March 2009.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 099

- **Topic: HAF**

Hansard Page: CA28

Senators Payne asked:

What are the performance indicators to determine the success of the Housing Affordability Fund?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T8.

T8

Outcome 2.2

Senator Payne asked: What are the performance indicators to determine the success of the Housing Affordability Fund?

Response:

The PBS provides three Performance Indicators for measuring the success of the Housing Affordability Fund.

4. Proportion of dwelling lots sold that deliver the savings required under project funding agreements;
5. Proportion of projects in which goals are fully met; and
6. Proportion of sites/dwelling for which practical completion certificates have been accepted.

In addition to the measurements contained in the PBS, each funding agreement offered to successful applicants has a range of performance measures specific to the individual project.

Performance information will become available during 2009-10.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 078

- **Topic:** Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the Department advise of any further work being undertaken by the Council to address the areas for further research that were outlined in the first State of Supply report?

Answer:

The Council has developed its own research program to address key areas for further research in the first State of Supply report.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 077

- **Topic:** Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

- a) Can the Department advise of any printing costs associated with the production of the first annual State of Supply report that was released on 11 March 2009?
- b) When is the next meeting of the National Housing Supply Council?
- c) The State of Supply Report found significant issues associated with planning/development assessment processes and infrastructure charging (levies and taxes) that substantially add to construction costs. Can the Department advise what, if any, actions are being taken to address these important findings?

Answer:

- a) The costs associated with the printing of the National Housing Supply Council report were approximately \$49,700
- b) The National Housing Supply Council met in Melbourne on 18 August 2009.
- c) FaHCSIA is implementing the \$512 million investment in a Housing Affordability Fund to reduce the cost of charges levied by State and Territory and Local Governments on homebuyers, by providing an incentive for reform of inefficient processes and a contribution towards infrastructure costs. \$30 million of this funding has been allocated to the installation of electronic development assessment processes (eDAs) in many high growth councils. This will cut costs and development times and lower costs for homebuyers.
FaHCSIA is also participating in the work being done by the Development Assessment Forum (DAF), chaired by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development to streamline development assessment and reduce compliance costs. The DAF eDA Steering Committee is the national stakeholder group responsible for reaching agreement on the eDA information system. The Committee comprises representatives from the Australian Government, all States and Territories, the Australian Local Government Association and the local government peak body in each state.
The Council is cognizant of COAG work addressing other important planning issues. For example, work being undertaken around accelerated code based assessment as a basis for expediting development applications leading to faster approvals.
Through its research program the National Housing Supply Council is continuing to focus on providing a better understanding of the key drivers of the housing market.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 079

- **Topic:** Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne:

Can the Department advise whether it provides financial assistance to the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has a Funding Agreement with AHURI Ltd for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012.

The AHURI Funding Agreement is a multilateral Funding Agreement between all State and Territory Housing Authorities, FaHCSIA and AHURI Ltd.

FaHCSIA increased its funding from \$1.25 million in 2008/09 to \$1.5 million in 2009/10, \$1.53 million in 2010/11 and \$1.56 million in 2011/12 (GST exclusive). The funding is indexed at 2% pa, in line with the indexation set for the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 080

- **Topic:** Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

- a) What was the level of financial assistance given to AHURI by the Commonwealth during 2008/09?
- b) What was the level of financial assistance given for the previous year 2007/08?

Answer:

- a) Under the AHURI Ltd Funding Agreement, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) provided AHURI Ltd with funding of \$1.25 million, exclusive of GST, for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

During the same period, the FaHCSIA provided AHURI Ltd with funding of \$87,875, exclusive of GST, for research synthesis services.

- b) Under the AHURI Funding Agreement, the FaHCSIA provided AHURI Ltd with funding of \$1.25 million, exclusive of GST, for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

The AHURI Funding Agreement is a multilateral Funding Agreement between all State and Territory Housing Authorities, FaHCSIA and AHURI. The previous Funding Agreement, which was entered into during the term of the previous Government, lapsed on 30 June 2008. The Funding Agreement was extended to 30 June 2009, during the term of the current Government. The current AHURI Funding Agreement commenced on 1 July 2009 and is due to lapse on 30 June 2012.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 081

- **Topic:** Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the Department advise whether the Government intends continue funding the research activities of AHURI at the same level in real terms?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has a Funding Agreement with AHURI Ltd for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012.

The AHURI Funding Agreement is a multilateral Funding Agreement between all State and Territory Housing Authorities, FaHCSIA and AHURI Ltd.

FaHCSIA increased its funding from \$1.25 million in 2008/09 to \$1.5 million in 2009/10, \$1.53 million in 2010/11 and \$1.56 million in 2011/12 (GST exclusive). The funding is indexed at 2% pa, in line with the indexation set for the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 098

- **Topic:** State and Territory contributions to NRAS

Hansard Page: CA 26

Senator Ludlam asked:

To what degree have they gone the extra mile with additional or in-kind support?

Answer:

NSW, Tasmania, SA, ACT and WA have all made in-kind or funding contributions to a number of approved participants.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 111

- **Topic:** FHOG Campaign

Hansard Page: CA43

Senators Payne asked:

How much has been spent to date on the FHOG campaign?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA44 of Hansard on 1 June 2009.

CA44

Mr Hunter—We have got the total. The total budget is \$6.4 million.

Senator PAYNE—Yes.

Mr Hunter—Year-to-date expenditure is \$4.5 million.

Senator PAYNE—Thank you.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 092

- **Topic:** Community Housing Framework

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How are accreditation issues being handled in the interim under NRAS (national rental affordability scheme)?

Answer:

The National Rental Affordability Scheme Regulations require approved NRAS participants to lodge Statements of Compliance for each approved rental dwelling for an NRAS year to receive a National Rental Incentive, including:

“ ... a statement that the approved NRAS participant complied at all times during the year with landlord, tenancy, building, and health and safety laws of the State or territory and local government area in which the dwelling is located, or details of any way in which this requirement was not met ...”

Under Round Two, the experience of the tenancy manager, including processes for tenant selection and rent setting was assessed as part of Criterion 4 – the Applicant and/or Consortium has demonstrated capacity and experience.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 097

- **Topic:** National Rental Affordability Scheme Locations

Hansard Page: CA 21

Senator Payne asked:

Could you please provide more specific information on locations – by suburb or town?

Answer:

Please see table at attachment A

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Round 1 approved dwellings – NRAS Incentives accepted

State	Suburb/Town	Number of Dwellings
ACT	Forde	20
	Holt	31
	Kaleen	2
	Latham	1
	Lyons	1
	Pearce	1
ACT Total		56
NSW	Bankstown	133
	Bega	10
	Campbelltown	12
	Canley Vale	26
	Cardiff	88
	Cessnock	11
	Charmhaven, Wyong	12
	Edgeworth	21
	Fairfield	8
	Gosford	28
	Kingswood	36
	Leumeah	50
	Macarthur	12
	Maroubra	8
	Mortlake	1
	North Strathfield	218
	Nowra	15
	Oxley Park	16
	Parramatta	24
	Picton	60
	Smithfield	50
	St George's Basin	40
	St Marys	8
	Strathfield	7
	Wallsend	3
	Werrington	20
	Wollongong	30
	Worrigee	48
	Zetland	57
	Not identified*	22
NSW Total		1074

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QLD	Redcliffe	5
	Bellbird Park	28
	Bellmere	10
	Cairns	44
	Coomera	10
	Edmonton	100
	Gympie	14
	Holmview	40
	Kelso	15
	Maryborough	50
	Meringandan	14
	Newstead Brisbane	30
	Ningi	10
	Pacific Pines	2
	Pialba	56
	Pimpama	2
	Redbank	17
	Redbank Plains	30
	Redcliffe	3
	Southport	100
	Tanah Merah	83
QLD Total		663
SA	Adelaide	115
	Black Forest	1
	Blair Athol	5
	Brighton	2
	Clarence Gardens	1
	Edwardstown	1
	Elizabeth East	10
	Elizabeth North	20
	Elizabeth South	12
	Evandale	4
	Fullarton	2
	Glenelg	2
	Glenelg South	1
	Greenacres	2
	Hampstead Gardens	22
	Kensington Gardens	1
	Kurralta Park	1
	Largs North	5
	Mitchell Park	18
	Modbury	2

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	Myrtle Bank	2
	Northfield	28
	Park Holme	2
	Richmond	70
	Thebarton	1
	Victor Harbor	1
	Woodville Gardens	1
	Not identified*	90
SA Total		422
TAS	Bicheno	6
	Blackmans Bay	2
	Burnie	78
	Claremont	10
	Devonport	24
	East Devonport	2
	Glenorchy	22
	Howrah	4
	Huonville	16
	Kingston	96
	Latrobe	23
	Launceston	18
	Margate	9
	Miandetta	3
	Midway Point	24
	New Norfolk	20
	Port Sorell	24
	Ravenswood	2
	Rocherlea	8
	Rokeby	14
	Shorewell Park	19
	Sorell	30
	Springfield	3
	St Helens	15
	Swansea	10
	Triabunna	34
	Waverley	1
	West Ulverstone	5
	Wynyard	15
	Not identified*	50
TAS Total		587
VIC	Avondale Heights	100
	Bairnsdale	13

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	Bendigo	9
	Brown Hill	2
	Caroline Springs	27
	Carrum Downs	2
	Craigieburn	7
	Cranbourne	3
	Derrimut	60
	Eaglehawk	6
	Epsom	1
	Footscray	179
	Golden Point	1
	Hoppers Crossing	13
	Horsham	6
	Inverloch	18
	Karunjang	2
	Koo Wee Rup	6
	Melton	12
	Moe	6
	Morwell	8
	Mount Pleasant	1
	Narre Warren	7
	Newborough	2
	Norlan	2
	Numurkah	6
	Pakenham	18
	Roxburgh Park	1
	Sale	10
	Sebastopol	1
	Shepparton	36
	Soldiers Hill	1
	Sunbury	1
	Truganina	14
	Wendouree	1
	West Melton	9
	Westmeadows	2
	White Hills	2
	Wyndham	1
VIC Total		596
WA	Armadale	94
	Ballajura	25
	Beechboro	10
	Bertram	9

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	Brookdale	60
	Broome	24
	Coolbellup	22
	Ellenbrook	14
	Kelmscott	25
	Langford	29
	Midland	10
	Pinjarra	35
	Wellard	40
	Wungong	4
WA Total		401
Grand Total		3799

* Suburb not identified. At the time of applying, some dwellings may be identified by postcode or other regional reference only.

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Early round 2 approved dwellings – Incentives offered

State	Suburb/Town	No. of Incentives/Dwellings 2008-09
NSW	Armidale	10
	Rosehill	112
NSW Total		122
QLD	Bayview Heights	20
	Boronia Heights	24
	Calamvale	30
	Glenmore	6
	Goodna	25
	Kearneys Spring	44
	Mirani	2
	Salisbury	20
QLD Total		171
SA	Andrews Farm	13
	Balaklava	20
	Brompton	5
	Burton	2
	Davoren Park	1
	Kingston S.E.	2
	Munno Para	6
	Seaford	4
	Sellicks Beach	4
	Smithfield	1
SA Total		58
VIC	Canadian	2
	Caroline Springs	26
	Craigieburn	32
	Croydon	10
	Deer Park	5
	Delacombe	7
	Eaglehawk	2
	Epping	34
	Epsom	5
	Golden Square	1
	Horsham	6
	Kilsyth	5

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	Mernda	19
	Moe	5
	Point Cook	5
	Reservoir	5
	Ringwood	36
	Ringwood East	6
	Sale	5
	Sebastopol	24
	Shepparton	11
	Skye	25
	Soldiers Hill	1
	Sunshine	9
	Tarneit	7
	Traralgon	17
	Wantirna South	3
	White Hills	4
	Wodonga	10
	Wyndham Vale	21
VIC Total		348
Grand Total		699

*Note: ** Please note this information is based on NRAS Round Two Early Offers to date, and is subject to change as updated dwelling information becomes available.*

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 087

- **Topic:** New Applicants for Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Are you provided with details of the number of new applicants for Rent Assistance? Can you provide these numbers to the Committee for the last 3 quarters, and what payments they are related to (ie: Family Tax Benefit, Age Pension, Carer Payment recipients etc).

Answer:

The Department cannot identify the number of people claiming Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) because eligibility for CRA is determined when a claim for a Social Security or Family Tax Benefit is made. If a claimant indicates that they rent privately at the time they claim a pension, benefit or allowance, they are asked to verify their rent by either providing a formal written tenancy agreement or a Rent Certificate signed by their landlord. Their eligibility for CRA is assessed as part of the primary payment claim and is not identified separately.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 117

- **Topic:** National Affordable Housing Agreement

Hansard Page: CA59

Senator Payne asked:

On the eight indicators that you have just described there, does the department have base indicators for those? Do you have starting points? How do you make your assessments against the numbers?

Answer:

Baseline data against the National Affordable Housing Agreement indicators is not yet available. The specifications for the NAHA indicators are currently being developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics in consultation with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and States and Territories and it is against these indicators that assessments will be made.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 118

- **Topic:** COAG Reform Council

Hansard Page: CA60

Senator Ludlam asked:

Can you provide us some very high level overview detail of who is on that council?

Answer:

Information on the membership of the COAG Reform Council is available on the COAG website: <http://www.coag.gov.au/crc/index.cfm>

The COAG Reform Council comprises a Chairman, Deputy Chairperson, four Councilors and an Executive Councilor who is also the Head of the COAG Reform Council Secretariat. Current COAG Reform Council members are:

[Mr Paul McClintock AO](#) (Chairman)

[Professor Geoff Gallop AC](#) (Deputy Chairperson)

[Dr Doug McTaggart](#)

[Mr John Langoulant](#)

[Mr Peter Corish AM](#)

[Ms Patricia Faulkner AO](#)

[Ms Mary Ann O'Loughlin](#) (Executive Councilor and Head of Secretariat).

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 119

- **Topic:** Forecasting Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: CA60-61

Senator Ludlam asked:

Have you got any projections from the department's point of view of how many people you think might be requiring Commonwealth rental assistance? Are there projections out there? Is that being modelled?

Answer:

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) cash forecasts are published in the 2009-10 Portfolio Budget Statements. The forecast for 2008-09 is \$2.6 billion to 1,085,645 customers and for 2009-10 is \$2.8 billion to 1,127,897 customers.

The forecast is based on estimates of demographic and social factors that drive demand support, including an ageing population, economic factors, indexation arrangements, underlying trends and the impact of previous and new budget measures.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 108

- **Topic:** New Construction

Hansard Page: CA41

Senator Payne asked:

- Can you tell me, in relation to better access for people with disabilities in particular, state by state, what proportion of the number of dwellings for new construction will be designated for people with disabilities and built appropriately?

Answer:

For the first stage of construction States were not required to report on achievement against Universal Design Standards. Six jurisdictions provided a tally of dwellings that would be constructed to State Universal Design Standards. From the jurisdictions that provided the information, 74% of dwellings were planned to be constructed using Universal Design Standards.

Jurisdiction	Number of Dwellings that Meet the Universal Design Standard	Total Number of Dwellings in Proposal
NSW	27	851
VIC	661	667
QLD	-	444
WA	286	286
SA	195	246
TAS	-	65
ACT	33	56
NT	22	22

All new dwellings funded through Stage 2 of the Initiative will, where possible, incorporate six minimum universal design elements to make properties more accessible to people who are ageing or live with disabilities. These features are:

- Installation of, or reinforcing for, grab rails in bathrooms and toilets
- Hobless/step free shower recess and adjustable/detachable hand held shower rose.
- Internal doorways on the entrance level having minimum clear openings and minimum corridor widths
- A bench area in the kitchen that adjoins the oven and cook top to allow easy placement of hot pots and pans.

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- Door handles to be lever style and tap hardware to be lever or flick mixer style
- Light switches to be located near doorways at appropriate height.

Under Stage 2 construction the Commonwealth has set a target for all jurisdictions that 20% of dwellings will also meet the Australian Standard for Adaptable Housing AS4299-1995, Class C. The Australian Standard for Adaptable Housing involves a higher specification starting with the requirement that the dwelling is accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. The standard requires that there be provision for additional modifications should they be required to meet the specific needs of the occupant.

The exact number of dwellings that will meet these universal design requirements will not be known until approvals are finalised for Stage 2.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 116

- **Topic:** National Affordable Housing Agreement

Hansard Page: CA58

Senator Payne asked:

Does the department have a map or schematic which might show us in a physical sense where money is going to and from, where the state-Commonwealth relationships are, across the range of these which might assist the committee? If not, is that a matter you could put in contemplation for us?

Answer:

The attached table details payments made by FaHCSIA and the Treasury to states and territories before and after the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. Where a payment has transitioned under the new arrangements, page references are provided for both the FaHCSIA 2008-09 Portfolio Budget Statement (Budget Related Paper No. 1.7) and Budget Paper No. 3 – Australia's Federal Relations 2009–10.

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Payments previously made by FaHCSIA to states and territories	Payments now being made by the Treasury to states and territories	FaHCSIA	Treasury	Total	2009-10	Treasury		
		2008-09 \$m	2008-09 \$m	2008-09 \$m		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Payments for Assistance to People with a Disability		431.7	431.1	862.8	903.7	1,038.9	1,180.2	1,229.3
<i>Commonwealth State Disability Agreement PBS p110</i>	<i>National Disability SPP BP3 p70 - (National Disability Agreement)</i>	415.1	431.1	862.8	903.7	1,038.9	1,180.2	1,229.3
<i>Young People with Disabilities PBS p110</i>		16.5			-	-	-	-
Payments for Housing		736.1	1,464.7	2,200.8	6,017.0	3,510.4	2,154.6	1,906.4
<i>A Place to Call Home PBS 64</i>	<i>Homelessness BP3 p78 (National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness)</i>	2.4	22.0	24.4	97.7	128.5	131.5	156.5
<i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement Base Funding PBS p64</i>		388.3		1,174.4	1,202.6	1,225.1	1,247.2	1,270.9
<i>Community Housing</i>	<i>National Affordable Housing SPP BP3 p78 (National Affordable Housing Agreement)</i>	34.3	586.1					
<i>Crisis Accommodation Housing</i>		21.2						
<i>Housing Assistance for Indigenous People</i>		48.7						
<i>Supported Accommodation Assistance PBS p64</i>		95.9						
<i>Social Housing</i>	<i>Social Housing BP3 p78 (National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing)</i>	-	200.0	200.0	200.0	-	-	-
<i>Investment in Social Housing</i>	<i>Investment in Social Housing BP3 p78 (National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan - Schedule C: Social Housing)</i>	-	260.0	260.0	4,072.0	1,744.0	312.0	-
<i>Social Housing Subsidy Program PBS p64</i>	<i>Social Housing Subsidy Program BP3 p78</i>	1.0	1.0	2.0	11.9	-	-	-
<i>Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure (ARIA) PBS p128</i>	<i>Remote Indigenous Housing BP3 p78 (National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing)</i>	144.3	395.6	540.0	432.7	412.8	463.9	479.0
Payments for Assistance to the Aged	<i>(National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders)</i>	109.9	121.9	231.7	242.6	250.6	258.5	268.1
<i>Extension of Fringe Benefits PBS p84</i>	<i>Certain concessions for pensioners BP3 p74</i>	109.9	109.9	219.7	230.6	238.6	246.5	255.6
<i>National Reciprocal Transport Concessions PBS p84</i>	<i>National reciprocal transport concessions BP3 p74</i>	-	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.5
Payments for Indigenous Development		-	-	-	37.7	57.9	57.9	-
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory PBS 40</i>	<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory BP3 p75</i>	-	-	-	5.1	5.3	5.5	-
<i>Family support package - coordination</i>	<i>Family support package - coordination</i>	-	-	-	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
<i>Community stores</i>	<i>Community stores</i>	-	-	-	0.9	2.9	4.3	-
<i>Field operations</i>	<i>Field operations</i>	-	-	-	31.4	49.4	47.8	-
<i>Remote policing & substance abuse</i>	<i>Remote policing & substance abuse</i>	-	-	-				

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Payments Other		19.1	13.6	32.7	4.0	-	-	-
<i>Improving policing in very remote areas PBS p136</i>	<i>Improving policing in very remote areas BP3 p102</i>	9.0	13.6	22.7	4.0	-	-	-
<i>NTER - supporting families PBS p136</i>	<i>Payment termination year 2008-09</i>	9.5	-	9.5	-	-	-	-
<i>Services for Families PBS p48</i>	<i>Payment transferred to COPE</i>	0.2	-	0.2	-	-	-	-
<i>Services for Families with Children PBS p48</i>	<i>Payment transferred to COPE</i>	0.4	-	0.4	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		1,296.7	2,031.3	3,328.1	7,204.9	4,857.8	3,651.2	3,403.8

Key: PBS - Portfolio Budget Statements; BP3 Budget Paper No. 3

Note: National SPPs (the payment arrangements in respect of key service delivery sectors) are distinct from National Agreements (which specify policy arrangements). Portfolio agencies have no role in policy, payment or performance monitoring and reportin

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Details of payments to states and territories previously made by FaHCSIA and the payments now being made by Treasury are summarised in the following table.

	2008-09 \$m	2009-10 \$m	2010-11 \$m	2011-12 \$m	2012-13 \$m	Reference
Payments for Assistance to People with a Disability	862.8	903.7	1,038.9	1,180.2	1,229.3	
FaHCSIA Payments	431.7	-	-	-	-	
<i>Commonwealth State Disability Agreement</i>	415.1	-	-	-	-	PBS p110
<i>Young People with Disabilities</i>	16.5	-	-	-	-	PBS p110
Treasury Payments	431.1	903.7	1,038.9	1,180.2	1,229.3	
<i>National Disability SPP</i>	431.1	903.7	1,038.9	1,180.2	1,229.3	BP3 p70
Payments for Housing	2,432.5	6,259.5	3,510.4	2,154.6	1,906.4	
FaHCSIA Payments	736.1	-	-	-	-	
<i>A Place to Call Home</i>	2.4	-	-	-	-	PBS p64
<i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</i>	492.5	-	-	-	-	PBS p64
<i>Supported Accommodation Assistance Program</i>	90.5	-	-	-	-	PBS p64
<i>Innovation and Investment Fund</i>	5.4	-	-	-	-	PBS p64
<i>Investment in Social Housing</i>	-	-	-	-	-	na
<i>Social Housing Subsidy Program</i>	1.0	-	-	-	-	PBS p64
<i>Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure (ARIA)</i>	144.3	-	-	-	-	PBS p128
Treasury Payments	1,696.5	6,259.5	3,510.4	2,154.6	1,906.4	
<i>National Affordable Housing SPP</i>	586.1	1,202.6	1,225.1	1,247.2	1,270.9	BP3 p78
<i>Social housing</i>	200.0	200.0	-	-	-	BP3 p81
<i>Homelessness</i>	22.0	97.7	128.5	131.5	156.5	BP3 p782
<i>Investment in social housing</i>	260.0	4,072.0	1,744.0	312.0	-	BP3 p84
<i>Remote Indigenous housing **</i>	395.6	432.7	412.8	463.9	479.0	BP3 p80
<i>Social housing subsidy program **</i>	1.0	11.9	-	-	-	BP3 p70
Payments for Assistance to the Aged	231.7	242.6				
FaHCSIA Payments	109.9	-	-	-	-	
<i>Extension of Fringe Benefits</i>	109.9	-	-	-	-	PBS p84
<i>National Reciprocal Transport Concessions</i>	-	-	-	-	-	na
Treasury Payments	121.9	242.6	250.6	258.5	268.1	
<i>Concession for pensioners and senior card holders **</i>	109.9	230.6	238.6	246.5	255.6	BP3 p74
<i>National reciprocal transport concessions</i>	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.5	BP3 p74
Payments for Indigenous Development		59.0	76.8	73.3		BP3 p75
Treasury Payments - (FaHCSIA Component)		37.7	57.9	57.9		
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory - family support package - coordination</i>		5.1	5.3	5.5		PBS p40
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory - community stores</i>		0.3	0.3	0.3		PBS p40
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory - field operations</i>		0.9	2.9	4.3		PBS p40
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory - remote policing & substance abuse</i>		31.4	49.4	47.8		PBS p40
Treasury Payments - (Other Agencies Component)		21.4	18.9	15.4		
<i>Closing the Gap - Northern Territory</i>		21.4	18.9	15.4		na
Payments Other	41.8	4.0				
FaHCSIA Payments	19.1	-	-	-	-	
<i>Improving policing in very remote areas</i>	9.0	-	-	-	-	PBS p136
<i>NTER - supporting families</i>	9.5	-	-	-	-	PBS p136
<i>Services for Families</i>	0.2	-	-	-	-	PBS p48
<i>Services for Families with children</i>	0.4	-	-	-	-	PBS p48
Treasury Payments	22.7	4.0				
<i>Improving policing in very remote areas</i>	22.7	4.0	-	-	-	BP3 p102
Total FaHCSIA Payments	1,296.7					PBS p20
Total Treasury Payments	2,272.1	7,468.8	4,876.7	3,666.6	3,403.8	na
Total Payments to States and Territories	3,568.9	7,468.8	4,876.7	3,666.6	3,403.8	na

** The 2008-09 appropriation published in BP3 includes the appropriation to FaHCSIA and Treasury

TOTAL OVERALL REOURCING

Agency Total Net Resourcing	78,997.7	69,450.2	72,456.5	75,506.7	79,343.5	PBS p40
Total payments to states and	3,568.9	7,468.8	4,876.7	3,666.6	3,403.8	Table above

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 086

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance by State

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide details of the numbers of people currently claiming and receiving Rent Assistance, and break that down into States and/or regions?

Answer:

The number of people receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) by State as at 5 June 2009 is as follows:

<i>State</i>	<i>Number of Income Units receiving CRA</i>
NSW	353,939
VIC	230,738
QLD	254,995
SA	75,646
WA	83,118
TAS	26,307
NT	5,176
ACT	8,147
Other	71
AUS	1,038,137

Note:

An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

Other includes income units overseas or with an unknown state.

Source: Housing Data Set (extract date 5 June 2009).

The Department cannot identify the number of people claiming CRA because eligibility for CRA is determined when a claim for a Social Security or Family Tax Benefit is made. If a claimant indicates that they rent privately at the time they claim a pension, benefit or allowance, they are asked to verify their rent by either providing a formal written tenancy agreement or a Rent Certificate signed by their landlord. Their eligibility for CRA is assessed as part of the primary payment claim and is not identified separately.

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Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 120

- **Topic:** Rent Assistance by Maximum and Part Rate

Hansard Page: CA63

Senator Siewert asked:

The proportion of people that are getting full rental assistance is 71 percent. Is 71 percent made up of those that are on income support, so the other 29 per cent of those that are on low income are low-income families? Are you able to provide a breakdown of that 71 per cent?

Answer:

The proportion of income units that are receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) by payment type and whether on maximum or part CRA rate as at 5 June 2009 is as follows:

<i>Payment Type</i>	<i>Part rate</i>		<i>Maximum rate</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>28.4%</i>		<i>71.6%</i>		<i>100%</i>	
	<i>Col %</i>	<i>Row %</i>	<i>Col%</i>	<i>Row %</i>	<i>Row %</i>	<i>Number</i>
Disability Support Pension	26.8	38.7	16.8	61.3	100.0	203,432
Newstart Allowance	17.1	25.4	19.8	74.6	100.0	197,849
Age Pension	25.9	40.6	14.9	59.4	100.0	187,200
Parenting Payment (Single)	11.8	21.3	17.2	78.7	100.0	162,839
FTB (Only)	4.9	11.1	15.5	88.9	100.0	129,885
Youth Allowance	7.1	26.9	7.7	73.1	100.0	78,036
Parenting Payment (partnered)	1.6	16.5	3.1	83.5	100.0	27,776
Carer Payment	2.4	35.1	1.8	64.9	100.0	20,322
Other	2.5	24.3	3.1	75.7	100.0	30,798
Total	100.0	28.4	100.0	71.6	100.0	1,038,137

An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

Source: Housing Data Set (extract date 5 June 2009).

While many income support recipients are members of low income families, those who receive *FTB (Only)* derive income solely from employment. For example: 15.5 per cent of the 71.6 per cent of maximum rate; and 4.9 per cent of the 28.4 per cent part rate. 129,885 out of 1,038,137 income units or 13 per cent of rent assistance recipients are *FTB (Only)* and 88.9 per cent of these are in receipt of maximum rate CRA.

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Commonwealth Government Victorian Bushfires Summary Report

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires claimed 173 Australians and threatened the lives of many more as fires raged across 430,000 hectares of Victoria. More than 2,000 properties were destroyed and another 1,400 homes severely damaged. Insurance claims for residential, commercial, industrial and farming losses totalled some \$1.2 billion

As the increasing impacts of the fires started to emerge, the Commonwealth quickly stepped in with a range of disaster response and recovery actions. The Commonwealth significantly contributed to the emergency relief efforts through the management of a multi-agency response to provide immediate material and financial support to affected individuals, families and communities.

To facilitate and coordinate the delivery of this package, the Prime Minister established and chaired the Commonwealth Victorian Bushfires (Ministerial) Taskforce. As the disaster relief effort progressed, the Prime Minister delegated the role of chair of this Commonwealth Taskforce to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, with support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, following his appointment to this role on 25 February 2009.

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) activated the Commonwealth Disaster Plan and coordinated the activities of other Commonwealth agencies including the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in front line response activities in support of Victorian agencies. EMA also coordinated domestic and international offers of assistance to assist Victoria. The ADF provided specialist and emergency support through the Search Task Group and Engineer Support Group, as well as liaison and advice on Defence logistics, and specialist forensic, medical and psychological assistance. The AFP contributed to disaster victim identification and general policing duties.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) provided and coordinated Commonwealth program support and services for those affected by the bushfires whilst the Attorney-General's Department, through EMA, made payments available under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. FaHCSIA chaired the Interdepartmental Committee supporting the Ministerial Taskforce and coordinated the Commonwealth's contribution.

Through specific policy and program measures and through the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, the Commonwealth has committed more than \$216 million to the disaster relief and recovery effort to date. Of that amount, \$68.5 million has been paid directly to individuals and over \$145 million committed for programs supporting businesses, mental health and relationship support programs, housing, childcare, and support for local government and environment programs. The Commonwealth Government anticipates further requests from the Victorian Government for assistance under the NDRRA, as recovery costs are ongoing.

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To facilitate reconstruction and recovery, the Commonwealth has provided funding to the Victorian Government to manage the site clean-up and demolition of fire affected areas. *Grocon* has been contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver this assistance which is voluntary and offered free of charge for those people impacted by the bushfire. To date 1,744 properties (about 60 per cent) have been cleaned up.

The Commonwealth investment also includes funding for more than 100 case managers for six months to facilitate access to Commonwealth and Victorian programs and assistance for a period of six months. The Commonwealth will provide services for 12 months in the Community Service Hubs, to residents of bushfire-affected areas. Centrelink services will be critical and there will also be support from a range of other Commonwealth departments and agencies.

[see next page for Victorian Bushfires Australian Government Assistance Measures May 2009]

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Measure	Description	Australian Government Commitment
Personal hardship and distress payments	Emergency personal hardship grants – to assist households to meet immediate needs such as emergency accommodation, food, clothing, toiletries. \$427 per adult and \$213 per child up to a maximum of \$1,067 per household.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	Temporary living grants –provide assistance to people unable to return to their normal home due to the fire. Up to \$8,650.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	Re-establishment grants. Up to \$8,650 to assist purchase essential household items such as white goods, furniture and bedding, and up to \$8,650 to assist with repairs to structural damage to a principle place of residence.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
\$51m small business and primary producer assistance package	\$5,000 Tier 1 clean-up and recovery grants.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	\$20,000 Tier 2 clean-up and recovery grants.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	Free access to professional business advice and counselling services.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	Concessional interest rate loans scheme. Businesses can borrow up to \$200,000 at 3.2 per cent interest.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
	Special Circumstances	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
Community Recovery Fund (\$10 m)	\$10m Recovery Fund including commitments to a community sports club recovery fund (\$3m) and community memorials (\$2.5m). Community Grants - Social Programs, (\$1.7m) and unallocated funds to be proposed by communities (\$1m).	\$5 million New Funding
\$10 million Tourism Package	\$6m for marketing and branding	50% of total costs
	\$3m for visitor facilities	\$5 million
	\$1m for funding to bring forward new events	New Funding
Clean-up and demolition program	Site clean-up and demolition program for bushfire affected properties. Grocon will manage the program.	50% of total costs Demand driven New Funding
Australian Government Disaster and Recovery Payment (AGDRP)	Immediate, short-term financial assistance to Australians adversely affected by a major disaster.	\$59.2 million + New Funding
Australian Govt Bushfire Hotline 180 2211	Phone assistance and referral services on the AGDRP Bushfire hotline	New Funding

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Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service / Counselling/psychological support and family liaison officers	A case manager assigned to each family affected by bushfire. Assistance could include help getting children back to school, getting a home, dealing with the banks and getting counselling support.	105 case managers and 4 social workers plus 21 interstate working with bushfire affected people New Funding
Income Recovery Subsidy	Ex-gratia payment up to max rate of Newstart for 13 weeks initially.	New Funding
Funeral/Memorial Assistance	Ex-gratia payments for funeral/memorial and related costs.	New Funding
Exceptional Circumstance Assistance	Support to eligible farmers and small business operators income support equivalent to Newstart; Health Care Card; concession under Youth Allowance means tests.	Prior Commitment
Special Child Care Benefit	Covers full fee of child care in approved child care service. Includes Long Day and Family Day care, In-home and Out of School Hours care.	There are 809 services open that have been declared covered by the local emergency period (9 February to 1 May 2009) Prior Commitment
Waive Job seeker requirements	13 week waiver of requirements for Job seekers affected by fire, live in locations where job opportunities have been destroyed or who volunteer to help with clean up and recovery efforts	Prior Commitment
Re-establish Identity	Re-issuing key proof and identity documents with assistance of Centrelink, Medicare and Australian Passport Office.	Facilitated via Centrelink and Medicare staff
Emergency Aged Care Respite	Waiver of aged care assessments for placement of older Australians into respite care. Elderly people directly affected by the fires or whose carers are unavailable.	nil Prior Commitment
Legal assistance for victims	Funding to community legal centres to provide advice on matters such as housing and tenancy, lost documents, insurance etc. NACLC is liaising closely with the Victorian Federation of Community Legal Centres, which is working in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid, the Victorian Bar, the Victoria Law Foundation, the Law Institute of Victoria, and the Public Interest Law Clearing House to ensure people have access to legal assistance. These organisations have, with the support of the Victorian Government, established a Bushfire Legal Helpline (1800 113 432) and arranged for lawyers to be available at emergency support centres to provide initial legal advice and referral services.	\$220,000 Prior Commitment
ATO Bushfire and Flood Emergency Infoline	Provide assistance to people and businesses affected by recent bushfires and floods.	Prior Commitment
Building the Education Revolution	Construction and repairs to schools using share of \$14.7b.	Approx \$3.3 billion over 3 years for all of VIC Prior Commitment
Caring for Our Country - Environmental works	Environmental and landscape repair works. To be paid to Vic Govt (Department of Sustainability and Environment) to manage on behalf of Commonwealth as devolved grants to catchment authorities, community groups and individual landholders.	\$10.8 million from Caring for our Country Prior Commitment

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Regional and Local Community Infrastructure	Reprioritisation of projects under Government's \$250 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program for councils in disaster-affected areas; accelerated payments for Local Government Financial Assistance Grants.	Prior Commitment
Health measures (Provision of mental health support through four components)	(1) Primary Mental Health Care: increased funding under Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) to Divisions of General Practice in affected communities to enable ongoing provision of specialised services to people with persisting symptoms	\$7.5m (total) \$4.5m immediate activities from Existing Funding \$3m longer term support from New Funding
	(2) Community Capacity Building: support for activities to build the capacity of communities for psychological recovery	
	(3) Telephone based counselling and callback services: funding to existing telephone counselling services to respond to broader levels of distress within the Victorian community	
	(4) Training and support for mental health professionals: funding to enable the provision of training and support to professionals providing mental health services	
Continuity of Care for aged care clients and services	Up to \$500,000 to the Vic Govt for extra Home and Community Care services such as help at home and meals on wheels. Up to \$1 million in total to: assist clients who have lost vital equipment such as wheelchairs and mobility aids; assist aged care providers who have incurred extraordinary costs in the course of ensuring their client's wellbeing; and to provide additional aged care assessments for those who find themselves in need of longer term residential care.	\$1.5 million total \$1 million New Funding, \$500k from existing appropriations
Primary Care	Grants to 11 practices to enable immediate infrastructure modification to accommodate additional mental health staff and functions.	
	Assistance to doctors and nurses with travel and accommodation costs. To be administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria who are coordinating volunteer health professionals.	\$574,000 New Funding
	Assistance to restore primary care infrastructure and provide temporary arrangements for the GP whose facilities were destroyed to operate from Buxton.	
	Assistance for infrastructure to re-establish services in Kinglake.	
Emergency Relief	Funding to community organisation to deliver emergency, financial or other assistance to people in immediate financial crisis.	\$6 million New Funding
Family Relationship Services Program	Additional funding of \$40,000 to 11 community organisations to provide counselling services to families and children.	\$440,000 Prior Commitment
Volunteer Management Program	\$30,000 for 13 Volunteer Resource Centres to provide support and direct volunteers to areas where they will be most valuable.	\$390,000 New Funding
Supporting Young People	\$900,000 to six community organisations to provide counselling and recreational services to young people	\$900,000 New Funding
Social Housing Fund	Priority access to housing in disaster affected areas from VIC's share (\$1.5 b) of \$6.4 billion housing fund.	Prior Commitment
National Schools Chaplaincy Program	\$165,000 to Access Ministries to provide additional chaplaincy services for school communities affected by this year's Victorian bushfires	\$165,000 New Funding

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Playgroups	Immediate access to 29 playgroups providing high quality early childhood services for families.	\$273,200 New Funding
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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 124

- **Topic:** Social Inclusion Board

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What meetings has the Department had with the Social Inclusion Board and the Social Inclusion Unit about policy matters relating to Social Inclusion? Can the Department provide the number of meetings that have been held in 2008–09?

Answer:

- a) The Department is a member of the Social Inclusion Consultative Forum and has participated in the Forum and related Working Groups throughout 2008-09. The Department has also met with the Social Inclusion Unit at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss specific policy issues. Departmental Officers have attended four Australian Social Inclusion Board meetings as observers and to present information on specific topics.
- b) Officers from the Department have attended seventeen formal Consultative Forum or Working Group meetings. In addition, officers from the Department meet with the Social Inclusion Unit and other agencies on regular basis to discuss a range of issues relevant to social inclusion topics and the Department's work more broadly. These meetings are scheduled as required and include in-person and telephone meetings. We do not systematically collect and document information about the number of meetings over the year. Officers of the Department met with the Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board in June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 125

- **Topic:** Voluntary Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government will provide an additional \$13.2 million over two years to continue income management in cases of child neglect and where the individual chooses to voluntarily have his or her income managed. Can the Department provide figures on the number of recipients who have volunteered to be income managed during 2008-09?

Answer:

During 2008-2009, 292 income support recipients volunteered for Voluntary Income Management.

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 127

- **Topic:** Income Support

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many people are currently accessing the Financial Counselling program and what types of services are these clients utilising?

Can the Department provide information concerning how many people have been helped by the payments made through this program for each year of its operation?

Answer:

The first full year of data for Commonwealth Financial Counselling (CFC) is available for 2000-2001 in which 12,000 people received assistance. Since then CFC client numbers have been published each year in the Department's Annual Report.

Financial Counsellors funded through CFC services help people in financial difficulty resolve their financial problems and make informed choices through direct casework (e.g. provision of advice and information, advocacy and/or negotiation with creditors); referral to other support services and community education.

In the period 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008, 6,250 people received casework assistance from a CFC service and a further 200 community education sessions were delivered to around 1500 people. Full year data for 2008-09 is not yet available.

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Output Group: 3

Question No: 121

- **Topic:** Victorian Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA 121

Senator Fifield asked:

Has the Attorney-General's Department advised why only five out of the 68 have been approved?

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department has provided the following answer:

At 25 August 2009

- 92 applications had been received
- 17 applications have been paid totalling \$1,960,800
- 22 applications have been declined
- 28 applications are currently being assessed
- 25 applications have been withdrawn

Ineligibility

The reasons for which the 22 applications were declined were because they did not meet one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

- the majority of their income is derived from the business;
- they substantially devote their time and capital to the conduct of the business;
- they suffered losses or damage from the physical impact of the bushfire;
- they have reasonable prospects of trading profitably in the future;
- they have the capacity to service borrowings;
- they are in need of concessional finance having regard for insurance recoveries and any other financial resources available to them.

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Output Group: 3

Question No: 122

- **Topic:** Victorian Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA 121-122

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide the locations of the recovery centres and community service hubs currently operating?

Answer:

At 26 August 2009, Recovery Centres / Community Service Hubs were operating in 13 locations across Victoria's bushfire affected areas.

A full list of locations can be found on the Victorian Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/recovery-centres or by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667.

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Output Group: 3

Question No: 123

- **Topic:** Victorian Bushfires

Hansard Page: CA 123-124

Senator Fifield asked:

Is it possible to get a breakdown of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government recently announced round of grants by shire?

Answer:

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has provided the following answer:

Details of funding to the Victorian bushfire affected local government areas (Alpine Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, City of Greater Bendigo, Cardinia Shire Council, Cardinia Shire Council, City of Casey, Corangamite Shire Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Indigo Shire Council, Knox City Council, LaTrobe City Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Yarra Ranges Shire Council, Rural City of Wangaratta, Wellington Shire Council, City of Whittlesea, West Wimmera Shire Council) under the \$250 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program are available on the Economic Stimulus website www.infrastructure.gov.au/esp/files/CIP_250m.pdf

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Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 126

- **Topic:** Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What proportion of people participating in income management trials are at the higher end of the quarantining level (i.e. those who are having up to 70 per cent of their income support directed to life necessities)? Can the Department provide the current number of people at this higher end?

Answer:

We understand the question related to the WA CPSIM & VIM trial. At 4 September 2009, all participants were having 70 per cent of their income support payments income managed (i.e. directed to life necessities). VIM customers are able to request a 20 per cent unrestricted cash payment, which would reduce their income managed funds to 50 per cent of their total income support payment.

At 4 September 2009, there were 248 CPSIM and VIM customers.

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T4

Question from Senator Boyce

What were the increases in the maximum age pension rate at 20 September 2008 and 20 March 2009?

Answer

20 September 2008 increases

Increase in maximum single rate: \$15.30 per fortnight

Increase in maximum partnered rate: \$12.70 per fortnight

20 March 2009 increases

Increase in maximum single rate: \$7.70 per fortnight

Increase in maximum partnered rate: \$6.40 per fortnight

Total increase

Maximum single rate: \$23.00 per fortnight

Maximum partnered rate: \$19.10 per fortnight

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 129 (Amended)

- **Topic:** Economic Security Strategy Payments

Hansard Page: CA4

Senator Boyce asked:

Did any recipients of the Economic Security Strategy payments return the money?

Answer:

Yes. A number of Economic Security Strategy payments were returned to Centrelink.

Centrelink have advised that a total of 54 payments were returned.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 130

- **Topic:** Economic Security Strategy payments

Hansard Page: CA4

Senator Boyce asked:

What percentage of age pensioners received the payment?

Answer:

Around 99.5 per cent of age pensioners received an Economic Security Strategy payment.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 131

- **Topic:** Economic Security Strategy payments

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the timeframe and cost involved in excluding overseas recipients?

Answer:

As was noted in the hearing, the Department is unable to answer this question in relation to the Economic Security Strategy payments. As a general proposition, Centrelink is usually able to make any required change to the payment system within a few months of receiving the policy parameters and legislative intention for payments from the Department. Actual timing and costs depend on the particular circumstances of the change in question.

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Outcome Number: 4 and 5

Question No: 132

- **Topic:** ESS Payments and Overseas Recipients

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Moore asked:

How many pensioners living outside Australia permanently were paid the ESS bonus?

Answer:

Centrelink has advised that approximately 58,000 pensioners, who were paid the ESS bonus, were identified as living outside Australia permanently.

A total of 68,812 pensioners received the ESS bonus overseas, but only 58,000 of these pensioners were identified as living outside Australia permanently, the remainder were overseas temporarily.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 134

- **Topic:** Pension Review

Hansard Page: CA8

Senator Boyce asked:

Of the 30 recommendations, how many were picked up and where in the Budget?

Answer:

The Pension Review made thirty findings in regard to the pension system. These findings include principles, observations regarding the current operation of the pension system, areas where further work needs to be undertaken, as well as suggested reform directions.

The measures in the Secure and Sustainable Pension Reform package relating to the level of support for single and couple pensioners, indexation, the simplification of payments and flexibility, targeting, Age Pension age and work incentives for those over Age Pension age directly or indirectly relate to issues identified in the findings of the Pension Review. This accounts for twenty of the thirty findings of the Pension Review.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 135

- **Topic:** Pension Increase

Hansard Page: CA10

Senators Boyce asked:

I really would like something that sets out the \$10.5 billion you have mentioned. That is for the singles base rate and the pension supplements. How do we get to \$14.2 billion? What is in it?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA45 of Hansard on 2 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 136

- **Topic:** Maximum Age Pension Rates

Hansard Page: CA12

Senators Boyce asked:

What were the increases in the maximum age pension rate at 20 September 2008 and 20 March 2009?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T4.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 137

- **Topic:** Legislative Change

Hansard Page: CA14-15

Senators Boyce asked:

How are single parents being singled out and how is it being done and where is it up to?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA34-35 of Hansard on 2 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 140

- **Topic:** Research Funding

Hansard Page: CA17

Senators Boyce asked:

What arrangements are in place with the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA45 of Hansard on 2 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 143

- **Topic:** Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

Hansard Page: CA35

Senator Adams asked:

What is the impact of the costs against each pension type?

Answer:

For pension payments administered by FaHCSIA, the answer is:

FaHCSIA Pension Payments	(\$m)		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Age Pension	336.032	988.011	1,030.603
Carer Payment	29.811	91.851	100.416
Disability Support Pension	125.669	356.639	358.369
Wife Pension (Age)	1.123	2.847	2.573
Wife Pension (DSP)	1.191	2.681	2.137
Widow B Pension	0.099	0.268	0.257
Total	493.925	1,442.297	1,494.355

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 144

- **Topic:** Age Pension Appropriation

Hansard Page: CA36

Senator Adams asked:

Are the GST Supplement and Pharmaceutical Allowance combined into the Age Pension Appropriation?

Answer:

GST Supplement and Pharmaceutical Allowance paid to age pensioners are included in Age Pension expenditure reporting and estimates. From 20 September 2009 the value of GST Supplement and Pharmaceutical Allowance will be included in the new Pension Supplement. Estimated expenditure on the Pension Supplement paid to age pensioners is included in Age Pension expenditure estimates for 2009-10 and subsequent years.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 145

- **Topic:** National Reciprocal Transport Agreement
- **Hansard Page:** CA42

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you confirm whether QLD and WA signed the partnership agreement?

Answer:

All State and Territory Governments have now signed the *National Partnership on Certain Concessions for Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders*.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 146

- **Topic:** Eligibility for the Seniors Card

Hansard Page: CA44

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide the committee with a table of the eligibility for each state?

Answer:

State/Territory	Age	Work
New South Wales	60 years & over	No more than 20 hrs/wk
Victoria	60 years & over	No more than 35 hrs/wk
Queensland	65 years & over (see note 1)	Less than 35 hrs/wk
South Australia	60 years & over	Less than 20 hrs/wk
Western Australia	60 years & over	No more than 20 hrs/wk
South Australia	60 years & over	No more than 20 hrs/wk
Northern Territory	60 years & over	No limit
Tasmania	60 years & over	No more than 20 hrs/wk
Australian Capital Territory	60 years & over	No more than 20 hrs/wk

Source: State and Territory Government Seniors Card websites.

Notes:

1. Certain residents of Queensland aged 60-64 who are also in receipt of a Commonwealth concession card (including PCC, HCC, CSHC or Veterans' Gold, White or Orange cards) are also entitled to apply for the Queensland Seniors Card.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 148

- **Topic:** Commonwealth Seniors Health Card numbers

Hansard Page: CA48

Senator Boyce asked:

- How many card holders have there been for the last 3 years and what are the projections for the next 2 years?

Answer:

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Numbers – Actuals for 2005-06 to 2007-08

Year	Number
2005-06 (actual) (1)	310,633
2006-07 (actual) (1)	318,278
2007-08 (actual) (1)	278,378
2008-09 (estimate) (2)	279,564

(1) Source: Figures from FaHCSIA Annual Reports for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08

(2) Estimate for 2008-09. Forecast figures of Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders for 2009-10 are not publicly available.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 149

- **Topic:** Broadband for Seniors

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Adams asked:

Have the kiosks been involved with the telecentres?

Answer:

No, the Broadband for Seniors kiosks have not been directly involved with the Western Australian Telecentre Network to date.

Organisations, such as those that are part of the Telecentre Network, may apply to host a Broadband for Seniors internet kiosk and will be assessed against program eligibility criteria.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 150

- **Topic:** Broadband for Seniors Tender Documents

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Fifield asked:

Did the tender documents take into account specific computer needs eg. large keyboard, speech software, large cursors etc?

Answer:

The selection criteria in the Broadband for Seniors tender documentation requested applicants to describe the type of equipment that could be provided in a standard internet kiosk.

Where an applicant addressed the knowledge of, or the ability to provide, special needs equipment, they were rated highly.

NEC and its consortium partners are providing chairs, desks and large screen computers for each kiosk site. The standard desks allow for wheelchair access. Any specific needs for computer equipment such as specialised keyboards will be monitored on a needs basis, by the Department.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 152

- **Topic:** Key Performance Indicator

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

A Key Performance Indicator for the Department this year is that 2.1 million clients will be assisted with support for the aged. Can the Department provide a figure on how many clients have been serviced to date in 2009-10?

Answer:

This question is interpreted to be in regard to the 2008-09 financial year, because it refers to a Key Performance Indicator for the 2008-09 financial year, and because the 2009-10 financial year had not commenced when the question was asked. At March 2009 there were 2,095,591 age pensioners. This number does not include people who received Age Pension after the commencement of the 2008-09 financial year but who were not receiving Age Pension at March 2009.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 153

- **Topic:** Pension Reform

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Pensioners with private incomes above \$3588 for singles and \$6240 for couples currently have their pension payments reduced by 40 cents for every extra dollar earned. This will rise to 50 cents on September 20 2009. Can the Department provide figures of how many people currently earn over these amounts each week and receive a part-pension payment? How will these figures change after September 2009?

Answer:

At March 2009, approximately 313,000 single rate pensioners and 447,000 couple rate pensioners received private incomes above \$3588 for singles and \$6240 for couples.

The Secure and Sustainable Pension Reform transitional arrangements mean that all current part rate pensioners at 20 September will continue to receive their current pension entitlements plus a minimum increase of \$10.14 per week for singles and couples combined.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 154

- **Topic:** Pension Reform

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the current average part-pension payment for a single earning over \$3588 and couples earning over \$6240?

Answer:

The current average part-pension payment for a single with private income over \$3588 per annum is \$430 per fortnight, while for couples with private income over \$6240 per annum, is \$346 per fortnight each.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 155

- **Topic:** Pension Reform

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department tell us how many Australians will stop receiving a pension payment from September 20 2009 because they will be earning more than the new cut-off rates?

Answer:

No Australians will stop receiving a pension payment from 20 September 2009. Existing pensioners earning more than the new cut-off rates will be protected under transitional arrangements.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 156

- **Topic:** Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: Written & CA46-47, 2/6

Senators Boyce & Fifield asked:

Did the Department model how much savings would have been generated had the Government continued its plans to include gross tax-free superannuation pension income in the adjusted taxable income test for holding a Seniors Health Card?

Can the Department provide figures of the savings that would have occurred for each year between 2009-10 and 2012-13 if these changes occurred?

Answer:

Yes. The savings would have been:

Total	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
\$120.9m	\$24.6m	\$28.0m	\$33.1m	\$35.2m

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 157

- **Topic:** Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government will continue its plans to include income that has been salary sacrificed to superannuation in the income assessment. Can the Department provide the figures of the savings generated by including income that has been salary sacrificed in the income for each year between the years 2009-10 and 2012-13?

Answer:

Yes. Savings are expected to be:

Total	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	\$9.563m	\$11.410m	\$13.336m	\$14.182m

Figures are as published in the Department's Portfolio Budget Statements.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 331

- **Topic:** Increase in Retirement Age

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What consultation was done on the decision to increase the retirement age by 2 years? Was consultation done in relation to the reaction of people who will have to work for an extra two years?

Answer:

There was an extensive consultation process to inform the work of the Pension Review. Public consultations were held during August and September 2008 in each capital city and in Newcastle, Rockhampton and Wangaratta. Over 1,800 written submissions were received during the submission process which closed on 26 September 2008.

A number of submissions to the review from various organisations cited the importance of raising the age pension age in order to address population ageing issues.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 332

- **Topic:** Increase in Retirement Age

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Is there a reason why the Harmer Pension Review report was not released prior to the Budget to enable discussion of an increase in the pension age?

Answer:

The release of the report was a matter for the Government.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 333

- **Topic:** Increase in Retirement Age

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Are you aware that for many industries, including some trades, the current age of 65 is often too old due to the wear and tear on their bodies?

If so, what is being done to ensure these trades are supported leading up to retirement age?

Answer:

The Government has in place a range of projects offering training and re-skilling opportunities to allow people to move from physically demanding work to less arduous positions.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is the agency with primary responsibility for these programs.

The changes to the Age Pension age do not commence until 2017, and will not be fully in place until 2023. This gives people in the workforce at least eight years to start planning for these changes.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 336

- **Topic:** Baby Boomers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Are you aware that due to many baby boomers retiring in the next 5-10 years, it will be the younger generations who will have to work the extra time and support an ageing population? Do you have an idea of the numbers of baby boomers who will be retiring in the next 5-10 years?

Answer:

Baby boomers are generally taken to be persons born from 1946 to 1965. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Baby boomers will begin reaching pension age in 2010. (In 2010, the pension age for women will be 64 and for men it will be 65). The last of the baby boomers will reach pension age in 2032, by which time the pension age will be 67 for men and women.

Using Australian Bureau of Statistics' projections, around 937,000 baby boomers will reach pension age by 2014 and 1,006,000 additional baby boomers will reach pension age by 2019.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 337

- **Topic:** Baby boomers and Budget blowout

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What programs will be introduced to support these generations as they work to pay off the budget blowout due to the increase of boomers from work to pensions?

Answer:

In the 2009-10 Budget papers, the Government sets out its fiscal strategy for returning the Budget to surplus by 2015-16.

In particular, the Budget papers show that a key feature of the Government's pension reform package is the introduction of measures to improve the long term sustainability of the pension system, such as the change to pension age and changes to the pension income test. These and other changes mean that, despite the ageing of the population and the significant increase in assistance provided under the reform package, the Government will offset the cost of pension reform by 2021-22.

Please also refer to Question on Notice number 336.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 128

- **Topic:** Economic Security Strategy payments

Hansard Page: CA3

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide a table of the total numbers by payment?

Answer:

The table below provides the total number of Economic Security Strategy payments made, by payment type, for pensioners, carers and seniors. The figures do not include payments made for families.

Payment Type	Partnered	Single	Total	Total Cost \$M
Age Pension	1,136,784	919,596	2,056,380	2,481
Disability Support Pension	242,938	486,626	729,564	937
Carer Payment	87,710	49,425	137,135	161
Carer Allowance	318,359	127,301	445,660	478
Wife Pension	29,613	443	30,056	32
Widow B Pension	<20	668	668	1
Bereavement Allowance	<20	203	203	0
Seniors Health Card	198,516	82,491	281,007	324
Special Benefit	2,499	1,049	3,548	4
Parenting Payment Partnered	<20	<20	<20	0
Parenting Payment Single	<20	64	64	0
Partner Allowance	35,323	152	35,475	37
Widow Allowance	<20	38,140	38,144	53
Abstudy/Other	<20	<20	<20	0
Austudy	<20	<20	<20	0
(Veterans' Affairs)	not avail.	not avail.	325,785	407
TOTAL	2,051,762	1,706,170	4,083,717	4,915

Figures are as at March 2009

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 139

- **Topic:** Brotherhood of St Laurence

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Boyce asked:

If and what funding was provided?

Answer:

The only current funding provided by FaHCSIA to The Brotherhood of St Laurence is \$196,887 through GAPCO Employment Services. This funding was provided under the Family Relationship Services Program's Humanitarian Entrants activity.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 141

- **Topic:** Pension Bonus Scheme

Hansard Page: CA19

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the average amount of time that people deferred claiming the age pension by using the bonus?

Answer:

Based on Centrelink customer data, the average deferral period is 3.3 years.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 133

- **Topic:** ESS Payments and Overseas Recipients

Hansard Page: CA7

Senator Boyce asked:

Where do these pensioners who receive the bonuses overseas live (the numbers and list of countries)? How much went to each country?

Answer:

Centrelink has advised a total of 68,812 pensioners, who were overseas either permanently or long-term, received the ESS payment. The information in the table below has been provided by Centrelink.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of Customers</i>	<i>Amount Paid (A\$)</i>
ITALY	16846	\$19,360,450
UNSPECIFIED ¹	11816	\$14,178,800
GREECE	6078	\$7,243,150
NEW ZEALAND	5684	\$6,970,850
SPAIN	2645	\$3,090,800
NETHERLANDS	2488	\$2,985,800
MALTA	2431	\$2,791,600
UNITED KINGDOM	2388	\$3,110,750
CROATIA	2180	\$2,583,200
GERMANY	1649	\$1,984,000
AUSTRALIA ²	1633	\$2,000,550
TURKEY	1199	\$1,394,050
CANADA	980	\$1,177,200
PORTUGAL	967	\$1,108,800
UNITED STATES	938	\$1,159,950
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO	896	\$1,098,850
CYPRUS	818	\$954,800
MACEDONIA	766	\$911,300
AUSTRIA	739	\$883,050
LEBANON	526	\$656,450
CHILE	414	\$520,750
IRELAND	381	\$479,150

¹ Centrelink cannot identify which countries these pensioners were in at the time of the ESS payment.

² Includes pensioners who were overseas but who have elected to continue to receive their payments into Australian bank accounts.

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POLAND	336	\$443,050
PHILIPPINES	334	\$421,700
HUNGARY	293	\$375,200
THAILAND	247	\$323,350
SLOVENIA	240	\$291,200
URUGUAY	217	\$272,300
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	204	\$254,550
OTHER	168	\$224,700
ARGENTINA	160	\$201,750
DENMARK	144	\$178,450
SERBIA	136	\$172,100
FRANCE	121	\$153,950
CZECH REPUBLIC	100	\$130,150
EGYPT	97	\$121,700
INDIA	93	\$124,950
ISRAEL	89	\$116,400
CHINA	85	\$111,450
INDONESIA	77	\$100,350
BELGIUM	63	\$75,950
ROMANIA	60	\$81,200
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	56	\$69,550
HONG KONG	53	\$66,300
MALAYSIA	50	\$70,600
VIETNAM	48	\$65,150
FINLAND	46	\$59,850
COLOMBIA	40	\$51,450
BRAZIL	39	\$51,400
SWITZERLAND	38	\$48,550
NORWAY	36	\$47,800
SOUTH AFRICA	34	\$48,850
SLOVAKIA	33	\$46,650
SRI LANKA	32	\$43,900
BULGARIA	28	\$36,050
LITHUANIA	26	\$33,600
SWEDEN	26	\$33,850
FIJI	25	\$33,750
SINGAPORE	25	\$31,550
JAPAN	24	\$36,020
EL SALVADOR	24	\$30,800
ECUADOR	23	\$29,050
MAURITIUS	22	\$27,600

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LATVIA	21	\$29,050
IRAN	19	\$24,850
NORFOLK ISLAND	18	\$22,050
PERU	17	\$22,700
JORDAN	16	\$19,400
UKRAINE	15	\$21,000
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	13	\$21,800
PAKISTAN	13	\$19,500
TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA	13	\$18,500
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	11	\$18,950
ESTONIA	11	\$14,350
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	11	\$13,250
SAMOA	11	\$13,700
BANGLADESH	10	\$14,950
NEW CALEDONIA	10	\$11,550
COSTA RICA	8	\$9,800
COOK ISLANDS	7	\$8,400
MEXICO	7	\$9,100
SEYCHELLES	7	\$9,800
TONGA	7	\$7,300
PARAGUAY	6	\$7,000
VANUATU	6	\$9,500
KENYA	5	\$7,250
CAMBODIA	5	\$6,650
MOROCCO	5	\$6,300
MONTENEGRO	5	\$5,950
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	5	\$6,650
ALBANIA	4	\$4,900
LAOS	4	\$5,600
NEPAL	4	\$5,250
ARMENIA	3	\$4,200
BOLIVIA	3	\$3,850
IRAQ	3	\$9,400
SAUDI ARABIA	3	\$5,800
EAST TIMOR	3	\$3,850
BARBADOS	2	\$2,800
BURKINA FASO	2	\$2,100
BURMA	2	\$2,450
ALGERIA	2	\$2,800
ETHIOPIA	2	\$2,800
GHANA	2	\$2,800

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ICELAND	2	\$2,800
JAMAICA	2	\$2,800
KAZAKSTAN	2	\$2,800
MALI	2	\$2,100
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2	\$2,450
SOMALIA	2	\$4,400
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	2	\$2,800
UGANDA	2	\$2,450
AFGHANISTAN	1	\$1,000
ARUBA	1	\$1,400
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1	\$1,400
CUBA	1	\$1,050
DJIBOUTI	1	\$1,050
GABON	1	\$1,000
KIRIBATI	1	\$1,400
NORTH KOREA	1	\$1,400
KUWAIT	1	\$2,000
MONACO	1	\$1,050
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	1	\$1,400
MADAGASCAR	1	\$1,050
MYANMAR	1	\$1,050
MALDIVES	1	\$1,400
MALAWI	1	\$3,000
NAMIBIA	1	\$1,400
NIGERIA	1	\$2,000
PANAMA	1	\$1,400
FRENCH POLYNESIA	1	\$1,400
TUNISIA	1	\$1,400
ZIMBABWE	1	\$1,000
TOTAL	68812	\$82,270,820

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 151

- **Topic:** Kiosks

Hansard Page: CA 50

Senator Boyce asked:

Once the agreements are finalised for the 146 kiosks, can the locations be provided? If so, can they be provided by electorate?

Answer:

As Broadband for Seniors' internet kiosks come on line, details will be listed on the NEC Broadband for Seniors website <http://www.necseniors.net.au/>.

The website provides the location of kiosks. The website will enable users to search for a location by postcode, which will provide a link to the organisation's name and physical address.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 138

- **Topic:** New Pension System

Hansard Page: CA17

Senator Boyce asked:

Are you able to tell me how much of that \$1.2 billion comes from existing pensioners and how much from new pensioners over five years?

Answer:

The savings were based on an estimate of the effect of the new means-testing rules on the total cost of pension payment increases. That is, they represent the difference between the initial estimated cost of the package and what the total costs would have been if all single-rate pensioners had received a \$30 increase in their base rate of payment without new means-testing rules. There is no reduction in the pre 20 September entitlement for any existing pensioner in these figures.

The estimated \$1.2 billion in savings over the forward estimates came from a mix of:

- a. existing part-rate pensioners who receive more than \$10.14 but less than the full \$30 per week increase in the maximum base single rate; and
- b. new part-rate pensioners who will receive less than the full \$30 increase in the maximum base single rate and will not benefit from the transitional provisions.

Overall, the split of estimated savings is 70% existing and 30 % new part-rate customers.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 147

- **Topic:** CSHC and the Adjusted Taxable Income Test

Hansard Page: CA47

Senator Fifield asked:

What was the governments' rationale for the change?

Answer:

The Government acknowledges the impact of the global recession on the incomes of self-funded retirees so, as part of the 2009-10 Budget, the Government decided not to proceed with the proposal to include gross tax-free superannuation pension income in the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card income test. This decision gives assurance to self-funded retirees as they plan for the future.

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Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 142

- **Topic:** Age Pension

Hansard Page: CA27

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you provide a breakdown for the last 5 years of how many people were on some sort of income support payment before moving onto the Age Pension, by type of payment?

Answer:

The breakdown of Age Pension commencements by receipt of previous income support payment is in the table below.

AGE PENSION COMMENCEMENTS BY RECEIPT OF PREVIOUS INCOME SUPPORT PAYMENT (19 June 2009)								
Financial Year	Total commencements	No previous income support payment	Disability Support Pension	Carer Payment	Newstart Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance	Other payments
2008-09	172,300	63.0%	19.8%	2.1%	4.9%	4.0%	3.3%	2.8%
2007-08	185,700	74.0%	14.1%	1.5%	2.7%	2.4%	1.8%	3.7%
2006-07	134,200	48.5%	24.5%	2.0%	4.5%	7.2%	4.7%	8.6%
2005-06	105,600	50.2%	25.4%	1.6%	3.1%	5.7%	3.1%	10.8%
2004-05	134,000	45.7%	24.6%	1.8%	2.5%	8.6%	3.7%	13.3%
2003-04	109,700	51.0%	22.4%	1.6%	1.5%	6.9%	2.4%	14.1%

Notes:

- * 'Commencements' are people who commenced receiving the Age Pension within the relevant financial year.
- * 'Previous income support payment' refers to those people who received another primary income support payment in the fortnight prior to commencing on the Age Pension.
- * 'No previous income support payment' refers to those people who did not receive a primary income support payment in the fortnight prior to commencing on the Age Pension. It includes people who were Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders in the fortnight prior to commencing on the Age Pension.
- * 'Other payments' include Austudy, Bereavement Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment, Farm Help Income Support, Mature Age Allowance, Parenting Payment Partnered, Parenting Payment Single, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Wife Pension and Widow B Pension.
- * 2008-09 figures are year to date (19 June 2009). Due to time lags associated with processing new Age Pension claims, the total commencements for 2008-09 is likely to increase.
- * The qualifying age for women has been rising by half a year every second year since 1995. This has resulted in a lower level of Age Pension commencements in 2003-04 and 2005-06.
- * 2007-08 was an unusual year due to the relaxation of the Assets Test taper on 20 September 2007.

SOURCE: Administrative data, (19 June 2009 - date of extraction). Changes in total numbers occur over time as records are continuously updated.

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T5

Australian Disability Parking Scheme

Commonwealth involvement in Information sessions:

Public Information Sessions:

Public Information sessions will be held in all eight capital cities and Cairns, Townsville and Alice Springs.

Stakeholder Information Sessions:

There will also be stakeholder meetings in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Mackay, Newcastle, Wollongong, Geelong, Bendigo, Traralgon, Launceston and Devonport.

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T6 YPIRAC - Breakdown of Commonwealth's Expenditure by year, by states and territories

State and Territory	Date Bilateral Signed	Total C'th\$amount	Annual Funding Split					Total Commonwealth Expenditure
		Over 5years	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010	2010-2011	30-Jun-09
NSW	20-Dec-06	\$ 40,638,871	\$ 1,332,422	\$ 4,663,477	\$ 9,326,954	\$ 12,658,009	\$ 12,658,009	\$ 15,322,853
VIC	14-Aug-06	\$ 30,126,251	\$ 987,746	\$ 3,457,111	\$ 6,914,222	\$ 9,383,586	\$ 9,383,586	\$ 11,359,079
QLD	14-Aug-06	\$ 23,866,328	\$ 782,503	\$ 2,738,759	\$ 5,477,518	\$ 7,433,774	\$ 7,433,774	\$ 8,998,780
SA	14-Aug-06	\$ 9,202,265	\$ 301,714	\$ 1,055,998	\$ 2,111,995	\$ 2,866,279	\$ 2,866,279	\$ 3,469,707
WA	25-Jan-07	\$ 12,108,871	\$ 397,012	\$ 1,389,543	\$ 2,779,085	\$ 3,771,616	\$ 3,771,615	\$ 4,565,640
TAS	16-Dec-06	\$ 2,900,649	\$ 95,103	\$ 194,166	\$ 1,031,250	\$ 676,649	\$ 903,481	\$ 1,320,519
NT	18-Oct-06	\$ 1,215,057	\$ 39,838	\$ 139,433	\$ 278,865	\$ 378,461	\$ 378,460	\$ 458,136
ACT	25-Jan-07	\$ 1,941,708	\$ 253,798	\$ 540,744	\$ 367,511	\$ 384,036	\$ 395,619	\$ 1,162,053
Total - Bilate agreements		\$ 122,000,000	\$ 4,190,136	\$ 14,179,231	\$ 28,287,400	\$ 37,552,410	\$ 37,790,823	\$ 46,656,767
Total Expenditure - 30 June 2009			\$ 4,190,136	\$ 14,179,231	-		-	

Note : Total expenditure for 2008/09 will be reconciled at the end of the financial year

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 159

- **Topic:** Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

A carer who looks after a person with no physical functions, in other words is totally dependent on 24/7 care, receives \$562 a fortnight. Is this indexed annually?

Answer:

The current rate of Carer Payment is \$569.80 per fortnight for a single person and \$475.90 for each eligible member of a couple. Carer Payment is linked to the Age Pension, and is indexed twice yearly in March and September.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 160

- **Topic:** Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

Does a carer who looks after an elderly person receive the same as a carer for a person with a disability?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 161

- **Topic:** Support services for carers in rural and regional areas

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

What type of support services are available in rural and regional areas for carers?

Answer:

Three FaHCSIA-funded respite programs which are delivered through the 55 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres are available to carers in rural and regional areas across Australia. These programs are:

1. Mental Health Respite Program
2. Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability Program
3. Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program

Counselling support is also available in rural and regional areas through FaHCSIA's Family Relationship Services for Carers.

In addition, FaHCSIA funds MyTime Peer Support Groups for carers of young children with disability around Australia. MyTime groups are located in both capital cities and regional areas; 40 per cent of MyTime groups are in non-metropolitan areas.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 168

- **Topic:** Carers

Hansard Page: CA64

Senator Fifield asked:

Has there been an increase in applications/success rates over the previous 12 months?

Answer:

There has been an increase of 9.40% in claims since 2007-08.

Grant rates for 2008-09 have not varied greatly from the previous year. The average claim to grants ratio in 2007-08 was 34% and for the 2008-09 year, average claims to grants are at 33%.

2007-08	CP Claims	CP Grants	Grant Rate
Qtr 1	37,904	12,949	34%
Qtr 2	28,982	9,865	34%
Qtr 3	24,234	8,015	33%
Qtr 4	26,984	9,346	35%
	118,104	40,175	34%
2008-09	CP Claims	CP Grants	Grant Rate
Qtr 1	34,519	11,797	34%
Qtr 2	32,482	10,350	32%
Qtr 3	30,054	9,538	32%
Qtr 4	32,145	10,920	34%
	129,200	42,605	33%

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 171

- **Topic:** Autism Spectrum Disorders Early Intervention Panel Providers

Hansard Page: CA71

Senator Fifield asked:

What are the locations of the 417 organisations?
Could you also provide a breakdown as to the types of services, whether they are multidisciplinary providers or consortiums?

Answer:

As at 2 June 2009, there were 417 delivery locations for the approved organisations on the Early Intervention Panel, not 417 organisations. Approved organisations can deliver services from multiple delivery locations.

The table at Attachment A is a list of the locations (State and suburb/town) of the ASD Early Intervention Panel Providers as at 25 June 2009.

Details of street addresses have not been provided as some of the locations are private homes from which the Panel Providers deliver services. Due to privacy concerns, some providers have requested these street addresses not be made public.

A break down of organisation type (ie individual multidisciplinary organisation or a consortium multidisciplinary organisation) is included at Attachment B.

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Attachment A

State	Suburb / Town	Total
ACT	Cook	1
	Woden	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
NSW	Alfords Point	1
	Artarmon	1
	Ashfield	1
	Ballina	2
	Bangalow	2
	Bangor	1
	Bankstown	1
	Bathurst	2
	Baulkam Hills	1
	Beecroft	1
	Belmore	1
	Belrose	1
	Bexley North	1
	Blacktown	3
	Blaxland	1
	Bonnyrigg	1
	Bowral	1
	Brookvale	6
	Campbelltown	1
	Caringbah	1
	Casino	1
	Chatswood	2
	Cherrybrook	1
	Clovelly	1
	Coffs Harbour	2
	Concord	1
	Condell Park	1
	Cootamundra	1
	Corrimal	1
	Croydon	2
	Dapto	1
	Dubbo	2
	East Ballina	1
East Lismore	1	
Engadine	2	
Fairfield	1	

State	Suburb / Town	Total
	Kingswood	1
	Kogarah	1
	Kurri Kurri	1
	Lakemba	1
	Lane Cove	1
	Leichhardt	1
	Leumeah	1
	Lindfield	4
	Liverpool	5
	Macksville	1
	Maquarie	
	University	1
	Marrickville	1
	Menai	1
	Miller	2
	Miranda	2
	Moree	1
	Mortdale	1
	Moss Vale	1
	Myocum	1
	Narrandera	1
	North Parramatta	1
	North Ryde	4
	North Sydney	1
	Northbridge	1
	Oatley	1
	Ocean Shores	1
	Orange	1
	Panania	1
	Peakhurst	2
	Penrith	4
	Penshurst	1
	Prairiewood	1
Prospect	1	
Putney	1	
Pymble	1	
Queanbeyan	3	
Randwick	2	
Redfern	1	
Rockdale	1	
Rosehill	1	

Forbes	2	Roselands	1
Forestville	1	Roseville	3
Frenchs Forest	2	Rossmore	1
Gladesville	1	San Souci	1
Gordon	2	Seven Hills	1
Grafton	2	Shortland	1
Granville	1	Singleton	1
Hazelbrook	1	South Grafton	1
Hobartville	1	South Penrith	2
Homebush	1	St Leonards	1
Hornsby	1	St Marys	1
Illawong	1	Suffolk Park	1
Illawong	1	Sydney	3
Katoomba	2	Tamworth	2

State	Suburb / Town	Total
NSW	Taree	1
	Terranora	1
	Terrigal	1
	Tumut	1
	Tuncurry	1
	Turrumurra	1
	Tweed Heads	1
	Upper Corindi	1
	Wagga Wagga	4
	Wahroonga	1
	Waverley	3
	Wetherill Park	1
	Woollahra	3
	Young	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
SA	Regency Park	1
	Rose Park	1
	Valley View	1
	Wayville	1
	West Hindmarsh	1
	Williamstown	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
TAS	Bellerive	1
	Deloraine	1
	Hobart	2
	Howden	1
	Huonville	1
	Launceston	2
	Margate	1
	North Hobart	1
	Old Beach	1
	Queenstown	1
	Richmond	1
	Sandy Bay	2
	West Hobart	2
	Westbury	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
QLD	Arundel	1
	Bray Park	1
	Brighton	1
	Burleigh Heads	1
	Cairns	1
	Calen	1
	Dalby	2
	Edmonton	1
	Eimeo	1
	Fortitude Valley	1
	Gaven	1
	Goondiwindi	5
	Hervey Bay	2
	Kirwan	1
	Mackay	4
	Maryborough	1
	Moorooka	1
	Nerang	1
Newmarket	1	
North		
Rockhampton	1	

State	Suburb / Town	Total
WA	Balcatta	1
	Bateman	1
	Bentley	1
	Booragoon	1
	Cloverdale	1
	Como	1
	Cunderdin	1
	Dianella	3
	East Butler	1
	East Fremantle	1
	Floreat	2
	Joondalup	4

	Paget	1
	Parkridge	1
	Parkwood	1
	Rockhamptom	1
	Southport	1
	Stanthorpe	1
	Sunnybank Hills	1
	Toowoomba	3
	Walkerston	1
	West Burleigh	1

	Kwinana	1
	Leeming	1
	Mount Lawley	1
	Nedlands	1
	Ocean Reef	1
	Osborne Park	3
	Roleystone	1
	Safety Bay	1
	Shenton Park	1
	Subiaco	2
	Tuart Hill	2
	West Leederville	1
	West Perth	1
	Woodvale	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
SA	Blackwood	1
	Magill	1
	Netley	1
	Parafield	
	Gardens	1
	Port Augusta	2
	Prospect	1

State	Suburb / Town	Total
VIC	Albanvale	1
	Altona North	1
	Armadale	1
	Ascot Vale	1
	Ashburton	1
	Ashwood	2
	Aspendale	1
	Bairnsdale	1
	Ballarat	2
	Balwyn	1
	Bayswater	1
	Bayswater North	1
	Beaumaris	3
	Benalla	1
	Bendigo	3
	Bentleigh	3
	Berwick	1
	Blackburn South	2
	Box Hill	2
	Box Hill South	1
	Brighton	4
	Broadmeadows	2
	Brooklyn	1
	Brunswick	2
	Brunswick	1
	Brunswick West	1
	Bundoora	1
	Camberwell	5
	Canterbury	1
	Caroline Springs	1
	Caulfield South	1
	Clayton	3

State	Suburb / Town	Total
	Highett	1
	Hoppers Crossing	2
	Horsham	1
	Kangaroo Flat	1
	Keilor Downs	1
	Kensington	1
	Kew	2
	Kialla	1
	Mansfield	2
	Maribyrnong	1
	Melbourne	1
	Mildura	4
	Mill Park	1
	Mitcham	2
	Mont Albert	2
	Moorabbin	1
	Mornington	12
	Morwell	1
	Mount Eliza	1
	Mt. Eliza	1
	Narre Warren	2
	Newton	1
	Noble Park	2
	North Carlton	2
	Ormond	1
	Pakenham	2
	Parkdale	1
	Pascoe Vale	2
	Portland	1
	Richmond	1
	Ringwood	1
	Ringwood East	1

Coburg	1
Drouin	1
East Brunswick	2
Endeavour Hills	1
Essendon	1
Essendon	1
Ferntree Gully	1
Frankston North	3
Geelong	1
Geelong	1
Geelong West	1
Gladstone Park	1
Glen Iris	1
Glen Waverley	1
Glenroy	4
Greensborough	4
Grovedale	1
Hamilton	1
Hastings	2
Healesville	1
Heatherton	1
Heidelberg	1
Heidelberg	
Heights	2

Rosebud	1
Seymour	1
Somerville	1
South Caulfield	1
Springvale	2
Surrey Hills	1
Swan Hill	1
The Patch	1
Thornbury	1
Tootgarook	1
Trafalgar	1
Wangaratta	2
Wantirna	1
Warragul	2
Warrnambool	1
Waterways	1
Windsor	1
Wodonga	1
Wonthaggi	1
Woodend	1

Attachment B

State	Org Type	Trading Name
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Accent Rehabilitation Service <i>Talking Heads Speech Pathology</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Annie's Centre Pty Ltd
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	AMR Therapy Centre Pty Ltd <i>Sydney Child Development Centre</i> <i>QUICKSTEPZ: Occupational Therapy</i> <i>Opening Doors Occupational Therapy</i> <i>North Psych Roseville</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Aspire Early Intervention Pty Ltd <i>Handy Kids Occupational Therapy</i> <i>Speak-a-boo! Speech Pathology</i> <i>Rachael McGregor</i> <i>Katherine Wassef Santiago</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Autism Connections Incorporated <i>Family Connections Sydney Woodward</i> <i>Family Connections Sydney Ponce</i> <i>Attune Relate Connect</i> <i>Autism Intervention Services</i> <i>Concepts Psychological Consultants</i> <i>Northern Sydney Autism Centre</i> <i>Natalie Stone Speech Pathologist</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)
NSW	Individual Organisation	Bathurst Early Childhood Intervention Service
NSW	Individual Organisation	Bridges for Learning
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Byron Shire Early Childhood Intervention Service <i>Ballina Early Intervention</i> <i>Emily Armstrong - Speech Pathologist</i> <i>Claudia Rueckher - Occupational Therapist</i> <i>Elizabeth Brownlie - Speech Pathologist</i> <i>Kathryn Daniels - Speech Pathologist</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Center for Autism & Related Disorders (C.A.R.D.)
NSW	Individual Organisation	Child First
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Click Speech & Occupational Therapy <i>Spectrum Educational Consulting</i> <i>Taryn Kessler</i> <i>Sunflower Austim Consulting Services</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Community Programs Incorporated <i>Tracey Ellaby Speech and Language Pathologist</i> <i>Jenny Carter-Swain</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Connect Child & Family Services Inc <i>Belinda Hill & Associates Speech Pathologists</i> <i>Skills for Kids</i> <i>Chatterbox Speech Pathology</i> <i>Medcalf and Wolf Speech Pathology Service</i> <i>Julie Basle</i> <i>Lynette Mason</i> <i>Peta Walzak</i> <i>Mobile Paediatric Occupational Therapy</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Connect Therapy <i>Lauren Cleary</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Disability Services Australia
NSW	Individual Organisation	Early Childhood Intervention Program Coffs Harbour
NSW	Individual Organisation	Early Education Inc
NSW	Individual Organisation	House With No Steps Western NSW
NSW	Individual Organisation	Hunter Prelude Early Childhood Intervention Centre
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	John Blythe Child Psychology <i>Blacktown Speech Pathology</i> <i>OT For Kids</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre

NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Kids First (Children's Services) <i>Occupational Therapy for Kids</i> <i>Psych Logic</i> <i>Carissa Louwen - Sydney Speech Pathology</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Kids World: Paediatric Occupational Therapy Pty Ltd <i>Express Yourself Speech Pathology Pty Ltd</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Koorana Child and Family Centre
NSW	Individual Organisation	Kurrajong Early Intervention Service
NSW	Individual Organisation	Learning Links
NSW	Individual Organisation	Lifestart Co-operative Limited
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Lindfield Speech Pathology and Learning Centre <i>Rebecca Dunn Psychologist</i> <i>Dr Shan Ong</i> <i>Occupational Therapy Helping Children</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Lizard Children's Centre Pty Ltd
NSW	Individual Organisation	Manning & Great Lakes Early Intervention Inc
NSW	Individual Organisation	Mission Australia
NSW	Individual Organisation	Nambucca Valley Children's Group Inc.
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Neurocognitive Centre <i>Kickstart Kids Therapy</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Northcott Disability Services
NSW	Individual Organisation	Orana Early Childhood Intervention
NSW	Individual Organisation	Orange District Early Education Program
NSW	Individual Organisation	Parks Clinic
NSW	Individual Organisation	Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Inc
NSW	Individual Organisation	Psychmatters
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group <i>Full Circle Psychology Services</i> <i>Sheila Norman Childrens Occupational Therapist</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Quirky Kid
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	SDN Children's Services <i>Wayne Zahra</i> <i>The Sensory Gym</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Sensational Kids OT <i>Southern Sydney Speech, Language & Learning Clinic</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	St Anthony's Family Care <i>STaR Inclusive Early Childhood Association Inc.</i> <i>Heather Craven</i> <i>Easing into Academics (EASIA)</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	STaR Association <i>Autism Central</i> <i>Easing into Academics (EASIA)</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	Stepping Stones Early Learning Ltd
NSW	Individual Organisation	Summerland Early Intervention Programme
NSW	Individual Organisation	Sydney Paediatrics
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Sylvanvale Foundation <i>Wellbeing Clinic</i> <i>Heathdene Preschool</i>
NSW	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Talking in Steps Pty Ltd <i>Handy Kids Occupational Therapy</i>
NSW	Individual Organisation	The Infants' Home Child and Family Services
NSW	Individual Organisation	Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Service Inc
NSW	Individual Organisation	Young and District Early Intervention

QLD	Individual Organisation	AEIOU - for children with autism
QLD	Individual Organisation	Autism Queensland
QLD	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Blue Care Mackay Galaxy Project <i>Occumax</i> <i>Linda Sandes Speech Pathologist</i> <i>Speech Pathology Mackay</i> <i>Literacy and Speech Language Pathology Services</i> <i>Tatiana Keefer Speech Pathology</i> <i>Mackay Psychological Services</i>
QLD	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Dr Pamela Seaton & Associates <i>Liz Forbes Occupational Therapy</i> <i>Nina Valentine</i> <i>Talkabout Speech Pathology</i> <i>Melissa Peach</i>
QLD	Individual Organisation	Granite Belt Support Services Inc
QLD	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Little Souls Taking Big Steps <i>Mary Hughes Speech Pathology</i> <i>Adele Suda</i>
QLD	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Shane McColl Occupational Therapy Services <i>Jennifer Morgan Speech Pathologist</i>
QLD	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Speech Language Solutions <i>Fraser Coast OT for Kids</i> <i>Insight Clinical Psychology and Counselling</i>
SA	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Autism SA <i>Headstart Intervention Services</i>
SA	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Key Early Years Pty Ltd <i>Anna Marion Pearce - Optimal Lifestyle Network</i> <i>Dyanna Smith-McCue - Optimal Lifestyle Network</i>
SA	Individual Organisation	Novita Childrens' Services
SA	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Spencer Gulf Paediatric Care Pty Ltd <i>DK Psychology</i>
SA	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Talk Speech Pathology, Training & Resources Pty Ltd <i>Write Interventions</i> <i>Karen Jones</i>
TAS	Individual Organisation	Giant Steps Tasmania
TAS	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Speech Pathology Tasmania <i>Independent kids</i> <i>Sari O'Meagher</i> <i>Sherry Edwards</i>
TAS	Individual Organisation	St Giles Society Inc
TAS	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	TLC Psychology Pty Ltd <i>Hobart Speech Pathology service</i> <i>Michelle Nissen</i> <i>Katrina Bock</i> <i>Independent Kids</i>

WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	AES Therapy, Learning & Communication - North Corene Wainstein
WA	Individual Organisation	Autism Association of Western Australia (Inc).
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Therapy, Learning & Communication - North Therapy, Learning & Communication-Central Elizabeth Terry Catherine Greenway Contextual Psychology Services
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Friends of Autism Perth Integrated Health Clinic
WA	Individual Organisation	ISADD
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Kathy Ziatas Speech Pathology (Is for Autism) Skillbuilders
WA	Individual Organisation	Kids Are Kids! Therapy & Education Centre Inc
WA	Individual Organisation	Learn Australia Pty Ltd
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Learning Tree Therapy Centre Ann Nunn Speech and Language Pathology Service Sensory Connections Occupational Therapy Services
WA	Individual Organisation	Next Challenge
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Step Ahead Speech, Language and Literacy Services Pty Ltd Wendy J Britten Pty Ltd Corene Wainstein
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Stirling Speech Pathology and Allied Services Dr Dawn Barrett Autism Relationship Communication & Development Service
WA	Individual Organisation	Therapy Focus
WA	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Therapy, Learning & Communication - North Elizabeth Terry Catherine Greenway Contextual Psychology Services
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	A Spectrum of Psychological Services Kasia Kiernakowski Christina Fersterer Maria Kouspos
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	ABA Materials Pty Ltd Spring into Action Speak.Learn.Communicate
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member	Abacus Learning Centre Merae Atkin Speech Concepts
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Autism Action Jumpstart
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member Consortium Member	Autism Partnership Pty Ltd Therapy Matters Kids & Co. Spectrum Speech Pathology Services Kids Therapy Network Pty Ltd
VIC	Individual Organisation	Bendigo Community Health Services Inc
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency Consortium Member	Beyond Autism Caths Children & Adolescent Therapy Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Biala Peninsula Inc.
VIC	Individual Organisation	Broad Insight Group Inc
VIC	Individual Organisation	Chatterbox Autism Therapy Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Clear Messages Pty Ltd

VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Connect and Relate for Autism Inc <i>Renee Meyer</i> <i>Connecting Autism- Relationship Development</i> <i>ASD Life Quality Connections</i> <i>Reliez Autism Services</i> <i>Autism Relationship & Comm. Development Service</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Creative Steps Pty Ltd
VIC	Individual Organisation	E.M Barber and D Proudfoot
VIC	Individual Organisation	Eastern Access Community Health Inc
VIC	Individual Organisation	Education Program for Infants and Children Inc
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Engaging Children Pty Ltd <i>Annette Mutimer</i> <i>Nicole Denton</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Faculty of Education, Monash University
VIC	Individual Organisation	Gateways Support Services Inc
VIC	Individual Organisation	Illoura Early Childhood Intervention Services Inc
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Integrated Education & Communication <i>Speech4Kids Pty Ltd</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Irabina Childhood Autism Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Kalparrin
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Leaps & Bounds Specialist Centre <i>Smiles-All-Round</i>
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Learning for Life Autism Centre <i>Spectrum Speech Pathology Services</i> <i>Autism Behavioural Intervention Association</i> <i>Vic ABA Providers</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Lewis & Lewis Australia Pty Ltd
VIC	Individual Organisation	Mallee Family Care Mildura Early Intervention Service
VIC	Individual Organisation	Mansfield Autism Statewide Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Melbourne Citymission Inc
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Melbourne Occupational Therapy Associates <i>Northern Speech Pathology</i> <i>Richard Eisenmajer</i>
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Melvin Speech Pathology <i>Dr Carly Ymer</i>
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Mildura Kids Clinic Pty Ltd <i>Megan Dalla Santa Occupational Therapy</i> <i>Wendy Leane Psychology & Counselling Services</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Monash University (Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology)
VIC	Individual Organisation	Merri Community
VIC	Individual Organisation	Mpower Inc
VIC	Individual Organisation	Noah's Ark Inc
VIC	Individual Organisation	Norparrin Centre for Children with Special Needs Inc
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Peninsula Speech Pathology Services <i>Adaptive Abilities</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Pinarc Support Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Scope
VIC	Individual Organisation	Sensational Kids
VIC	Individual Organisation	Smart Start Australia
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i>	Spectrum House Pty Ltd <i>Leapfrog Therapy Services</i>
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Speech4Kids Pty Ltd <i>Sprout Paediatric Therapy Services Pty Ltd</i> <i>Gabrielle Hill</i>
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	Sprout Paediatric Therapy Services Pty Ltd <i>Jacqueline Amos</i> <i>Chatterbugs</i> <i>Gabrielle Hill</i> <i>Elizabeth Barker Speech Pathology Services</i> <i>Communicate It</i> <i>Breakthrough Speech Pathology</i> <i>Living Calm</i>

VIC	Individual Organisation	Villa Maria Society
VIC	Consortium Lead Agency <i>Consortium Member</i> <i>Consortium Member</i>	WECAN Inc. <i>Gilead Downs Thereapy Centre</i> <i>Occupational Therapy Innovations</i>
VIC	Individual Organisation	Windermere Child and Family Services
VIC	Individual Organisation	Yooralla

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 173

- **Topic:** ASD Playgroups

Hansard Page: CA73

Senator Fifield asked:

Of the 50 playgroups, how many are located in rural and regional areas?

Answer:

18 are located in rural and regional areas.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 162

- **Topic:** Counselling support in rural and regional areas

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

What type, if any, of counselling support is available in rural and regional areas? If this support is available, in what rural areas of New South Wales?

Answer:

Counselling support for carers is available in rural and regional areas through FaHCSIA's Family Relationship Services for Carers Program. This service provides family mediation and counselling to assist families who are concerned about the future care of their family member with disability, thinking about making future arrangements or experiencing disagreement about future planning.

Services which are provided free of charge are tailored to family circumstances and may be delivered in individual, couple or family settings.

The service is available across the whole of New South Wales, including rural areas.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 172

- **Topic:** Autism Spectrum Disorder Outer Regional and Remote Payment

Hansard Page: CA71

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a breakdown by state of the 262 children that received this payment?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2009, the breakdown by state of the 262 children that received the payment was as follows:

State/ Territory	No. of children who have accessed the Outer Regional and Remote payment
ACT	N/A
NSW	40
NT	28
QLD	112
SA	29
TAS	8
VIC	23
WA	22
NATIONAL TOTAL	262

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 174

- **Topic:** Autism Spectrum Disorder Playgroups

Hansard Page: CA73

Senator Fifield asked:

Of the 40 established groups, how many children are attending?

Answer:

As at 12 June 2009 there were 214 children attending the 40 PlayConnect Playgroups.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 177

- **Topic:** Capital Gains Tax on Transfer of Properties into a Special Disability Trust

Hansard Page: CA 81

Senator Siewert asked:

Can the Government reconsider its response to the Senate Committee's recommendation on the exemption of capital gains tax when a property is transferred to a Special Disability Trust?

Answer:

The Government has considered this issue in the context of responding to the report by the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, *Building trust: Supporting families through Disability Trusts*. The Government has not agreed to the Committee's recommendation.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 179

- **Topic:** Special Disability Trusts and the First Home Owners Grant

Hansard Page: CA 82

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the government reconsider a way where people with a disability who are beneficiaries of a trust can access the FHOG?

Answer:

The Government has considered this issue in the context of responding to the report by the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, *Building trust: Supporting families through Disability Trusts*. The Government has not agreed to the Committee's recommendation.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 180

- **Topic:** DSP Feasibility Study

Hansard Page: CA88

Senators Boyce asked:

Are the submissions publicly available?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found on page CA97 of Hansard on 2 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 183

- **Topic:** Web Address

Hansard Page: CA91

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you confirm whether the Commonwealth has reserved a name and web address for the national companion card website to be developed?

Answer:

The Commonwealth is currently making arrangements to reserve the domain name “companioncard.gov.au” for use for the new National Companion Card website.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 188

- **Topic:** PHaMS sites with met and unmet need

Hansard Page: CA101

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a list of the sites which are at capacity or near capacity? And can you provide details of whether they are metro or non-metro?

Answer:

Please refer to the table below for the most recent figures available (as at 31 December 2008) from PHaMs Round 1 and 2 sites. The data reflects those Round 1 and 2 sites (there are 76 sites in total with 38 sites identified as being at or near capacity). Capacity and nearing capacity is measured as 45-55 clients per site.

State - New South Wales	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	9
Non-metro	6

State - Queensland	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	4
Non-metro	4

State – Australian Capital Territory	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	2
Non-metro	Nil

State - Victoria	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	3
Non-metro	2

State - Tasmania	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	Nil
Non-metro	Nil

State – South Australia	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	3
Non-metro	1

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State – Western Australia	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	2
Non-metro	2

State – Northern Territory	At Capacity or Near Capacity
Metro	Nil
Non-metro	Nil

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 181

- **Topic:** Analysis of issues between programs

Hansard Page: CA89

Senator Boyce asked:

Can an analysis be provided on the overlap of issues that the feasibility study into telecommunications carriers for people with a disability would involve and issues that need to be covered in the Broadband for Seniors program?

Answer:

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy's feasibility study into the provision of an Independent Disability Equipment Program is considering factors regarding the establishment of a telecommunications equipment program, independent of carriers, that could potentially provide people with disabilities including the ageing, better access to telecommunications equipment.

The focus of the study is the provision of assistive technologies/equipment for people with disability for whom current equipment is inaccessible, rather than provision of services such as broadband.

The study's terms of reference are broad ranging and address issues such as demand for such a program, eligibility requirements, funding options and potential organisational models.

Findings from the study are yet to be finalised. A report is due with Government in December 2009.

The Independent Disability Equipment Program aims to contribute to the Government's social inclusion agenda.

Broadband for Seniors program is part of the wider Government initiative 'Making Ends Meet- Plan for Older Australians, People with Disabilities and Carers' and administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Government committed \$15 million over three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to establish around 2,000 internet kiosks for seniors. Only one in five Australians over the age of 65 years currently uses the internet.

A seniors internet kiosk will provide:

- free access to computers and broadband internet;
- free online and individual training to seniors to use the internet;
- support to gain confidence in using new technology;
- help to seniors feeling isolated and left behind in a technological age; and

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- a way to build community participation and social inclusion for seniors.
The internet kiosks will be established in local community organisations or in any suitable public place that provides assistance to seniors.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 185

- **Topic:** Australian Disability Parking Scheme Consultations

Hansard Page: CA94

Senators Boyce asked:

Could you provide a list of where the consultations are being held?

Answer:

Commonwealth involvement in information sessions are as follows:

Public Information Sessions:

Public information sessions were held in all eight capital cities and Cairns, Townsville and Alice Springs on the following dates, times and locations:

City	Date	Time	Location
Brisbane	Friday 5 June	6.00 – 8.00pm	Chermside Bowls Club 468 Rode Road Chermside
Darwin	Tuesday 9 June	2.00 – 3.00pm	Palms City Resort 64 The Esplanade Darwin
Alice Springs	Wednesday 10 June	2.00 – 3.00pm	Voyages Alice Springs Resort 34 Stott Terrace Alice Springs
Perth	Thursday 11 June	6.00 – 8.00pm	The Boulevard Centre 99 The Boulevard Floreat
Hobart	Monday 15 June	1.00 – 3.00pm	Hobart Function & Conference Centre 1 Elizabeth Street Pier Hobart
Sydney	Friday 19 June	6.00 – 8.00pm	Northcott Society Function Centre 1 Fennell Street North Parramatta

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Adelaide	Monday 22 June	5.30 – 7.30pm	Disability Information & Resource Centre 195 Gilles Street Adelaide
Canberra	Tuesday 23 June	6.00 – 8.00pm	Canberra Southern Cross Club Corinna Street Woden
Townsville	Thursday 25 June	2.00 – 4.00pm	IBIS Hotel Townsville 12-14 Palmer Street Townsville
Cairns	Friday 26 June	2.00 – 4.00pm	Cairns City Council Civic Reception Rooms 119 – 145 Spence Street Cairns
Melbourne	Monday 29 June	2.00 – 4.00pm	Hilton on the Park 192 Wellington Parade East Melbourne

Stakeholder Information Sessions:

Stakeholder meetings were held in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Mackay, Newcastle, Wollongong, Launceston and Devonport on the following dates, times and locations:

City	Date	Time	Location
Adelaide	Wednesday 3 June	10.00am – 12.00pm	City of Charles Sturt Offices 72 Woodville Road Woodville
Adelaide	Wednesday 3 June	3.30 – 4.30pm	SA Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure Level 10 Boardroom Roma Mitchell House 136 North Terrace Adelaide
Brisbane	Friday 5 June	10.00am – 12.00pm	Qld Transport L9/ 230 Brunswick Street Fortitude Valley

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Brisbane	Friday 5 June	1.00 – 4.00pm	Qld Transport L9/ 230 Brunswick Street Fortitude Valley
Perth	Friday 12 June	9.30am – 12.00pm	Regional Videoconference National Disability Services 59 Walters Drive Osborne Park
Launceston	Tuesday 16 June	12.00 – 1.00pm	Launceston City Council Access Committee Meeting Room St Johns Street Launceston
Devonport	Wednesday 17 June	12.00 – 1.00pm	Devonport City Council Meeting Room 44 – 48 Best Street Devonport
Newcastle	Wednesday 17 June	2.00 – 4.00pm	Newcastle City Hall 290 King Street Newcastle
Wollongong	Thursday 18 June	2.00 – 4.00pm	Dapto Ribbonwood Centre 93 – 109 Princes Highway Dapto
Mackay	Wednesday 24 June	12.00 – 2.00pm	Senior Citizens Hall McAllister Street Mackay

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 169

- **Topic:** Australian Disability Enterprises Website

Hansard Page: CA66

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have accessed the website since it was launched and how many Log A Job entries have been received?

Answer:

From 24 April (launch date) to 31 May inclusive, the Australian Disability Enterprises website had 3,663 visits; and 2,653 unique visitors (i.e. if the same person visits twice in one day, it adds two to the 'visit' count, but only one to the 'unique visitors count').

From the launch date to mid June 2009, there have been nine Log A Job requests. There have been 18 additional submissions through the Log A Job facility which have been queries about general disability issues.

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Question No: 184

- **Topic:** Parking Permits

Hansard Page: CA93

Senator Fifield asked:

- a) Can you confirm whether that is the case in any jurisdiction at the moment?
- b) Does it not apply if the person with a disability is a child, because they cannot drive?

Answer:

- a) No, permits are issued to eligible people with disability.
- b) A carer can drive the vehicle and display the permit, when parked, provided they have transported the permit holder in the vehicle. Children are currently eligible for permits in all jurisdictions but Queensland has a minimum age of three years.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 175

- **Topic: YPIRAC**

Hansard Page: CA76

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of the 412 (enhanced services) State by State and rural and regional?

Answer:

A State by State breakdown of the number of young people with disability in residential aged care who have received enhancement services in the Young People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Program (YPIRAC), as at April 2009, is provided in the table below.

There is no available data about the number of people in rural or regional areas receiving enhancement services, as jurisdictions are not required to provide the Commonwealth Government with this level of information.

Priority 3 – Enhanced services for those living in residential aged care	
Jurisdiction	Achieved as at April 2009
NSW	249
VIC	128
QLD	6
SA	12
WA	15
TAS	19
ACT	5
NT	5
Total	439

(Source: State and Territory bi-monthly reports)

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 176

- **Topic:** Younger People in Residential Aged Care

Hansard Page: CA77

Senators Fifield asked:

Can you provide the annual expenditure the Commonwealth has made by jurisdiction each financial year since the program begun?

Answer:

The answer to this question can be found in tabled document T6.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 165

- **Topic:** Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: CA56

Senator Fifield asked:

Is the 13 week portability the same as the aged pension?

Answer:

Most workforce age payments including the Disability Support Pension (DSP) can only be paid overseas for a maximum of 13 weeks. The reason for this policy is that the Australian community reasonably expects that a person of workforce age is in Australia to either look for work or in the case of DSP is undertaking a rehabilitation activity that will assist in their transition back into the workforce.

Unlike DSP, the Australian Age Pension can be paid overseas indefinitely. Age pensioners with 25 years residence between the ages of 16 and Age Pension age will continue to be paid the full means-tested rate of pension should they decide to leave Australia permanently. Age pensioners with less than 25 years are paid a proportional rate based on their working life residence in Australia. For example, a person with 17 years of working life residence would receive 17/25th of the rate paid in Australia if they decided to move overseas to live.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 178

- **Topic:** Special Disability Trusts – Care and Accommodation Guidelines

Hansard Page: CA 81

Senator Siewert asked:

When will the review of the care and accommodation guidelines be completed?

Answer:

It is anticipated that revised guidelines will be available in this financial year.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 163

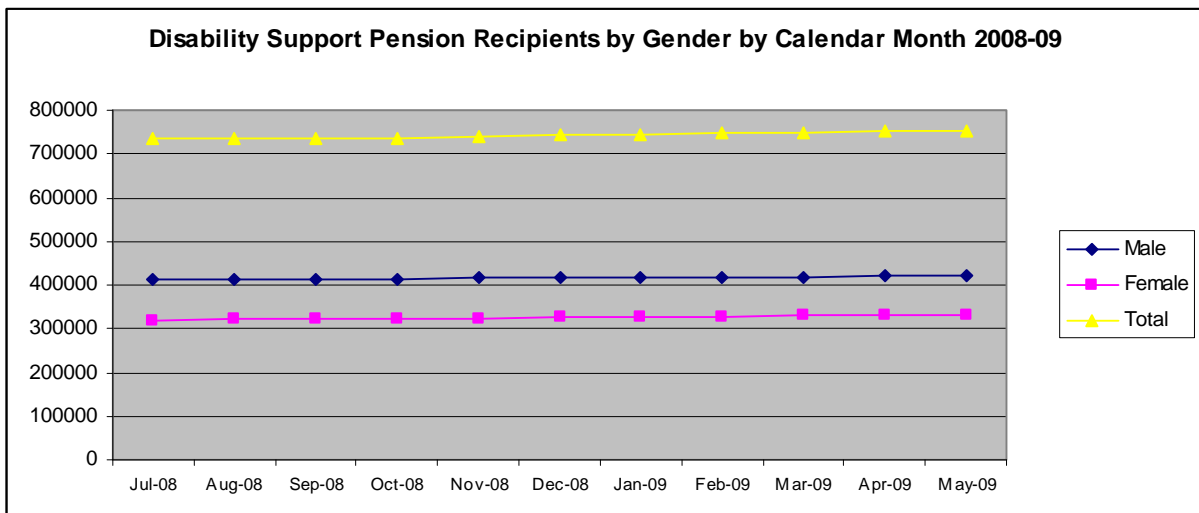
- **Topic:** Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: CA31

Senator Moore asked:

Could you provide a copy of the chart (or the figures) of the number of recipients by gender?

Answer:



The numbers are sourced from Centrelink Administrative data. The data represents a point in time count as at the end of each calendar month.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 164

- **Topic:** Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: CA54 and CA56

Senator Fifield asked:

How many people have received DSP each month since February 2009? and
How many applied monthly since February 2009?

Answer:

Month	Grants	Claims
Feb-09	7,065	10,746
Mar-09	6,853	10,664
Apr-09	6,698	10,369
May-09	9,874	15,196

DSP claims data is sourced from Centrelink Administrative data and is extracted weekly at close of business each Friday. The monthly data above compiles the DSP claims data for each weekly extraction in that month. The spike in May 2009 is mainly due to there being five extraction dates (i.e. Fridays) in that month but May is also historically busier than the preceding months due to a lack of public holidays.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 182

- **Topic:** Companion Card Holders

Hansard Page: CA90

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a State by State breakdown on the numbers of companion card holders?

Answer:

Companion card schemes have been progressively introduced by States and Territories since the first scheme was launched in Victoria in 2003. As at 17 August 2009, there were 30,768 companion card holders across Australia and it is anticipated that this number will increase substantially given the launch of new schemes in 2009 in both NSW and QLD.

The breakdown by State and Territory is as follows:

VIC	20,392 cardholders (launched November 2003).
WA	4,253 cardholders (launched August 2006)
TAS	1,000 cardholders (launched December 2006)
SA	2,284 cardholders (launched November 2007)
QLD	839 cardholders (launched April 2009)
NSW	2,000 cardholders (launched July 2009)
ACT	No cardholders yet (planned launch in 2009)
NT	No cardholders yet (planned launch in 2009)

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 187

- **Topic:** PHaMS Case Studies Booklet

Hansard Page: CA100

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a copy of the booklet?

Answer:

The consent provided by the participants in the program does not allow for sharing of personal experiences outside of the training environment.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 189

- **Topic:** People involved in PHAMS

Hansard Page: CA103

Senator Boyce asked:

Can you give me a breakdown of how many are currently involved in the respite program and how many are involved in the community based program since July 2008?

Answer:

In the six month period from 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008, there were 6,351 families and carers involved in the Respite Program. From 1 July 2008 to 31 May 2009, 6327 families and carers were involved in the Community Based Program. The Respite Program data for 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009 are due in September 2009.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 190

- **Topic:** Mental Health Updates

Hansard Page: CA103

Senator Boyce asked:

I looked at the FaHCSIA mental health update. Issue no. 5 came out in January 2008 and that is the most recent FaHCSIA mental health update. Can you double-check that?

Answer:

FaHCSIA no longer publishes mental health updates on its website. The most recent mental health updates of FaHCSIA programs is available on the Mental Health in Australia website at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mentalhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/programs-and-initiatives-lp-1>

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 166

- **Topic:** Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: CA58

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of the number of people claiming DSP by age group?

Answer:

Age Group	Count
16 – 24 years	15,244
25 – 34 years	13,683
35 – 44 years	24,789
45 – 54 years	35,112
55 – 64 years	45,682
65+ years	144
Total	134,654

The information was sourced from Centrelink Administrative data and represents Disability Support Pension claims in the 2008-09 financial year.

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Outcome Number: 5

Amended Question No: 158

- **Topic:** Disability and Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide estimates for the next 5 years of the number of recipients of Disability Support Pension and Carers Payment, broken down by payment type and estimates for the long term receipt of each payment (>1 year) in each of those years and the average duration of receipt of each payment in each of those years.

Answer:

The customer estimates for Disability Support Pension in 2008/09 is 757,118, and 2009/10 is 762,211. For carer payment, in 2008/09 is 146,870 and 2009/10 is 167,382.

For some time, only current year estimates of customer numbers have been made available.

As at June 2009, 6.3 per cent (47,979) of Disability Support Pension recipients have been receiving the payment for less than one year, 93.7 per cent (709,139) have been receiving the payment for more than one year.

As at June 2009, 23.4 per cent (34,332) of Carer Payment recipients have been receiving the payment for less than one year, 76.6 per cent (112,538) have been receiving the payment for more than one year.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 167

- **Topic:** Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: CA58

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a breakdown of the number of people on DSP by criteria, ie. the reason for claiming DSP?

Answer:

Medical Condition	Total
Acquired brain impairment	17 098
Amputation	1666
Cancer/tumour	13 432
Poorly defined cause	7545
Chronic pain	9140
Circulatory system	35 627
Congenital abnormality / Inherited Disorders	11 427
Endocrine and immune system	16 904
Gastro-intestinal system	4010
Infectious Diseases	1569
Intellectual/learning	82 368
Musculo-skeletal and connective tissue	227 641
Nervous system	33 368
Psychological/psychiatric	202 421
Reproductive system	338
Respiratory system	20 385
Sense organs	19 404
Skin disorders and burns	570
Urogenital system	3014
Visceral disorder	7111
Granted prior to 12/11/91 / Not Coded	17 329
Total	732 367

Information has been sourced from Centrelink Administrative data and represents point in time as at 27 June 2008.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 170

Topic: Autism Advisor Program

Hansard Page: CA69

Senator Fifield asked:

What are the locations of the advisors?

Answer:

The state and territory Autism Associations have developed the Autism Advisor Program to reflect the needs of families living in geographically diverse locations including outer regional and remote areas.

Associations have opted for primarily two types of service models that include Advisors being located in regional areas or Advisors visiting regional areas through an outreach service.

The funding agreement between FaHCSIA and the Autism Associations specify that face to face appointments are a priority and travel costs have been included in the program budget. If families do not wish to wait for the next regional visit they are given the option of using electronic communication, including the phone.

State/Territory	Regional Coverage
NSW	Advisors are located in Sydney and are allocated specific metropolitan and regional areas; and to serve the Far North Coast to support a high demand.
Victoria	Advisors are located in Melbourne and are allocated specific metropolitan and regional areas where they offer an outreach service.
Western Australia	Advisors located in Perth are allocated specific regional areas.

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State/Territory	Regional Coverage
Queensland	Advisors are located throughout Queensland including - Cairns, Rockhampton, Sunnybank and Brighton. Advisors are allocated responsibility for specific areas throughout Queensland.
ACT	To cover all areas of the ACT. Advisors are located in Weston and cover all areas of the ACT.
NT	Advisor located in Darwin with responsibility for whole of NT.
Tasmania	Advisor located in Launceston and part-time Advisors located in Hobart.
South Australia	Advisors located in Adelaide with allocated metropolitan and regional areas of responsibility.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 191

- **Topic:** CBP Evaluation

Hansard Page: CA104

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide a copy of the evaluation when it is completed?

Answer:

A strategic evaluation of FaHCSIA's three mental health programs, considering the programs in the context of the broader community mental health service system, is scheduled for completion in early 2010. Findings will inform future policy direction and will feed into broader reviews such as the COAG National Action Plan Evaluation. Release of the report is a matter for government.

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Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 186

- **Topic:** Funding for not-for-profit organisations

Hansard Page: CA95

Senator Fifield asked:

Can you advise how much each organisation received?

Answer:

The Print Disability Services Program provides funding to nine providers for the production of alternate format materials (such as talking books and Braille) for people who are unable to access printed materials.

The following organisations received funding in 2008-09:

Organisation	Funding (GST incl.)
Canberra Blind Society	\$3,220.80
CBM Australia	\$15,219.60
St Edmund's School for the Blind	\$17,252.40
Queensland Narrating Service	\$24,037.20
Royal Society for the Blind of SA	\$29,383.20
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children	\$63,808.80
Association for the Blind WA	\$73,464.60
People Learn Productions	\$137,161.00
Vision Australia	\$1,031,025.60
Total	\$1,394,573.20

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T2

Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women
Media Release

**Government Announces Review of Equal Opportunity for Women
in the Workplace Agency**

01/06/2009

Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek, today announced a review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace and Agency (EOWA) and its underlying legislation (EOWW Act).

Minister Plibersek said the review will examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency and the legislation in promoting equal opportunity for women in the workplace.

"Over the last decade, the EOWA has worked with thousands of large businesses across the country to improve women's opportunities in the workplace," Ms Plibersek said.

"These employers are reaping the benefits of their equal opportunity programs through the attraction and retention of the best talent, improved morale and increased employee effectiveness.

"The EOWA Employer of Choice for Women, the Business Achievement Awards and the Australian Census of Women in Leadership have also been incredibly successful initiatives.

"At the same time though, we have seen a decline in women in executive leadership roles.

"The pay gap between male and female full-time earnings is now 17.2 per cent and many parents are struggling to balance their work and family responsibilities.

"The review will investigate what's working and where we may need a new approach."

The Government is keen to promote public discussion regarding these issues and to hear from organisations and individuals.

There will be broad community consultation with employers, employees, unions, women's advocacy groups and members of the public.

"The review is timely. The EOWW legislation needs to keep pace with the economic, social and legislative changes that have occurred since the last inquiry in 1998," Ms Plibersek said.

The review will begin with the release of an Issues Paper which will signal the start of the consultation process.

The review will take several months to complete and EOWA reporting organisations are reminded they still need to report this year.

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T3



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Office for Women

Review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act

Terms of Reference

The review of the *Equal Opportunity for Women in Workplace Act 1999* will:

- Examine the role that the EOWW Act and Agency have in gathering and
- reporting on workplace data.
- Examine the contribution that the EOWW Act has made to increasing
- women's employment opportunities and advancing women's equality in the
- workplace.
- Consider the effectiveness of the EOWW legislation and arrangements in
- delivering equal opportunity for women.
- Provide advice on practical ways in which the equal opportunity for women
- framework could be improved to deliver better outcomes for Australian
- women.
- Consider opportunities to reduce the cost of existing regulation and/or ways to
- ensure that any new legislation is cost-effective and well-targeted.
- Consider the EOWW Act and Agency within the framework of existing and
- proposed workplace-related and human rights legislation and policy.
- Have regard to the effects of the Act, or any proposed recommendations

resulting from this review on the economy, the labour market, business competitiveness, social inclusion and the general wellbeing of the Australian community.

June 2009

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T7

1 June 2009

Outcome 6 – National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Need to clarify advice provided to the Committee by Safety Taskforce:

The correct listing of the regional and remote communities visited by the National Council to reduce Violence against Women and their Children were:

- i. Albury-Wodonga
- ii. Broome and Fitzroy Crossing
- iii. Alice Springs
- iv. Thursday Island, Badu Island and Bamaga
- v. Mount Isa
- vi. Alice Springs

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 037

- **Topic:** Delivery of Programs - Protecting Australia's Children Funding Process

Hansard Page: CA120

Senator Siewert asked:

What experience have you had with being able to deliver programs of this nature in such a short time frame?

Answer:

Protecting Australia's Children projects will be delivered by organisations within the non-government sector, which have extensive experience in the delivery of short and long-term programs and a proven track record in providing support to families and children.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 192

- **Topic:** Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants

Hansard Page: CA63 and CA64

Senator Boyce asked:

Last year's budget allowed for 33 of these to be funded. Can you tell me how many actually happened and what they were?

Answer:

The 33 initiatives funded comprise 25 projects funded under the 2007-08 Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants, details of which were provided in response to Question 239 from the 2009 Additional Estimates hearings. In addition, eight sponsorships were provided. Details of these are at Attachment A.

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Attachment A

Women's Leadership and Development Program Sponsorship Recipients

Organisation	Activity	Funding (ex GST)
University of New South Wales	2008 Australian Women's Debating Championships	\$1,000
The Women's Community Aid Association	Brisbane International Feminist Conference	\$5,000
Australian Technology Network Women's Executive Development Program	2008 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture	\$1,000
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine	The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ANZATSA) Conference 2009	\$6,000
Carrie's Place	White Ribbon Day Event	\$1,000
International Association for Time Use Research	30 th International Association for Time Use Research Conference	\$5,000
NSW Network of Women with Disability	Deaf/Blind Interpreters for Leadership Program for Women with Disability	\$5,255
Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia and the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia	Refugee and Immigrant Women Setting the Social Inclusion Agenda Conference	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$29,255

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 193

- **Topic:** Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants

Hansard Page: CA64-65

Senator Boyce asked:

How many applications were received through the 2008-09 Women's Leadership and Development Program (WLDP) Grants?

Answer:

A total of 66 applications were received.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 194

- **Topic:** Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants

Hansard Page: CA65

Senator Boyce asked:

As of today (1 June 2009) how many of those 25 have ended? Is there an evaluation form that you provide them?

Answer:

As of 1 June 2009, three projects funded under the 2007-08 Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants were complete. The remaining 21 projects will be finalised later in 2009.

In relation to the evaluation of the grants see QoN 195.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 195

- **Topic:** Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants

Hansard Page: CA65

Senator Boyce asked:

What are the forms of evaluation that are undertaken by the different grants themselves?

Answer:

As part of their Funding Agreements, recipients of the 2007-08 Women's Leadership and Development Program Grants are required to submit a final evaluation of their project that addresses:

- a) a report against the objectives and milestones;
- b) any highlights, breakthroughs or difficulties encountered;
- c) a general evaluation of the activity that addresses:
 - whether the objectives stated in the funding agreement were met;
 - how the outcomes of the activity are being promoted and disseminated;
 - how the organisation will ensure the outcomes are sustained beyond the funding period;
 - what the key learnings are for the organisation;
 - the number of participants involved in the activity; and
 - the percentage of stakeholders who were satisfied that the project was appropriate to the needs of the target group.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 196

- **Topic:** Respectful Relationships Sites

Hansard Page: CA68

Senator Boyce asked:

Are the sites publicly available?

Answer:

The Government has announced that Respectful Relationships programs will be implemented in:

- 40 Northern Territory schools (5 urban and 35 remote) as per the 6 July press release ‘Respectful Relationship Program to begin in 40 Northern Territory Schools’;
- Nine schools and non-school sites in Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales, focused on groups of young people who are particularly vulnerable to violence;
- Four schools in the Australian Capital Territory;
- Three remote schools in the Kimberley in Western Australia - Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, and Oombulgarri; and
- Two pre-elite youth sporting squads in Queensland.

The evaluation of the South Australian *Keeping Safe* program was announced on 10 June 2009.

Other specific school and non-school sites are being announced between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 203

- **Topic:** Telephone and online crisis services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government will provide \$12.5 million for a new telephone and online crisis service as part of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women. Current phone counselling services are provided by Lifeline.

Can the Department provide figures as to the number of calls Lifeline receives broken down by issue? For instance, how many phone calls are received that pertain to domestic violence issues?

Answer:

From June 2006 to May 2009, Lifeline Australia has advised that the helpline has received 37,114 'within scope of service' calls.

Category of Call	Calls	Calls (%)
Domestic Violence	29,106	78.43
Sexual Assault	4,284	11.54
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	1,715	4.62
Other	2,009	5.41
TOTAL	37,114	100

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 204

- **Topic:** Telephone and online crisis services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Will the new service take over from the State services currently running? How will the Department ensure that the States do not cut back their phone and online services?

Answer:

The new national telephone and online crisis service is being designed to complement and integrate with existing State and Territory services, link with other 1800 numbers, have direct links with relevant local and state services and provide the State and Territory services with active and ongoing referrals. It will provide an avenue through which 'the first door is the right door'.

A Steering Group which will include State and Territory government representatives, is being established to advise on the new arrangements for the national telephone and online crisis service.

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Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 036

- **Topic:** Protecting Australia's Children Funding Process

Hansard Page: CA120

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Why the shortness between announcement and implementation? Is that a government decision?
- b) My understanding is that the programs have to be put in place and the funds expended in a very short amount of time. Is that a correct understanding?

Answer:

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children is an ambitious, long term national approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of Australian children. By implementing this funding round now, the Commonwealth has provided an immediate injection of additional resources in advance of the National Framework implementation plan being finalised over the coming months.

In determining the timeframe for applicants to apply, a balance was struck between the imperative for funding to commence as soon as possible and an expectation of strong interest from the sector.

The Protecting Australia's Children funding round was designed to fund innovative, local projects that support the objectives in the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

Calls for applications were made in national and regional papers. Over 4000 interested parties visited the FaHCSIA website to review the application documentation and over 1800 forms were downloaded by potential applicants. Applicants applied on the basis that the funding was for short time-limited, one-off projects that must be completed on or before 30 September 2009.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

T1

NTER cross agency expenditure report as at 30 April 2009 by agency and theme [included in Additional Information Volume 3, 22 October 2009]

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

T2



Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion

Shadow Minister for Human Services
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Country Liberals Senator for the Northern Territory

27 May 2009

The Hon Paul Henderson MLA
Chief Minister
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Chief Minister,

The roll out of OPAL fuel in Central Australia has contributed to a significant reduction in petrol sniffing. Unfortunately incidents of petrol sniffing are still reported with people travelling to the few outlets that continue to sell sniffable fuel.

I am informed that the Outback Store in Ti-Tree will commence selling OPAL fuel within the next few weeks. While this will provide an opportunity to purchase non sniffable fuel the long term viability of this outlet will rely upon sales volume.

I am writing to ask you to consider making it NT Government policy that all NT Government vehicles requiring petrol in Ti-Tree only purchase OPAL when available.

While this initiative may have an anti-competitive aspect, the overall health outcomes in Central Australia will be improved if Outback Stores is able to become established as a viable OPAL fuel outlet. This will assist in the further roll out of OPAL in the region fuel and ideally providing added pressure on other outlets to convert to OPAL fuel only.

I urge you to consider this proposal and I look forward to your comments and other suggestions as to how all spheres of government may continue to move towards eradicating petrol sniffing from our community.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SCULLION

Cc The Hon Karl Hampton MLA – Minister for Central Australia
The Hon Alison Anderson MLA - Minister for Indigenous Policy
Mr Adam Giles MLA – Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 207

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the compulsory acquisition model currently being applied to Alice Springs town camps to be applied for all communities nationally that do not voluntarily agree to long term (i.e. 40 year) leases?

Answer:

The situation in Alice Springs is unique. The use of the compulsory acquisition powers under section 47 of the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* is pursued only as a last resort. Negotiated settlements involving leases remain the preferred outcome. The Australian Government have already demonstrated the success of this approach in the Tennant Creek Community Living Areas and eight Northern NT communities where leases have been agreed.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 209

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What other models of tenancy and/or asset management will the Commonwealth consider to be acceptable in exchange for the provision of these new housing funds?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, the States and Territory will be responsible for the management of community housing to meet public housing standards. This will ensure that Indigenous people in remote communities receive the same level of housing and support as other Australians. All housing providers will need to provide robust tenancy management that meets these standards.

In relation to the Alice Springs Town Camps, the Australian and Northern Territory governments, Tangentyere Council and the Housing Associations agreed in July 2008 that for the first three years of the 40 year lease period, NT Territory Housing would take responsibility for all aspects of tenancy management in the Alice Springs Town Camps. After three years, these services will be put to an open and competitive tender allowing non-government organisations, including Indigenous organisations such as the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company, to tender for delivery of these services.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 210

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Why is the Commonwealth entrenching a public housing model for Aboriginal communities while recommending a mix of social housing options & community housing in all other jurisdictions?

Answer:

The Commonwealth's major aim in relation to housing in Indigenous communities is to substantially improve living conditions and to provide services comparable with those received by other Australians. The current standard of remote housing is evidence that the community housing model has not produced the required results. Despite significant spending through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme (CHIP) over many years, little progress was made. CHIP was replaced by the new, expanded Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme which in turn was replaced by the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing from 1 January 2009.

The public housing-like model adopted by the Australian Government provides that following significant investment in housing construction, the relevant State or Territory government will manage and provide maintenance for the housing as it would manage public housing for the remainder of its tenants. The model does anticipate that tenancy management can be sub-contracted to a qualified tenant management agent.

These general arrangements are consistent with the position negotiated with Tangentyere Council as referred to in answer to Question on Notice #209.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 211

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What evidence does the Government have that a public housing model will produce better outcomes for Aboriginal communities?

Answer:

Robust and standardised tenancy management consistent with public housing arrangements is a stated output for Aboriginal communities under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH).

As noted in response to Questions 245 and 246, the NPRIH has a major focus on measuring outcomes and does not prescribe the service delivery arrangements most likely to facilitate the achievement of these outcomes. Importantly however, the future performance of all service providers, whether government or non government, will be subject to close scrutiny as part of the robust and transparent accountability measures built into the NPRIH.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 212

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the rationale for the Commonwealth's requirement of 40 year leases? The Minister has said that it is about certainty – but for whom? The tenants?... the communities?... or the Commonwealth?

Answer:

Underlying security of tenure comprising long term access and control of and responsibility for remote housing is a key element of the Australian Government's new approach to remote housing. The minimum period acceptable to Government is 40 years, which is the expected minimum life span of the assets which the government is funding. Longer periods may also be negotiated such as in Tennant Creek where an effective 60 year lease was agreed.

Security of tenure provides certainty to tenants and government. Long term tenure is a critical first step for housing reform and to fostering economic development for Indigenous communities. Without long term tenure, ownership is uncertain, residents and tenants have no security or certainty and potential investors have no incentive to invest. Government gains certainty by being able to fully manage its investment in housing. It can carry out repairs and maintenance to ensure the housing is maintained in good condition thus ensuring the housing is kept healthy for the occupants. Security of tenure ensures that government is responsible and accountable for housing outcomes.

Under this approach, tenants are treated with fairness under a tenancy management system which has clear and transparent rules and policies. Processes, such as the allocation of housing, are also clearly identified within the rules and applied routinely, and disputes are reviewed within a neutral framework.

Long term tenure is also necessary to facilitate home ownership and business establishment in remote communities.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 213

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the evidence base for the Commonwealth's new policy for requiring 'security of tenure' before investing in housing?

Answer:

The current standard of remote housing is evidence that the prior system of housing management in remote Australia has not delivered the required results.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 214

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How will this security of tenure improve standards of housing management, increase community 'ownership' of the housing or improve tenant behaviour? ... Particularly given that the housing is being taken out of community ownership and handed over to the NT Government.

Answer:

The security of tenure required for Government investment in accordance with the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH) (including at the Alice Springs town camps) will secure public investment into the future and will ensure that the Government is directly responsible for the standard of tenancy management and repairs and maintenance to housing for the life of the lease. Appropriate housing will be delivered and maintained over time and all tenants residing within the community or town camp will be afforded the certainty and protection of a fair and consistent tenancy management system in accordance with public housing standards across the Northern Territory.

The long-term interests in land resulting from secure tenure will also facilitate opportunities for town camp residents to pursue home ownership and business development. Secure tenure can also attract outside investment which brings an expansion in employment opportunities, and generally supports a developing economy, countering the economic isolation that is a characteristic of many Indigenous communities.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 215

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) If securing leases is fundamental to improving housing outcomes – then why hasn't the Commonwealth moved to require changes to the NT legislative framework that prevents leases on Community Living Areas (CLAs) – given that half of the communities in central Australia are covered by CLAs?
- b) Will those communities covered by CLAs therefore be excluded from any new housing?
- c) How many of the communities on the new National Priority List are covered by CLAs?

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed to pursuing land reform for townships on Indigenous land, including Community Living Areas (CLAs). Long term leasing arrangements provide the framework to improve social and economic outcomes for residents. The Australian Government is working closely with the Northern Territory Government on Indigenous land reforms covering the range of Indigenous tenures in the Northern Territory.

There are no CLAs currently identified as priority communities under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery. The 16 CLAs subject to five-year leases under the Northern Territory National Emergency Response have been selected for housing refurbishment under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). The initial priority sites for new and replacement housing under SIHIP were selected on the basis of population and need and do not include any CLAs.

New housing in CLAs would require a longer term lease. The Northern Territory legislative framework for CLAs permits long term leases for housing under certain circumstances.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 217

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps & Tangentyere Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Recent statements by the Minister and the Prime Minister suggested that negotiations had been underway and a deal had been on the table for 12 to 18 months.

Can the Department clarify whether there has in fact been one particular proposal being negotiated for that period of time, or whether in fact the terms and content of an agreement (including the number of new houses and resources on offer, and the conditions to be agreed to by Tangentyere and the town camp housing associations) have changed substantially over time?

Answer:

There has been one proposal on the table that has formed the basis of negotiations. This proposal is the "Agreed Work Plan: Improving Housing and Infrastructure in the Alice Springs Town Camps" signed on 10 July 2008 by Minister Jenny Macklin, the (then) NT Minister for Housing Kon Vatskalis and the (then) President of Tangentyere Council, Mervyn Rubuntja on behalf of Tangentyere Council and the 15 Housing Associations.

Under this Work Plan the Housing Associations under Tangentyere Council agreed to grant subleases to the Executive Director of Township Leasing for 40 years within 6 months of signing the Agreed Work Plan. Governments agreed to provide \$50 million for infrastructure and housing through the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). It was also agreed that Territory Housing would be responsible for the delivery of housing services for the first 3 years of the sublease period. A performance based selection process would be set up to determine which agency would best manage housing after this initial period.

The Australian and Northern Territory governments have maintained their commitment to the model set out in the Agreed Work Plan and honoured all their commitments in this regard.

During the negotiations of the terms of the sublease, the Australian and Northern Territory governments provided numerous drafts to accommodate issues raised by Tangentyere Council and its legal representative within the overall framework of the Agreed Work Plan.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 218

- **Topic:** Tangentyere Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

I believe the Minister stated that the government had compromised on 39 particular conditions of the agreement over that time – is this correct?

How many of these changes related specifically to demands made by Tangentyere, and how many were things proposed by the Commonwealth that were additional to the council's sticking points?

Answer:

During the negotiation period (including the period leading to the signing of the “Agreed Work Plan: Improving Housing and Infrastructure in the Alice Springs Town Camps”), the Government made no less than 35 concessions to deal with Tangentyere Council’s concerns.

All concessions made by the Government were done in order to address matters raised by Tangentyere Council and their legal representatives.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 219

- **Topic:** Tangentyere Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How many times have Tangentyere and the Housing Associations made compromises during the course of these negotiations?

Answer:

As noted in the response to Question on Notice #217, Tangentyere Council and the Housing Associations signed the “Agreed Work Plan: Improving Housing and Infrastructure in the Alice Springs Town Camps” on 10 July 2008.

Our records do not indicate any further formal agreement by Tangentyere Council and the Housing Associations to any of the terms of the proposed subleases supplied by the government during the negotiation period subsequent to the signing of the Agreed Work Plan.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 220

- **Topic:** Tangentyere Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

I understand that Tangentyere have agreed to sign 40 year leases over to the Commonwealth government, is this correct?

Answer:

Under the “Agreed Work Plan: Improving Housing and Infrastructure in the Alice Springs Town Camps” signed on 10 July 2008, Tangentyere Council, on behalf of the Alice Springs town camp Housing Associations, agreed to grant subleases to the Executive Director of Township Leasing for 40 years by 10 July 2009.

However, Tangentyere Council notified the Government on 21 May 2009 that all of the town camp Housing Associations had formally resolved at a Special General Meeting to decline to grant the 40 year subleases.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 221

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Recent comments by the Minister [eg The Australian] suggested that there were serious concerns with current tenancy management practices in the town camps, and that this was one of her main justifications to compulsorily acquire the communities – is this correct?

Answer:

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments recognise that the existing service delivery arrangements for the town camps were put in place to improve the status of Aboriginal people living on the fringes of Alice Springs and to increase the level of essential services and facilities available to them. However it is clear from current conditions in the camps that these arrangements have not worked.

It is the Government's view that all residents of the Alice Springs town camps should be subject to a standardised, fair and consistent tenancy management system. A public housing model guarantees that the Government take responsibility for ensuring equitable and transparent tenancy management for social housing tenants across the Northern Territory. This system would be facilitated by the work of Territory Housing which would carry the responsibility for making the final decisions on housing management for the town camps and would work according to the Northern Territory Government Remote Public Housing Management Framework.

This position is part of and consistent with Territory wide remote housing reforms rather than a result of any particular performance standards by a housing provider.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 222

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the essence of the current problem with tenancy management processes on the town camps?

- Waiting lists / allocation on the basis of need
- Rent collection
- Wilful damage, paying for repairs
- Evictions

Answer:

During the course of sublease negotiations, Tangentyere Council insisted that the Housing Associations hold the final decision-making power regarding allocation of housing, waiting lists and evictions. It is the Government's view, however, that all residents of the Alice Springs town camps should be subject to a consistent tenancy management system that would guarantee that the Government take responsibility for ensuring equitable and transparent tenancy management for social housing tenants across the Northern Territory as specified under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH).

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 223

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Commonwealth have (and can it be provided to the committee) evidence that houses under Tangentyere management are not adequately repaired?

Answer:

The proposed reforms in housing, infrastructure and tenancy management for the Alice Springs town camps do not reflect any assessment of the performance record of Tangentyere Council in delivering housing services. They reflect a housing reform process across the whole of the remote Northern Territory in accordance with the principles set out in the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 224

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Commonwealth have (and can it be provided to the committee) evidence that houses under Tangentyere management are not allocated based on need?

Answer:

As noted in the response to Question on Notice #223, the proposed reforms in housing, infrastructure and tenancy management for the Alice Springs town camps do not reflect any assessment of the performance record of Tangentyere Council in delivering housing services. They reflect a housing reform process across the whole of the remote Northern Territory in accordance with the principles set out in the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 225

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Commonwealth have (and can it be provided to the committee) evidence that tenants renting houses under Tangentyere management do not pay rent?

Answer:

As noted in the response to Question on Notice #223 and #224, the proposed reforms in housing, infrastructure and tenancy management for the Alice Springs town camps do not reflect any assessment of the performance record of Tangentyere Council in delivering housing services. They reflect a housing reform process across the whole of the remote Northern Territory in accordance with the principles set out in the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 232

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What were the outcomes of the grant to Tangentyere for the establishment of a community housing company the Commonwealth funded as part of the negotiations?

Has this been presented to the Minister? Has there been a formal response to the model developed for this company?

Answer:

Under the Agreed Work Plan signed on 10 July 2008, the Australian Government agreed to:

“Help Tangentyere Council Inc to plan for and establish the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company in Alice Springs over the next 12 months including by providing up to \$200 000 for this work in accordance with a funding agreement to be finalised as soon as possible.”

A funding agreement was agreed on 20 August 2008 for an amount of \$147,500 in accordance with the proposal put forward by Tangentyere. An initial release of funds in the amount of \$40,000 was made on 11 September 2008. Another payment of \$15,000 was due to be made at the end of September 2008, however delays in meeting the required milestone meant that the payment was not made until March 2009. Tangentyere wrote to the Department on 11 June 2009 noting that they would complete a further two milestones by 30 June 2009 and seeking to extend the funding agreement and rollover the balance of funds and milestones into 2009-10. On their projections, Tangentyere will not complete the milestones until October 2009.

Given that the project is not complete, nothing has been presented by the Department to the Minister and neither has there been any formal response to the model under development by the company.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 233

- **Topic: CAAHC**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the Commonwealth support the transition to a community housing model for the town camps (if so ... under what conditions)? What are the transition and establishment issues?

Answer:

The Australian Government remains committed to the agreement contained in the Agreed Work Plan of 10 July 2009.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 234

- **Topic: CAAHC**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What timeframe is expected for CAAHC to be established? Does the Minister have confidence in the National Community Housing Standards, supported by the Commonwealth since 1999 and updated in 2003?

Answer:

As noted in the answer to Question on Notice #232 Tangentyere Council advised the department on 11 June 2009 that it anticipated completing the milestones of its funding agreement by October 2009.

The second part of this question cannot be answered by the Department and should be directed to the Minister.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 235

- **Topic: CAAHC**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

As far as the Department is aware, do the Town Camp communities support the introduction of these standards in their communities?

Answer:

Tangentyere Council have referred to the National Community Housing Standards in the course of negotiations. The Department is not aware of the extent to which town camp residents support the standards.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 236

- **Topic:** NT Gov/Territory Housing Tender

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Please explain how such a tender process would be run?
- b) Would the Northern Territory Government [/Territory Housing] be running the tender process?
- c) If so, how can the Northern Territory Government / Territory Housing run an independent tender at the same it has a vested interest in the outcome of the process?

Answer:

Under the Government's proposal, it is proposed that a fair, open and competitive one off tender to provide housing management services in the Alice Springs town camps be issued within 2 years and 6 months of the subleases commencing.

It is proposed that the tender be conducted by the Northern Territory Government, in consultation with the Australian Government. The stringent procurement requirements in relation to Government tenders will apply. In addition, the tender process must obtain prior approval by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as open and competitive. Territory Housing will not be a tenderer.

The tender would be conducted on the basis that the successful tenderer would provide housing management services as an independent contractor of Territory Housing. If no tender is found to be successful, the Northern Territory Government would then be able to run a second tender for a provider to act as Territory Housing's agent. If no tender is found to be successful on this second occasion, Territory Housing would then be able to elect to provide housing services directly.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 237

- **Topic:** NT Gov/Territory Housing Tender

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the Department aware that the NT Chief Minister recently stated their intent to establish a not-for-profit community housing body?

Answer:

The Department is aware of this initiative, however no detail has been made available at this stage.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 238

- **Topic:** NT Gov/Territory Housing Tender

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Were such a body established, which remained wholly under the control of the Northern Territory Government, would it be eligible for CRA [Commonwealth Rent Assistance]?

Answer:

No detail regarding the community housing body referred to in Question on Notice #237 has been provided by the Northern Territory Government. In the absence of this information, this question cannot be answered.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 239

- **Topic:** NT Gov/Territory Housing Tender

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Would it be appropriate for such a [Northern Territory Government community housing] body to participate in this proposed tender process?

Answer:

No detail regarding the community housing body referred to in Question on Notice #237 has been provided by the Northern Territory Government. In the absence of this information, this question cannot be answered.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 240

- **Topic:** Community Housing Framework/accreditation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Has any assessment of Tangentyere's current tenancy and asset management processes been undertaken with a view to identifying what changes might be required to reach accreditation standards?

Answer:

The Government is not aware of any assessment of Tangentyere Council's current tenancy and management processes undertaken with a view to assisting Tangentyere Council to reach accreditation standards.

It is the Government's view that all residents of the Alice Springs town camps should be subject to a consistent tenancy management system that would guarantee that the Government take responsibility for ensuring equitable and transparent tenancy management for social housing tenants across the Northern Territory as specified under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH).

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 241

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the Commonwealth insisting that handover of control of town camp housing to Territory Housing is a non-negotiable and take-it-or-leave-it deal?

Answer:

The Australian Government remains committed to the arrangements agreed to under the Agreed Work Plan of 10 July 2009. As noted in Question on Notice #218, during the course of negotiations the Australian Government has made no less than 35 concessions in response to concerns raised by Tangentyere Council. The Australian Government has honoured all its commitments under the Agreed Work Plan. A fair, reasonable and appropriate sublease proposal has been developed. Minister Macklin has decided that no further negotiations will be pursued.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 242

- **Topic:** Town Camp and Territory Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does the proposed arrangement with Territory Housing involve responsibility for managing tenancy or does it also involve responsibility for asset management? Under the proposed deal who actually owns the assets? (i) existing houses (ii) new houses?

Answer:

The proposed arrangements under the Agreed Work Plan confer responsibility for both tenancy management and asset management on Territory Housing. Territory Housing are able to contract third party providers for both tenancy management and asset management.

Under the Agreed Work Plan, the assets, both existing and new houses, would remain owned by the Housing Associations. The assets would be leased and under the control of Government for the period of the 40 year sublease.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 243

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camp

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Are the only options open to Tangentyere Council and the town camp housing associations to agree to 40 year leases and Territory Housing control? Under what conditions (if any) would independent tenancy and asset management by a third party other than Territory Housing be acceptable to the Commonwealth?

Answer:

With regard to the first part of the question, please see the response provided to Question on Notice #241.

The arrangements provided in the Agreed Work Plan allow for non government organisations (including Indigenous organisations) to be engaged to provide housing services as an agent of Territory Housing during the initial 3 years of the sublease and to compete in an open tender to provide services in the period following the initial 3 years.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 244

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The Commonwealth appears to have enormous confidence in Territory Housing's ability to delivery housing outcomes for Aboriginal people to be prepared to grant them monopoly powers over Indigenous housing...is this correct?

Answer:

Territory Housing does not have a monopoly over Indigenous housing. Australian and Northern Territory Government investment in remote Indigenous housing is delivered through the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH), an outcomes based framework designed to align government investment in remote Indigenous housing with the achievement of three core objectives:

- Significantly reducing severe overcrowding in remote Indigenous communities;
- Increasing the supply of new houses and improving the condition of existing houses in remote Indigenous communities; and
- Ensuring that rental houses are well maintained and managed in remote Indigenous communities.

The NPRIH notes (Part 3 "Roles and Responsibilities of Each Party") that the States and the Northern Territory will have responsibility for:

- The provision of housing in Indigenous communities and through State and Territory housing authorities be the major deliverer of housing for Indigenous people in remote areas of Australian
- Ensuring provision of standardised tenancy management and support for all Indigenous housing in remote areas, consistent with public housing standards of tenancy management, including through, where appropriate existing service providers.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 245

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What evidence does the Commonwealth have of Territory Housing's performance in delivering public housing outcomes (i) in general (ii) for Aboriginal people?

Answer:

Prior to the current reforms, Territory Housing had not been responsible for provision of housing services in remote communities or town camps. The current standard of remote housing is evidence that the prior model of housing management in these areas has not delivered the required result.

A major focus of the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH) will be the evidence based measurement of outcomes, with reports to the Australian Council of Governments (COAG). This means that the future performance of all service providers will be subject to intense scrutiny with no presumption about their ongoing role outside this context.

In the case of the Northern Territory, the significant investment in remote Indigenous housing by both levels of government over the ten year life of the NPRIH provides a major opportunity for Territory Housing and any non-government service providers to work in a more strategic and effective way.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 246

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What evidence does the Commonwealth have that Territory Housing will perform better than Tangentyere Council? Please table any evaluation or report produced in the last 5 years that demonstrates Territory Housing's performance.

Answer:

As noted in response to Question on Notice #245, the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRIH) has a major focus on measuring outcomes and does not prescribe the service delivery arrangements most likely to facilitate the achievement of these outcomes. This is a decision which needs to be made on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis having regard to historical factors and the opportunities offered by the long term funding commitment made by both the Australian, State and Northern Territory Governments over the ten year life of the NPRIH. Importantly however, the future performance of all service providers, whether government or non government, will be subject to close scrutiny as part of the robust and transparent accountability measures built into the NPRIH. This in turn can be expected to increase contestability and the service delivery mix in remote Indigenous housing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 254

- **Topic:** Social Inclusion of Indigenous People

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) How is the Commonwealth's approach consistent with the Government's stated commitment to social inclusion? How will compulsory acquisition impact upon the long term disempowerment of Indigenous community organisations?
- b) How will it affect the dependency of Aboriginal people on the apparatus of Government?

Answer:

As stated in the response to Question on Notice #207, the situation in Alice Springs is unique and the use of the compulsory acquisition powers under section 47 of the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* is pursued only as a last resort. The reformed tenancy management arrangement which would follow a lease or an acquisition would include genuine engagement with residents. Negotiated settlements involving leases remain the preferred outcome and the Australian Government has already demonstrated the success of this approach in the Tennant Creek Community Living Areas and eight Northern NT communities where leases have been agreed.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 259

- **Topic:** Ceasing CDEP providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the Department provide a list of all towns and communities in which the CDEP program will cease from 1 July 2009, as a result of the Government's reforms (ie those towns and communities classified as non-remote)?

Answer:

The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program ceased to be available from 1 July 2009 in the following towns:

State	Town and Community Locations		
NS W	Aldavilla	Gundurimba	Port Macquarie
	Ballina	Gunnedah	Purfleet
	Balranald	Guyra	Quirindi
	Baryulgil	Harden	Sawtell
	Batemans Bay	Hay	Scone
	Bathurst	Hillston	South west rocks
	Bellbrook	Inverell	Southern Suburbs - Illawarra
	Boggabilla	Jerilderie	Swan Hill
	Boggabri	Junee	Tabulam
	Bonalbo	Kempsey	Taree
	Bowraville	Kendell	Temora
	Broken Hill	Kyogle	Tingha
	Byron Bay	Lake Cargelligo	Tocumwal
	Cabbage Tree Island	Leeton	Toomelah
	Caroona	Lennox Head	Tumut
	Casino	Lismore	Tweed Heads
	Coffs Harbour	Macksville	Ulladulla
	Coleambally	Macleay	Warren
	Condobolin	Malabugilmah	Wauchope
	Coonabarabran	Mallanganee	Wee Waa
	Cootamundra	Mogo	Wellington
	Coraki	Moree	Wentworth
	Crescent Head	Moruya	West Wyalong
Deniliquin	Murrin Bridge	Windang	
Dubbo	Muswellbrook	Wollongbar	

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State	Town and Community Locations		
	Fingal Head	Nambucca Heads	Wollongong
	Forbes	Narrandera	Wreck Bay/Jervis Bay
	Forster /Toncurry	Narromine	Young
	Gilgandra	Nowra	
	Goonellabah	Nyngan	
	Grafton	Old Bar	
	Grenfell	Orange	
	Griffith	Parkes	
QLD	Bundaberg	Gordonvale	Mossman and Mossman Gorge
	Atherton	Herberton	Mt Garnet
	Augathella	Hervey Bay	Mt Isa
	Burnett	Innisfail	Mundaberra
	Charleville	Japoonvale	Ravenshoe
	Charters Towers	Julia Creek	Rockhampton
	Childers	Koah	Roma
	Clemont	Kowrowa	Springsure
	Cloncurry	Kuranda	St George
	Dimbulah	Longreach	Walkamin
	Duarina	Malanda	Wide Bay Region
	Eidsvold	Mareeba	Yarrabah
	Emerald	Mission Beach	
SA	Meningie		
VIC	Morwell	Mildura	Sale
WA	Bellary Spring	Goomalling	Newman
	Boddington	Harvey	Northam
	Bremer Bay	Kalbarri	Northampton
	Brookton	Kalgoorlie	Pingelly
	Brunswick Junction	Katanning	Redmond
	Cheeditha	Kellerberrin	Roebourne
	Coolgardie	Kojonup	Tambellup
	Cranbrook	Kurrawang	Tom Price
	Dalwallinu	Manjimup	Wagin
	Dongara	Manypeaks	Wakathuni
	Five Mile Bay	Merriden	Youngdaleena
	Gibson	Moora	
Gnowangerup	Mt Barker		
	Narrogin		

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 262

- **Topic:** Provision of information to ceasing CDEP providers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How have those people involved in the CDEP scheme been informed that their employment project will be cancelled from 1 July 2009?

Answer:

Participants in ceasing Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program locations have been informed about the changes to CDEP through the following channels:

- In December 2008 ceasing CDEP providers received a letter and a factsheet about the reforms to the CDEP program. CDEP providers were asked to provide the factsheet to participants and discuss the reforms with them.
- In April 2009 the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Centrelink conducted inter-agency community information sessions. These sessions were held in locations where CDEP is ceasing to explain the changes to participants and advise the support available to help them to transition out of CDEP. These sessions were promoted via posters, Indigenous and community radio advertising and booklets provided to participants during the information sessions.
- Throughout June 2009 a second round of interagency community information sessions were held where CDEP is ceasing. These information sessions were promoted by posters and FaHCSIA Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) staff. A detailed factsheet was provided to participants at the information sessions.

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Question No: 265

- **Topic:** Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have the housing precinct leases at Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Wadeye been executed? If not, is this still expected by mid 2009?

Answer:

The housing precinct leases were approved by the Northern Land Council Full Council on 10 February in relation to Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, and Wadeye. Execution of these leases is expected by mid 2009 following finalisation of technical requirements.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 266

- **Topic:** Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide an update on the progress of negotiations with the Central Land Council for leases at Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu?

Answer:

Negotiations with the Central Land Council (CLC) for leases at Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu are underway. Australian Government officials are working closely with the CLC and Northern Territory Government to finalise a lease model for these communities and to progress negotiations.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 267

- **Topic:** Lease Negotiations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide an update on the negotiation of leases with the remaining 5 priority communities identified under SIHIP: Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi and Yirkala?

Answer:

The Northern Land Council has already commenced negotiations about Ngukurr and is scheduled to commence consultations in relation to Numbulwar, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi and Yirkala in mid 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 274

- **Topic:** Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department confirm that 18 ICHOs have now transferred to the Queensland One Social Housing System? If not, why not?

Answer:

Nine Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) (and/or their housing stock) have moved to the Queensland One Social Housing System (OSHS). That is, five have moved as Registered Providers to operate under the OSHS. The other four are transferring ownership of their housing stock to the Queensland Government's Department of Communities (Homelessness and Housing Services) (DoC) under the OSHS. Of this four, two are considering whether or not they will lease the houses back and manage them under the Queensland Government's OSHS. Legal processes associated with the transfer of titles and leasing arrangements are advanced.

Resolving debt issues of a further 3 ICHOs that have agreed to transfer to the new arrangements has caused delays to the process and in finalising the arrangements.

A further six ICHOs are under various Regulatory Authority arrangements. DoC has accepted ownership of the housing stock under the OSHS for three of these ICHOs and transfer of titles and related legal matters are being finalised. Arrangements relating to the other 3 ICHOs under Regulatory Authority appointed administrators are not as far progressed as anticipated, primarily due to the complexity of the arrangements, but work is underway.

In addition, DoC has agreed to take on ownership and tenancy and property management of properties owned by a further three deregistered ICHOs. The properties of one of the three ICHOs in this group have already been transferred to the ownership of DoC. Negotiations with relevant Regulatory Authorities about the transfer of ownership of houses of the other two ICHOs (to be managed under the OSHS) are nearing conclusion.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 282

- **Topic:** Home Ownership - NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Does the department have an estimated timetable yet for the surveying and conveyancing work?

Answer:

Further work will be conducted once the NSW Department of Planning has implemented the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), providing the legislative and planning framework to support the subdivision. We are advised that a draft SEPP will be completed in July 2009. Once this has been implemented, the NSW Department of Planning and NSW Aboriginal Lands Council will consider a pilot project on three communities including the Gingie and Namoi reserves in Walgett, and La Perouse in Sydney.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 283

- **Topic:** Home Ownership - NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Have tenders been finalised yet by the NSW Aboriginal Land Council for this project? If yes, can the department provide information about the costs of surveying and conveyancing the 63 former reserves targeted by this funding?

Answer:

Tendering for the subdivision and conveyancing on the 63 former reserves will commence once the NSW Department of Planning has implemented the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), a draft of which is due to be completed in July 2009. The SEPP will provide the legislative and planning framework to support the subdivision. Once this has been implemented, the NSW Department of Planning and NSWALC will consider a pilot project on three communities including the Gingie and Namoi reserves in Walgett, and La Perouse in Sydney.

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Question No: 284

Topic: CIRCA Report

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the report by CIRCA be publicly available and released?

Answer:

The Community Feedback on the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) – Research Report (September 2008) undertaken by Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia (CIRCA) on behalf of the Department was lodged on the Department’s website http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/community_feedback/Pages/default.aspx on 7 May 2009.

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Question No: 297

- **Topic:** Consultative Mechanisms

Hansard Page: CA39

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide the details of the number of consultative mechanisms which are entrenched in the proposed lease document?

Answer:

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are firmly committed to ongoing and meaningful consultation with the residents of the Alice Springs town camps especially in relation to tenancy management issues.

The Agreed Work Plan signed on 10 July 2008 and the proposed sublease document commit the Australian Government, the Executive Director of Township Leasing and the Northern Territory Government to consultation processes for the duration of the 40 year sublease term.

Three such processes are entrenched in the sublease documentation: a consultative forum to advise the Executive Director of Township Leasing on administration of the subleases, community engagement as an integral element of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program and ongoing meaningful consultation about tenancy management issues to be effected by establishment of a Housing Reference Group for each town camp. Territory Housing has also agreed that each Housing Association may determine the composition of the Housing Reference Group for its camp.

In addition the sublease provides for an additional consultation mechanism comprising a tri-partite forum of one representative each from the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and Tangentyere Council. This forum would be required to meet quarterly to review tenancy management issues.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 298

- **Topic:** Town Camp Residents

Hansard Page: CA42

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide accurate information that also includes the 'flavour' of how they are made up?

Answer:

The major language group of each of the Alice Springs town camps is as follows:

Town Camp	Other name(s)	Language groups
Akngwertnarre	Morris Soak	Arrente, Warlpiri
Anthelke Ewlpaye	Kunoth / Charles Creek	Arrente, Anmatyere
Anthelke Ewlpaye	The Village	Arrente, Anmatyere
Anthepe	Drive In	Arrente, Luritja, Pitjantjatjarra, Warlpiri
Aper Alwerrkngge	Palmers Camp	Eastern Arrente
Ewyenper Atwatye	Hidden Valley	Arrente, Warlpiri, Anmatyere
Iparpa	New Iparpa	Arrente, Luritja, Pertame, Walpiri
Ipiye Ipiye	Golders Camp	Warlpiri
Ilperle Tyathe	Warlpiri	Warlpiri
Ilyperenye	Old Timers	Arrente, Kaytetye
Inarlenge	Little Sisters	Luritja, Western Arrente, Pitjantjatjarra, Warlpiri
Karnte		Luritja, Western Arrente, Pitjantjatjarra, Warlpiri
Yarrenyty Arltere	Larapinta Valley	Arrente, Pitjantjatjarra, Luritja, Pertame
Lhenpe Artnwe	Hoppys camp	Arrente, Warlpiri, Pintubi, Anmatyere,
Mpwetyerre	Abbots camp	Arrente, Warlpiri, Pitjantjatjarra, Waramunga, Pintubi
Mount Nancy		Arrente, Kaytetye, Anmatyere, Alyawarre
Basso's Farm		Arrente
Nywente	Trucking Yards	Arrente, Luritja, Pitjantjatjarra
Namatjira <i>not part of sublease negotiations</i>	Anhelke	Arrente, Pitjantjatjarra, Luritja
Whitegate <i>not part of sublease negotiations</i>	Irrkerlantye	Arrente
Irklanacha Atwacha <i>not part of sublease negotiations</i>		Arrente

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Question No: 308

- **Topic: CDEP**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What is the department's attitude in relation to CDEP's employee's success rates and decision to not continuing a contract?

Answer:

One main aspect of the CDEP program is to achieve successful employment placements for participants, with performance against employment outcomes measured by Key Performance Indicators set by the Department in consultation with each provider. However, the employment relationship between an employee and the CDEP provider is regulated by the relevant Industrial Instruments and Legislation and not by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). FaHCSIA cannot interfere with matters between the CDEP providers and its employees. Matters of employment disputes must be taken up with the relevant authority in the state or territory under which they are employed.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 309

- **Topic:** CDEP Employment Placements

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

I am aware of a situation in Yalgoo, in which an employee of CDEP had success with some of the indigenous members of the community and subsequently 10 were able to find paid work. However this person's contract was not renewed, and the reason was that there had been two complaints, none of which were in writing. Can you please explain the logic behind this, particularly with the success this man had managed to have?

Answer:

The employment relationship between an employee and the CDEP provider is regulated by the relevant Industrial Instruments and Legislation and not by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). FaHCSIA cannot interfere with matters between the CDEP providers and its employees. Matters of employment disputes must be taken up with the relevant authority in the state or territory under which they are employed.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 340

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Have all funding offers been made for the new financial round?

Have all funding agreements been signed and when will organisations receive funds from the Department?

Answer:

As per the response to Question on Notice 054.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 376

- **Topic:** BasicsCard approval for Tilmouth Well Roadhouse

Hansard Page: CA49

Senator Siewert asked:

The issue that we have been canvassing in this committee is the point about whether roadhouses that are potentially licensed for the BasicsCard should not be licensed unless they are supplying Opal fuel. We know it is not government policy, but some of us have been thinking about that. Following up on my previous question on notice, the answer was that Tilmouth Well Roadhouse had applied but, at that stage, it was still pending. So I am asking whether that has happened yet.

Answer:

Centrelink advised that Tilmouth Well Roadhouse was approved to sell fuel and automotive parts on 5 June 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 205

- **Topic:** Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) How much did ABA spend on the fibre optic cable across Arnhem Land?
- b) Is the cable available to outstations to use? If not, why not?

Answer:

a) Rio Tinto and Telstra have made a commercial decision to pay for the costs of laying optic fibre cable between Jabiru and Nhulunbuy. In partnership with the Northern Territory Government the Minister has approved \$5 million in Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) grant funds to connect nine remote communities to the optic fibre cable link.

The nine major communities being connected are; Millingimbi (approximate population 998), Galiwinku (1698), Waruwi (391), Oenpelli (881), Maningrida (2068), Ramingining (653), Gapuwiyak (885), Yirrkala (687) and Minjilang (271).

The project will provide substantial increases in available bandwidth to all nine communities allowing for improvements to government services such as Health (patient records, video conference diagnostics, digital x-ray), Education (online learning), Police/Justice (Access to Police Records, video conferencing hearings), Local Government (Local Government business systems, tenancy management, library services, internet) and Economic Development (Online access for Tourism/Art marketing and participation in other economies).

The project will also provide substantial increases in broadband width to individuals, alleviating the restrictions on services (including mobile phone coverage) currently felt by people living in those communities.

- b) It is not feasible to connect outstations to the cable when it costs approximately \$30,000 per kilometre or \$1 million per outstation to lay the optic fibre cable.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 206

- **Topic:** Desecration of sacred site Numbulwar

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Has ABA been asked to pay the compensation negotiated for desecration of a sacred site at Numbulwar by contractors?
- b) If so, have they agreed?
- c) If so, how much involved?

Answer:

No.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 226

- **Topic:** Tenancy Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the Commonwealth aware of the comparisons undertaken by the Fixing Houses for Better Health (FHBH) program of Critical Healthy Living Practices which showed Tangentyere scored as well or better than the NT average on 7 out of 10 measures PRIOR to the 2006 Health Habitat project? – and then better than the national average on 8 out of 10 Critical Healthy Living Practices after the project?

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 251

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will there be data produced indicating the improvements to the 9 Critical Healthy Living Practices outlined in FaHCSIA's National Indigenous Housing Guide?

Answer:

Yes. The Northern Territory Government will be collecting information to allow a baseline of housing functionality to be established and the impact of future improvements to be measured. This will be based on regular assessments of the houses that will measure the elements specified under the 9 Critical Health Living Practices.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 258

- **Topic:** Wallaga Lake - Asbestos

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In a SBS World News report on 18 May 2009, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly MP, said in relation to the asbestos at Wallaga Lake "I understand what sort of suffering and tragedies can result from mishandling this issue and I'm really determined that we don't repeat those mistakes of the past. We need some urgent action here now... Work should be happening right now to reduce the hazard that exists that we know of, to reduce exposure and also to get a good baseline on the situation of the health of the community as well." Separately, the *Narooma News* reported that Dr Kelly had said the first priority was to get the asbestos testing "lung bus" operated by Workcover to visit Wallaga, and that he had contacted Minister Macklin's office to put pressure on the State Government to get the testing done. Can the department advise what communications, correspondence or representations Dr Kelly has made to the Minister on the issue of asbestos at Wallaga Lake?

Answer:

The Department is not able to advise what communications or representations the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly MP has made to the Minister on the issue of asbestos at Wallaga Lake. There is no correspondence on the Department's records between Dr Kelly and Minister Macklin regarding this topic.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 260

- **Topic: CDEP**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Will a Community Support Service facility be located in every community in which CDEP will cease?

Answer:

No. The Community Support Service will be provided in 87 priority locations/clusters that have a significant Indigenous population and have been part of the recent Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program reforms and the reforms made in 2007. These are primarily in urban and regional locations, including capital cities, major regional centres and some smaller regional communities.

Details of the proposed locations in which the Community Support Service will operate are available at www.fahcsia.gov.au:

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 263

- **Topic: CDEP**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide figures of the number of Indigenous people who were engaged on 1 June 2008 and 1 June 2009 as part of CDEP programs in those areas in which the program will cease on 1 July 2009?

Answer:

Participant information is generally recorded at the individual Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program provider level rather than the locations in which they live. In most cases, providers offer activities in more than one location and thus a breakdown of numbers by location is not easily obtained.

However, at 30 June 2008 it is estimated that around 4,500 participants were undertaking CDEP activities in locations where CDEP will cease to be delivered from 1 July 2009. This estimate is based on a desktop assessment combined with local knowledge of Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) local agreement managers.

The actual number of participants as at 30 June 2009 in areas in which the program will cease will not be available until a comprehensive analysis of exit data is undertaken post 1 July 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 270

- **Topic:** Maningrida Community Consultation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What consultations have representatives of the department had with this Housing Reference Group, as compared to broader community consultations?

Answer:

The Government Business Manager has represented FaHCSIA and assisted Territory Housing in facilitating each of the Housing Reference Group meetings. The Housing Reference Group meetings also include the SIHIP alliance partner for Maningrida, Territory Alliance. Further to this, the Northern Territory Government employs a local Indigenous woman who liaises with Territory Alliance, SIHIP and the broader community on the progress of SIHIP in Maningrida. The local Indigenous woman is assisted by the FaHCSIA Indigenous Engagement Officer and Government Business Manager when required.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 300

- **Topic:** CDEP Participant Exits

Hansard Page: CA55

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide the number of people who have been breached on the CDEP?

Answer:

Breaches are only recorded where a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program provider breaches certain Program Funding Agreement conditions, such as late financial reports or late acquittal documentation.

Breaches are not recorded in relation to non-compliance of CDEP participants. However participants may be exited by providers for non-compliance, not meeting eligibility or participation requirements of the program and for non-attendance. Details of those exits for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 are as follows:

Group of Main Reason	Number of Participant Exits
* CDEP Suspended/Terminated	1,689
Dismissed	1,010
Ineligible	499
Not compliant with Job Network requirements	906
Unapproved Absences	1,666
Total	5,770

* Note: some providers, particularly during June 2009, have selected this exit reason to describe the exit of participants in areas where CDEP will no longer be delivered post 1 July 2009.

It should be noted that participants may exit and subsequently recommence multiple times subject to addressing non compliance, eligibility and participation requirements of the CDEP program.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 301

- **Topic:** Native Title Bodies

Hansard Page: CA73-74

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you tell me where the 14 Native Title Representative Bodies are located?

Answer:

A list of the 15 Native Title Representative Bodies/Native Title Service Providers is below. A map showing the region serviced by each of these bodies is at Attachment A.

STATE	REGION	NAME OF NTRB/SERVICE PROVIDER
New South Wales/ACT	New South Wales	NTSCORP
Queensland	Gulf of Carpentaria	Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
	Cape York	Cape York Land Council
	Northern Queensland	North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation
	Southern and Western Queensland	Queensland South Native Title Services Ltd
Victoria	Victoria	Native Title Services Victoria Ltd
South Australia	Greater South Australia	South Australian Native Title Services Ltd
Northern Territory	Northern Northern Territory	Northern Land Council
	Southern Northern Territory	Central Land Council
Western Australia	Kimberley	Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
	Pilbara	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation
	Geraldton	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation
	Central Desert	Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd
	Goldfields	Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation
	South West	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

Attachment A is accessible at this link: https://www.ntrb.net/PublicPages/ntrb_map.pdf

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Question No: 302

- **Topic:** Native Title Bodies – Education Activities

Hansard Page: CA73

Senator Boyce asked:

What sort of activities do the Native Title Representative Bodies do to educate within their patches on those (ie native title) issues?

Answer:

Native Title Representative Bodies and Native Title Service Providers (NTRBs) are funded by the Commonwealth to assist native title holders in the region they service to obtain recognition of their native title rights and interests, and in the exercise of those rights and interests. As such, the focus of NTRBs, in terms of education, is on conveying information about – and representing - the rights and interests of the Indigenous groups in their region with respect to native title. To perform this function effectively, NTRBs must gain a comprehensive understanding of the traditional groups within their region and establish clear lines of communication with those groups. The process of researching, building and lodging a native title determination application, or of negotiating the terms and conditions of agreement to a proposed future act on native title land, or the terms of a proposed Indigenous Land Use Agreement, all require extensive discussion and consultation between the NTRB and the individual native title groups within its region. This is very much an educative process explaining rights and options as well as a consultative process designed to obtain the views and instructions of claimants and how best to represent their interests to them. A number of NTRBs also publish newsletters, such as the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, and all NTRBs maintain websites.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 304

- **Topic:** NTER Taskforce

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Can you provide more information as to the ‘experience’ Mr Zissler has with Indigenous communities?

Answer:

Mr Mike Zissler has almost 20 years public service experience across state and federal jurisdictions in Australia including over eight years working with Indigenous clients in urban and regional health services in New South Wales and South Australia. He has also worked closely with Indigenous communities in the ACT.

After joining the Northern Territory Emergency Response Operations Centre in March 2009, Mr Zissler visited over 25 remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 305

- **Topic:** NTER Taskforce

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Why is the new commander banned from speaking to the media when previous commander Major General David Chalmers would often speak to the media to answer questions and deliver updates? Whose decision is this? Is this basically a gag order by the Minister?

Answer:

The Australian Government is moving the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) away from the initial implementation phase to a more sustainable development phase.

Key to effecting this change is improved engagement and partnerships with Indigenous communities.

As a senior public servant, Mr Zissler's focus had always been on helping to drive that change. When he was appointed to the four-month temporary position, it was not envisaged that he would be a spokesperson for the NTER. Media handling was managed through Minister Macklin's Office in line with general practice.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 310

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

With the alcohol bans in place, there are now problems with sly grogging, that is going to another town to purchase alcohol. What is being done regarding this?

Answer:

Sly grogging or grog running was a problem that existed before the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). The Northern Territory Police are responsible for enforcement of restrictions which prohibit the transport of alcohol into communities prescribed under the NTER. Senior police officers have reported that the NTER restrictions have improved the capacity to detect grog running because they apply to areas rather than individual communities (which was previously the case).

The Government recognises, however, that more can be done to reduce the availability of alcohol in regional centres and along the Stuart Highway particularly. It has initiated discussions with the Northern Territory Government (which has responsibility for licensing liquor outlets) to take further practical steps to reduce the supply of alcohol in regional centres through changes to licensing conditions and with a view to reducing grog running as well.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 311

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

An alcohol ban is often not enough, what support and counselling is available for indigenous communities?

Answer:

The provision of support and counselling services is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) and the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families.

FaHCSIA is aware of the following programs and initiatives being undertaken by DOHA:

- The Department of Health and Ageing implemented a range of demand and harm reduction initiatives in the NT in 2007-08 to support individuals and communities affected by alcohol restrictions introduced under the NTER. This included introduction of alcohol and other drugs services (AOD) into selected Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) and substance use services, workforce training and support measures, enhanced capacity for selected residential rehabilitation services, and provision of a range of community education and health promotion activities. A number of these measures continued in 2008-09 through Closing the Gap – NT – Follow Up Care funds.
- The Northern Territory has also been allocated funds under the 2006 and 2007 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) substance use measures aimed at increasing drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services in regional and remote Indigenous communities. Some of these funds will be available in 2009-10.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program is providing on-going funding to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in the NT to provide substance use services.
- There are community level initiatives under the Government's National Binge Drinking Strategy. One component of this Australian Strategy is an Early Intervention Pilot Program (EIPP) which aims to get young people under the age of 18 'back on track' before more serious alcohol-related problems emerge.

Support services can also include social marketing and community education programs which aim to influence people's attitudes towards alcohol, raise awareness of alcohol related harm and reduce alcohol consumption. In this respect, the Government is providing funding assistance to the Northern Territory Government to improve and expand its programs in these areas.

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Question No: 313

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Have any harm minimisation strategies been put into place?

Answer:

The various alcohol related measures implemented under the Northern Territory Emergency Response and the complementary programs managed by the Department of Health and Ageing (see answer to Question 311) are aimed at reducing the harm caused by alcohol.

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Question No: 314

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What education is available for communities regarding alcohol abuse?

Answer:

Information and education regarding alcohol abuse is coordinated through local health authorities, community councils or the NT Department of Health and Families. FaHCSIA has recently funded the NT Department of Justice to raise community awareness about alcohol issues and to equip communities to more actively participate in strategies to reduce alcohol related harm, including the development of alcohol management plans. Detailed work in engaging communities on the preparation of alcohol management plans will be commencing later this year, working particularly with those communities which have indicated a preparedness to focus on this initiative.

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Question No: 315

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

You mentioned last Estimates, if there is a rise in alcohol abuse in a community, that issue is being raised by police in the community council meetings in an attempt to find community solutions. Can you tell me how successful that has been?

Answer:

Alcohol is available in a limited way in some communities in prescribed areas. This includes where licensed clubs are in existence, operating under strict conditions and where liquor permits have been approved by the Licensing Commission, upon endorsement of local police. In both Groote Eylandt and East Arnhem, alcohol management plans were developed with the communities and conditions of sale and supply of liquor accordingly prescribed.

An arrangement is in place whereby FaHCSIA meets with the NT Police on a weekly basis to keep abreast of matters of significance and to provide a forum at which alcohol issues are discussed. Communities convene liquor permit committees to manage requests at a local level and Community Social Clubs also have their own governance arrangements. Australian Government Business Managers routinely report on alcohol issues as they arise and discuss these matters with both their local community councils and the police officer in charge. Some communities have been expressing interest in developing alcohol management plans and the NT Department of Justice has been funded to support this work.

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Question No: 316

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What has been the feedback from community members on this?
What types of community solutions have there been?

Answer:

There are varying arrangements in prescribed communities in respect to access and consumption of alcohol. Some communities have alcohol management plans, some addressed the alcohol issue by having general restrictions prior to the NTNER and others have licensed social clubs with local management of sales, supply and consumption of liquor. Recently the Ngukurr community signed a mutual respect agreement between its elders and the NT Police. This agreement will provide a mechanism to assist in dealing with alcohol issues in the community. A similar strategy is being developed at Galiwinku through the Shire Council.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 341

- **Topic:** Housing in Kowrowa

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department provide any information about Top Kowrowa and the living conditions of 124 people living in dilapidated houses?

Answer:

There are 10 tenanted houses in Top Kowrowa being managed by the Queensland Government's Department of Communities [Housing and Homelessness Services] [DoC].

According to DoC there is an average of 5.2 declared household members at each property and there are 19 Indigenous families listed on the DoC housing register for the Kuranda area.

The land on which the houses are located is owned by the Top Kowrowa Land Trust as inalienable freehold.

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Question No: 342

- **Topic:** Housing in Kowrowa

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the Department also aware that these people are paying up to \$250 a week rent for these dilapidated houses and has the Department any plans to improve this accommodation?

Answer:

The houses at Top Kowrowa are managed by Department of Communities (DoC). According to DoC, rent of \$95 per week is being charged for each of the 10 properties at Top Kowrowa and the Queensland Government has plans for house constructions and refurbishments.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 354

- **Topic:** Native Title

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The Government will provide \$62.1 million over four years in additional funding for the operations of Native Title Representative Bodies, who are the legal representatives of most claimant groups.

There are currently 15 bodies advocating for native title claimants across Australia.

Is the funding distributed according to the amount of claims each Body receives, or is it distributed directly to each Body? Can the Department provide a list of how much funding has gone to each Body in 2008-09?

Answer:

Fourteen Native Title Representative Bodies and Native Title Service Providers (NTRBs) are funded for their operations from the appropriation under Outcome 7 for the Native Title and Land Rights program, under funding agreements which require compliance with an approved budget and Operational Plan. The funds are allocated between NTRBs on the basis of the broad level of workload demand faced by each NTRB in its particular region and the nature and extent of immediate pressures arising from priority demands from other parties in the native title system, including the Federal Court, State governments and the National Native Title Tribunal. The level of workload faced by NTRBs differs from region to region according to a range of factors, including the number of active claims, the stage to which claims have been progressed, the number of matters in litigation, the level and nature of development, mining and other future act activity in the region, and the approach taken by State governments and other respondent parties to the resolution of claims and the negotiation of agreements.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is the NTRB for the Torres Strait Region. The TSRA receives a separate one line appropriation for its operations, and from this amount provides an allocation for its native title activities. In 2008-09, the TSRA received an appropriation of \$51.9 million and allocated \$1,127,645 to progress native title claims in 2008-09.

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The amount allocated to each NTRB in 2008-09 (other than by the TSRA) was as follows:

NTRB/NTSP	2008-09
Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	\$4,936,399
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	\$2,004,809
Central Desert Native Title Services Limited	\$3,373,908
Central Land Council	\$2,857,916
Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation	\$4,429,593
Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	\$5,781,699
Native Title Services Victoria Ltd	\$3,830,554
North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation	\$6,698,056
Northern Land Council	\$3,318,724
NTSCORP Limited	\$4,046,138
Queensland South Native Title Services Ltd	\$8,192,518
South Australian Native Title Services Ltd	\$3,915,545
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation	\$2,965,152
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation	\$8,023,004
TOTAL	\$64,374,015

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Question No: 356

- **Topic:** Native Title

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

When a company negotiates for a native title agreement, is it possible for the company to agree for revenue to flow to a Native Title Representative Body directly?

Answer:

There is no generally applicable law that restricts the terms on which a company can agree to enter a native title agreement. Native title agreements between companies and native title holders are in essence commercial transactions and any agreement struck will reflect a variety of factors, including the negotiation context, and the project costs and estimated returns.

The primary role of the Native Title Representative Body or Native Title Service Provider (NTRB) in this negotiation is to represent the native title holders. Thus, generally speaking, the NTRB is not a party to the agreement in its own right. The NTRB has statutory obligations, including those which require it to fulfil its representative role in a manner that is fair and has regard to the interests of the native title holders. Its legal staff have a professional duty to act in the best interests of their clients. Accordingly, it would be inappropriate for an NTRB to seek to profit from any agreement.

However, it is possible for NTRBs to seek to represent the native title holders on a full or partial cost-recovery basis. This is not in the nature of a benefit for the NTRB. Rather, it recognises that the proponent's proposal is a cost to the NTRB that can be offset by the proponent who seeks to benefit from the proposal.

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Question No: 359

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The NTER has enforced alcohol restrictions in certain areas. Can the Government confirm which areas of the Northern Territory currently have alcohol restrictions and the level of restrictions in each area?

Answer:

The government has legislated through the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* to ban liquor in prescribed areas of the Northern Territory. Prescribed areas are :

- freehold land held by a Land Trust under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*
- other Aboriginal communities described as Northern Territory Community Living Areas
- Aboriginal living areas described as 'town camps'
- other areas declared by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs,

Lists of the prescribed communities and town camps can be found at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ntresponse/about_response/overview/communitiesprescribed/prescribed_areas/Pages/default.aspx

A map detailing the prescribed areas in the NT can be found here: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ntresponse/about_response/overview/communitiesprescribed/prescribed_areas/Documents/map_detailed.pdf

Where there were licensed community clubs in existence in prescribed areas they are allowed to continue to operate under strict conditions, including a ban on the sale of take away liquor, reduced opening hours and alcohol free days. Liquor permits remain, though their operation is being closely monitored.

Where there is an endorsed alcohol management plan the conditions of this plan have continued under the NTER, eg Groote Eylandt Alcohol Management Plan, East Arnhem Harmony Plan.

Further information on the liquor bans can be found on the FaHCSIA website http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ntresponse/about_response/law_and_order/alcohol_bans_penalties/Pages/default.aspx#factsheets

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Question No: 361

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In August 2007, \$7.6 million was allocated to alcohol diversion measures in the Northern Territory. It was noted that shortages of youth workers and the absence of accommodation and recreational infrastructure in remote communities would make implementation of the proposals difficult.

Does the Government have any current programs to increase the number of youth workers in Indigenous communities?

Can the Government outline exactly how funding will be spent on diversionary activities and what kind of activities is the Government planning to encourage?

Answer:

Funding of \$28.4 million over three years was announced in the 2009-10 Budget under the Closing the Gap, in the Northern Territory *Youth in Communities* measure. This measure will enhance the quantity, quality and cohesion of youth services in Northern Territory Indigenous communities. Funding will be used to improve recreational infrastructure, as well as provide for the salary costs of more youth workers in priority target communities. The measure will also fund a range of diversionary programs, aimed at engaging young people in positive activities that promote pathways to good health and wellbeing, community capacity building and participation in school, work and social networks.

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Question No: 362

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In January 2008, the first round of Youth Diversion flexible Funding Proposals commenced. 30 projects started, including 20 sport/recreational infrastructure builds or upgrades, sport and recreation materials and equipment grants, one project involving the employment of a youth worker in a community, and five event or ongoing organised activity projects (at a combined value of \$2.6 million).

Can the Government provide information as to the success of these projects, as well as the number of Indigenous youth who participated in the programs?

Answer:

An evaluation is planned in the next six months of the diversionary and infrastructure projects funded under the *Youth Alcohol Diversion* Measure. This evaluation will assess the impact and outcomes achieved through these projects for Indigenous youth, including participation rates where relevant.

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Question No: 364

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In February 2008, the Red Cross was chosen as the provider of the Youth Development Network in the Arnhem Land and Daly River regions.

- a) What selection criteria was used to choose the Red Cross as the inaugural service provider for this program?
- b) What performance feedback has the Government received from the Red Cross on this program? Could the Government make this feedback available?

Answer:

a) The Northern Territory Emergency Response Youth Alcohol Diversion, Regional Youth Development Network model required that FaHCSIA engage a lead agency to drive the establishment of youth services in the Daly/Wadeye and West Arnhem regions. To ensure that the youth diversion activities were delivered efficiently, the Department undertook a direct selection process after assessing a number of key youth providers in the Northern Territory against the following criteria:

- Sustainable organisation with the necessary resources and a good track record of achieving outcomes in Indigenous communities
- Existing relationships/partnerships in part or all of the region
- Training capacity and experience
- Ability to work in partnership with other organisations
- Experience working with substance abuse issues
- Demonstrated capacity to ensure community buy in
- Demonstrated capacity in providing support and building on the strengths of local organisations and local staff involved in youth service delivery
- Experience in brokering and coordinating across a range of services and community organisations.

Australian Red Cross was selected to coordinate the Youth Development Network as it had a proven track record in youth service delivery and a demonstrated ability to act as broker and provide a range of diversionary activities. It also had a good footprint in the relevant regions and a proven record in remote service delivery and establishing positive working relationships with remote communities and building capacity in communities.

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b) A comprehensive performance report will be provided by Red Cross in September 2009. This report will be used for internal planning purposes. The report will outline how the funding:

- Increased the range of diversionary activities and participation of youth across the targeted regions in activities such as coaching clinics, substance abuse prevention education, life skills training etc;
- Increased the number of diversionary activities related to improving school attendance and engagement with the education system;
- Increased diversionary activities related to training and employment outcomes;
- Increased regional competitions/events across the region - based around sport, music, cultural activities, art etc;
- Increased the number of regional youth forum/s;
- Increased the coordination of youth diversionary activities across the region;
- Increased the coordination and linkages of diversionary activities both site specific and across the region;
- Increased youth leadership training including youth exchanges within the region and with other regions;
- Increased training outcomes for youth;
- Enhanced pathways and linkages for training and employment opportunities;
- Enhanced service mapping and development of comprehensive integrated youth service plan for the region; and
- Enhanced the further development of the regional youth network.

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Question No: 289

- **Topic:** Community Stores Licensing – Yuendumu

Hansard Page: CA26

Senator Siewert asked:

Could you provide the details about the licensing of the Outback Store and the lease changes over the Yuendumu Social Club? Could you also include details of the time line, who made those decisions and how?

Answer:

Outback Store

The Yuendumu Women's Centre Store business, trading as Nguru Walalja (Everybody's Place), was established by the Yuendumu Women's Centre Aboriginal Corporation.

A management services agreement was entered into with Outback Stores on 27 July 2008. The decision to enter into the agreement was made by the Yuendumu Women's Centre Aboriginal Corporation.

A Community Stores Corporate Licence, which covers all Outback Stores in prescribed areas as defined by the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* (the Act), was issued by FaHCSIA to Outback Stores in June 2008 to cover the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The decision to grant this licence was made by FaHCSIA's delegate, Ms Amanda Cattermole, Group Manager, Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Group. In June 2009 a new Community Stores Corporate Licence was issued to Outback Stores for the period from 1 July 2009 until 30 June 2010. The decision to renew this licence was made by the delegate, Mr Brian Aarons, the then Chief of Staff, of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Operations Centre.

Part 7 Division 3 of the Act requires that the decision to licence or not licence a store be made by the Secretary of the Department or a Delegate appointed by the Secretary.

The Act makes provision for the issuing of a licence relating to all community stores covered by the Act. As part of the licensing process, Outback Stores were assessed against certain criteria set out in Part 7 of the Act. Those criteria are:

- the community store's capacity to participate in, and (if applicable) its record of compliance with, the requirements of the income management regime;
- the quality, quantity and range of groceries and consumer items, including healthy food and drink, available and promoted at the community store; and
- the financial structure, retail practices and governance practices of the community store.

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The approach to issuing a corporate licence recognises that a single corporate entity has the ability to apply a consistent and disciplined methodology to the management and operation within and across multiple community stores.

Yuendumu Social Club

After the initial assessment of the Yuendumu Social Club Store in March 2008 it was realised that the parcel of land on which the Yuendumu Social Club Store was located was held in escrow pursuant to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (the Land Rights Act). This subsequently raised some doubt as to whether the Yuendumu Social Club Store was on a prescribed area for the purposes of the Act.

Section 31 of the NTNER Act provides that leases over areas of land described in Parts 1 to 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act are granted to the Commonwealth.

The areas of land described in Part 1 to Schedule 1 to the NTNER Act include an area of land at Yuendumu. That area of land is described as being all of an area of land marked out by certain latitudinal and longitudinal points that is “Aboriginal land within the meaning of paragraph (a) of the definition of *Aboriginal land* in subsection 3(1) of the Land Rights Act.

Paragraph (a) of the definition of Aboriginal land refers to land that is “held by a Land Trust for an estate in fee simple”. Paragraph (b) of the definition of Aboriginal land refers to land that is “the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a Land Council.”

There are three portions of land that cover the area in which the town of Yuendumu is located: N.T. Portions 1373 and 1633, and N.T. Portion 1068.

The Yuendumu Social Club Store is located on lot 368 (as described on the SLAP map for Yuendumu), which is within NT Portion 1068. The Department identified that N.T. Portion 1068 was not included in the area of land that was the subject of the deed by which land was granted to the Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust.

This meant that the land in NT Portion 1068, including the land on which the Yuendumu Social Club Store is located, is not land held by a Land Trust for an estate in fee simple, and therefore is not Aboriginal land within the meaning of Aboriginal land at paragraph (a) of the definition in the Land Rights Act.

Because the area of land that is included in the s.31 lease over Yuendumu only includes Aboriginal land of the sort described at paragraph (a) of the definition of Aboriginal land in the Land Rights Act, there was doubt if the s.31 lease covered the land on which the Yuendumu Social Club Store is located.

Section 92 of the NTNER Act provides that a community store, for the purposes of the licensing regime at Part 7, is a business that is carried on:

- (i) at premises in a prescribed area; or

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- (ii) at premises in an area or place in the Northern Territory that is specified by the Minister under subsection 123(1) for the purposes of this paragraph; or
- (iii) at premises in the Northern Territory that are specified by the Minister under subsection 123(2) for the purposes of this paragraph.

The areas in the Northern Territory that are prescribed areas are relevantly defined as including “an area covered by paragraph (a) of the definition of *Aboriginal land* in subsection 3(1) of the [Land Rights Act]” (s.4(2)(a)). As discussed above, this may not have included the land on which the Yuendumu store is located.

This resulted in uncertainty as to whether the application of Part 7 of the NTNER Act concerning the licensing of community stores applied to the Yuendumu Social Club Store.

In order to remove any uncertainty as to whether the Yuendumu Social Club Store fell within the community store licensing regime, the area of land on which the store is located was specified as a prescribed area by Ministerial declaration made under s.4(4) of the NTNER Act. The Ministerial determination was signed by the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, on 4 June 2008.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 348

- **Topic:** Staffing and OHS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

On average, how long does an employee with the NTER reside within accommodation in a remote area?

Answer:

NTER accommodation is intended as a place of residence for NTER staff whilst working on the community. A number of staff, in particular Government Business Managers, reside in this accommodation on a full time basis while other staff use the accommodation for temporary, short term visits to remote Indigenous communities. On this basis it is not feasible to provide a meaningful average on how long an employee working on the NTER resides within accommodation in a remote area.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 375

- **Topic:** Letter to the Minister on Asbestos at Wallaga Lake

Hansard Page: CA27

Senator Payne asked:

Could you please provide an update on a response to correspondence that I sent to the Minister on this issue?

Answer:

A response was sent on 5 June 2009. A copy of the letter is attached.

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The Hon Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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MC09-011740

- 5 JUN 2009

Senator Marise Payne
Senator for New South Wales
PO Box CC18
PARRAMATTA NSW 2123

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter of 29 April 2009 on behalf of the Katungul Aboriginal Corporation and Medical Services and the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Community about asbestos on their land.

The Commonwealth Government is very concerned about reports of the presence of asbestos in the local waste dump and material possibly containing asbestos in the residential areas of Wallaga Lake.

I am advised that the surface asbestos has now been removed from the waste dump at Wallaga Lake by the Eurobodalla Shire Council and that a barrier fence has been erected around the site.

The New South Wales Government has commissioned an expert assessment of the material possibly containing asbestos found within the Wallaga Lake village. On the basis of the preliminary findings of the assessment, the NSW Greater Southern Area Health Service has advised the Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council that no detectable levels of asbestos had been found in the air or soil sampling and this would indicate there is no current health risk from asbestos fibres at the village.

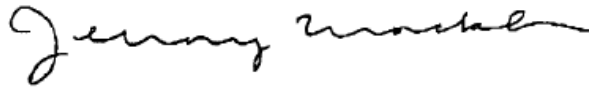
As you would be aware, asbestos management is an important responsibility of land owners or lease holders and must be conducted in accordance with State or Territory regulation. I understand Eurobodalla Shire Council has successfully assisted Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council to apply to the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change for funding to conduct any further remedial work at the dump site and on residential land as required following the outcomes of the final assessment.

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I appreciate you taking the time to bring this important matter to my attention. As Indigenous health falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, I am referring your letter to her for consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Macklin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JENNY MACKLIN MP

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Output Group: 7

Question No: 247

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Has the Commonwealth looked carefully at the recent AHURI report on operating deficits and public housing (Oct 2007)?
2. How would the Commonwealth characterize their evaluation of territory housing's performance and operating position?

Answer:

1. The Department is aware of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) Report - *Operating deficits and public housing: policy options for reversing the trend: 2005/06 update* that was released in October 2007.
2. Since the completion of the AHURI report, the Australian Government has undertaken significant housing reforms in conjunction with all states and the Northern Territory as part of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Indigenous Housing. Performance benchmarks and reporting requirements have been agreed with all states and the Northern Territory as part of the NPA.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 230

- **Topic:** Maintenance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

a) What role does the Alice Springs town council have in delivering essential services to town camp residents?

b) Why are arrangements different for town camps than they are for the suburbs of Alice?

Answer:

Currently the Alice Springs Council does not deliver municipal services such as garbage collection and maintenance of public areas to the Alice Springs Town Camps.

The different arrangement in relation to these areas is partly because each town camp is private land constituted as a single block rather than a series of lots accessible by public roads. In addition to this there has been a legal decision that town camps serviced by Tangentyere are not required to pay rates to the Alice Springs Town Council.

As part of the regularisation of the Town Camps discussions will be held with the Alice Springs Town Council about extending their full range of services to these living areas.

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Output Group: 7

Question No: 248

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Does Territory Housing's have a current operating deficit?

Answer:

Questions regarding the current operating position of Territory Housing should be directed to the Northern Territory Government.

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Output Group: 7

Question No: 249

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. What changes has Territory Housing implemented since this report to address the problem?
2. What performance management criteria is the Commonwealth putting in place with the NT Government and with Territory Housing?
3. Can you table these performance criteria?
4. How will the Commonwealth monitor and report on this performance?

Answer:

1. Questions relating to any changes that may have been implemented by Territory Housing in response to the report should be directed to the Northern Territory Government.
2. Performance management criteria for all states and the Northern Territory are detailed in the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Indigenous Housing.
3. A copy of the NPA is available at http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_remote_indigenous_housing.pdf.
4. Part 4 of the NPA details the performance benchmarks and reporting framework that has been agreed with all states and the Northern Territory.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 250

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How will the Commonwealth monitor improvements to how well houses are functioning (hot water, showers working, waste removed safely etc), ie for the purposes of knowing if they are 'closing the 17 year gap in life expectancy'?

Answer:

The Commonwealth will monitor improvements to condition and functionality of houses through data collected by the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and the NTG's Department of Local Government and Housing is currently finalising a system that will set appropriate baselines and means of measuring improvements for those baselines over time. The data will also be used to inform the cyclical repairs and maintenance program for these houses.

The assessment of houses will incorporate the nine principles of Healthy Living established for remote Indigenous housing.

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Question No: 268

- **Topic:** Maningrida

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

What further community consultations have taken place at Maningrida on the SIHIP program since the two day discussions in March 2009?

Is it still anticipated that the first houses will be built at Maningrida in the 2010 dry season?

Answer:

Initial community engagement occurred at Maningrida in March 2009.

To date the following meetings have taken place in Maningrida to discuss the SIHIP program:

- 9 March 2009
- 11-12 March 2009
- 25 March 2009
- 20- 21 April 2009
- 12 – 13 May 2009
- 19 May 2009
- 2 June 2009
- 16 June 2009
- 18 June 2009

These consultations considered matters such as the purpose of the SIHIP program and the likely outcomes for Maningrida. They were also used as an opportunity to introduce the community to the Alliance team and to discuss options for package scope and logistical arrangements such as locations of work camps and the timing of works.

Yes, it is anticipated that the first new houses will be built at Maningrida in the 2010 dry season.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 269

- **Topic:** Maningrida Community Consultation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Regarding the role of the local Housing Reference Group in the allocation of housing, can the department provide information about the current members of this group, how its members are selected and how long they hold their positions?

Answer:

The Housing Reference Group is currently comprised of persons who were previously on the former Maningrida Council, others representing Traditional Owners and key Indigenous leaders.

Membership of the Housing Reference Group is a community decision and it is anticipated it will change over time.

There is no set time period for which a person is appointed as a member of the Housing Reference Group.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 273

- **Topic:** \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

When will the second tender for the remaining work be advertised?

Answer:

The South Australian Government is currently reviewing how they contract for capital housing projects for remote Indigenous communities including the housing projects in the APY Lands. This is being done to ensure that they are using the best method to achieve value for money and support Indigenous communities. They expect to complete this by September 2009. Following this review it is expected that the next tender will be advertised in December 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 275

- **Topic:** Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Has repair work begun? If not, when is it expected to start?

Answer:

Some upgrade work has been done as well as some basic emergency repairs while formal transition arrangements are being finalised.

More substantive work is expected to commence in coming months as Indigenous Community Housing Organisation's move to the new arrangements.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 278

- **Topic:** Home Ownership - NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

A question on notice at the last estimates asked if the department could make available to the committee a copy of the Condition Assessment Survey completed as part of the Walgett program. The department said it could do so, but has not provided copies of the document. Can the department now supply a copy of the report?

Answer:

FaHCSIA has received a copy of the Housing NSW Condition Assessment Survey, however this report did not take into account the full scope of works that needed to be conducted as access to all of the properties was not obtained. As such, the information provided could not be used to negotiate repairs and maintenance contracts.

The program manager, ARUP, is currently completing a comprehensive Condition Assessment Survey which will take into account all repairs and maintenance required, including significant works. The department will supply a copy of this new survey when it has been made available.

Note: the survey was provided by FaHCSIA and tabled in the Senate on 29.10.09 and has not been included in the electronic volume.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 296

- **Topic: SIHIP**

Hansard Page: CA37

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you provide what those actual set of standards is – what sort of people can we possibly employ and what levels of competence they have as tradespeople?

Answer:

Standards for the employment of staff for the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) are the same as any other construction project in the Northern Territory. The Alliance Partners will complete work that complies with the Building Code of Australia and other relevant standards applicable in the Northern Territory and they, and their subcontractors, will employ tradespeople who meet these standards.

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Output Group: 7

Question No: 307

- **Topic:** Remote Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Were the communities chosen on the basis of potential market economies? Of potential market economies ie if they haven't been there, there is no way to determine if investments in such communities through housing will possibly create bigger welfare enclaves.

Answer:

Please refer to answer provided in QoN 306.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 344

- **Topic:** Staffing and OH&S

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How many Indigenous employees does FaHCSIA have working on the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) in total? Can FaHCSIA break these employees down by type of position? How many Indigenous employees does FaHCSIA employ in the Northern Territory in general? How many of these are full time, part time and contracted employees?

Answer:

FaHCSIA has 15 Indigenous employees who are working on the NTER. Of these, 12 are ongoing fulltime employees, and 3 are non-ongoing fulltime employees.

FaHCSIA employs 64 Indigenous employees in the Northern Territory in general. 51 are ongoing fulltime employees, and 13 are non-ongoing full time employees.

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Question No: 345

- **Topic:** Staffing and OHS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Minister Macklin announced on 4 April 2009 the implementation of Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) protocols covering staff accommodation in remote indigenous communities as part of the NTER.

How many staff does FaHCSIA have working in remote indigenous communities and in areas where the protocols will apply?

Have these protocols been implemented?

Answer:

The occupational health and safety protocols apply to 44 demountables in 23 communities. As at 1 July 2007 FaHCSIA has 17 staff working in remote indigenous communities in areas where the occupational health and safety protocols will apply.

The occupational health and safety protocols outlined in the media release dated 3 April 2009 have been implemented.

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Question No: 346

- **Topic:** Staffing and OHS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What construction is needed to take place in these accommodation centres in order to implement the protocols?

Answer:

As part of the strategy to implement the protocols, FaHCSIA has worked with AUSCO, the supplier of the demountable accommodation, to install passive air flow vents in the outer wall of the demountables. This minor works has been completed for all demountables supplied by AUSCO.

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Question No: 347

- **Topic:** Staffing and OHS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What kind of review system is in place to ensure that these accommodation centres are following the protocols and are safe?

Answer:

Regular ongoing air quality monitoring and OHS inspections for the NTER demountables are conducted to ensure the protocols are being followed and the demountables are safe.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 349

- **Topic:** Funding for Aboriginal Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In relation to Jenny Macklin's announcement that 26 of the nation's remote Aboriginal communities would be targeted to receive billions in new funding can the Department tell us the rationale behind choosing those specific communities?

Answer:

Under the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement COAG will provide \$291.2 million to overhaul the way governments deliver services and invest in remote areas in priority remote locations across Australia.

Recognising that it is not feasible for governments to provide the full range of services available in urban locations to remote areas, COAG has agreed to National Principles for Investing in Remote Locations. In summary, these are

- Significant concentration of population;
- Anticipated demographic trends and pressures;
- The potential for economic development and employment;
- The extent of pre-existing shortfalls in Government investment in infrastructure and services; and

In the Northern Territory, the Government sought to build on the significant Government investment already set in train.

Specific locations were chosen in bilateral discussions between the Commonwealth and the States/Northern Territory.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 350

- **Topic:** Funding for Aboriginal Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

What role did market economics play in choosing these communities and what is the Department doing to encourage economic activity in the areas? Why was Yulara at Uluru not included?

Answer:

The potential for economic development and employment was one of the practical criteria developed for identifying priority locations under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

Yulara is a privately owned resort complex. The nearest Indigenous community to Yulara is Mutujulu. The government continues to encourage all employers, such as those at Yulara, to train and employ as many local Indigenous staff as possible.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 355

- **Topic:** Native Title

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

The 2008 Native Title report by the Australian Human Rights Commission noted that the \$59 million provided to Native Title Representative Bodies in the 2008-09 Budget was not adequate to ensure the efficient operation of these bodies. The Government increased funding by \$3.1 million in 2009-10.

How does the Government determine how much funding is needed by the Bodies from one year to the next? Is it based on caseload?

Answer:

In 2008 a review of funding in the native title system found that NTRBs are substantially under-resourced for the tasks expected of them. The Government agreed in the 2009-10 Budget to provide \$50m over four years for the native title system, and to the allocation within the system of an additional \$62m over four years for the operations of NTRBs. The additional funding for NTRBs will be provided as follows:

2009-10	\$7.001m
2010-11	\$13.404m
2011-12	\$20.122m
2012-13	\$21.585m

This additional funding is designed to redress the under-resourcing of NTRBs in the performance of their ongoing functions under the Native Title Act 1993 over the forward estimates period. The additional resources are provided on an incremental basis, peaking at an increase of some 32% in the fourth year.

The appropriation for the Native Title and Land Rights Program is determined periodically by the Government in the Budget context having regard to the performance of the program and competing priorities. The level of appropriation does not change automatically in response to changes in NTRB workload. Over time, increases in NTRB workload without a corresponding increase in NTRB resourcing led to a situation where the NTRBs were finding it impossible to adequately service the needs of their clients and respond effectively to the demands of other agencies in the native title system.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 363

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Will the additional funding announced in the Budget (\$9.5 million) be spent directly by Government or will it go to service providers in the community? If the latter, how will these service providers be chosen?

Answer:

It is expected that the bulk of the \$9.279 million that has been allocated in 2009-10 under the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory *Youth in Communities* measure will be available to fund projects that can be delivered by external service providers. These providers will be selected either through an Open or Restricted competitive selection process, or by Direct Sourcing, depending on the nature of the projects to be funded. Consultations will be held shortly with Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government agencies, service provider representatives and local Shire Councils on the scope and range of projects to be funded in 2009-10 under this measure.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 377

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services – North Queensland (ATSICLS-NQ)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Will ATSICLS be awarded another contract to provide legal services after July 1 2009, or is the Department going through another tender process? If the latter, has any organisation been awarded the tender so far?

Answer:

- At the April 2009 TSRA Board meeting, the TSRA Board endorsed the following process for the 2009/10 transition year:
 1. To implement a transition year process for TSRA to work closely with all currently funded community organisations to assist in building their capacity for transitioning to the new TSRA programs arrangements, and
 2. To continue providing the 2008/09 level of funding to currently funded community organisations during the 2009/10 transition year.
- On 4 June 2009, TSRA wrote to ATSICLS (NQ) advising of the changes to TSRA's programs as well as offering to extend the current 2008/09 program funding agreement for one year to the end of 2009/10 under the 2008/09 level of funding.
- A Program Funding Agreement is currently being finalised with ATSICLS (NQ) to provide legal services in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia only) from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.
- It is anticipated that in late 2009, TSRA will conduct an open tender process for the 2010/11 legal services contract.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 216

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) What criteria were used to determine which communities were selected for the priority list?
- b) Why was there not an open evaluation process?

Answer:

The “priority communities” or “priority locations” are those locations agreed for investment under the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement.

a) The locations were decided in accord with the National Principles for Investment in Remote Locations which can be found at Schedule A to the National Partnerships Agreement. These principles were operationalised as the following criteria:

- Significant concentration of population;
 - Anticipated demographic trends and pressures;
 - The potential for economic development and employment;
 - The extent of pre-existing shortfalls in Government investment in infrastructure and services; and
 - In the Northern Territory, the Government sought to build on the significant Government investment already set in train.
- b) The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement was developed under the auspices of COAG and priority locations chosen against criteria outlined in a) above, and in bilateral negotiations between the Commonwealth and State/Northern Territory Governments.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 227

- **Topic:** Maintenance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What funds are currently allocated by the Commonwealth government for housing maintenance on the camps? What does this represent per house?
How much does the NT government allocate?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government does not provide funding specifically for the maintenance of housing in Alice Springs town camps. Rather, it provides “global” funding for Indigenous housing and the Northern Territory Government allocates funding for the maintenance of housing in the town camps from this global amount.

In 2008/2009 \$478,800 was provided by Northern Territory Government to Tangentyere Council Incorporated for the maintenance of housing in the Alice Springs town camps and \$380,000 for the management of housing, a total of \$ 858,800.

This funding was drawn from global allocations to the Northern Territory under the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program within (the former) Commonwealth State Housing Agreement and from the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 228

- **Topic:** Maintenance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How old is the current housing stock on the town camps and what condition is it in?

Answer:

The housing stock varies from camp to camp as some camps were created back in 1972 whilst the last to be granted a lease was in 1986. Tangentyere Council have recently just finished upgrades to 24 homes and have awarded a tender to Tangentyere Constructions worth \$2.8 million for upgrades to a further 22 homes. These upgrades commenced in late June 2009.

The upgraded homes are in good condition whilst other homes are in varying condition from average to poor.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 231

- **Topic:** Maintenance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Why doesn't the Northern Territory Government deliver the same services to town camp residents as they do to other citizens?

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government provides the same essential services (power, water and sewerage and roads) to the boundary of town camps as they do to other residents. The difference is with the infrastructure on the town camp lease which delivers these services to the houses. As the lease area is private land it would normally be the responsibility of the leaseholder to provide that infrastructure.

In relation to the town camps government has previously provided the funding to Tangentyere (at a level comparable to other town camps) for the installation and maintenance of this infrastructure. As part of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan the infrastructure on the lease area will be upgraded to the same standard as other suburbs in Alice Springs.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 253

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Will the Commonwealth publish the performance criteria and indicators and performance monitoring reports annually, to be accessible by the affected communities and the wider community?

What arrangements will be in place if Territory Housing fails to meet the Commonwealth's performance criteria?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing the Northern Territory and all other jurisdictions will report on achievement of agreed targets and benchmarks. The mechanism for any public reporting on National Partnership Agreements is yet to be determined. Arrangements for payments under the NPA are contingent on the benchmarks and targets being reached. Payment would be withheld until the benchmarks and targets are met.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 358

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Each State has implemented different schemes to manage alcohol in indigenous communities. How the States are actually accountable to COAG is not displayed on the COAG websites. Can the Government outline how the States and Territories are made accountable to COAG for the implementation of alcohol management programs? How is the Federal Government measuring the success of these programs?

Answer:

Each State and Territory Government is responsible for the implementation of all alcohol management programs introduced within its area. The only exception to this is in the Northern Territory where alcohol related provisions in the Australian Government *Northern Territory Emergency Response Act 2007* (NTER Act) apply to prescribed areas under the Act. Even in this latter case, many of the alcohol restrictions and all alcohol management plans are implemented through the Northern Territory Liquor Act.

The Northern Territory Emergency Response is not a COAG measure and there are no COAG agreements specifically on alcohol management. There are, though, alcohol measures in the National Partnerships on Preventative Health and Indigenous Remote Service Delivery and the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes. The outcomes of all these will be monitored by the COAG Reform Council.

The Australian Government also provides funding to improve access to alcohol and other drug treatment and rehabilitation services through two COAG measures announced in 2006 and 2007. Priorities for funding under these measures are determined through bilateral negotiations with State and Territory Governments, with consideration of local and regional needs. Implementation and monitoring of these initiatives is undertaken on a jurisdictional level, outside of the COAG Reform Council process.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 276

- **Topic:** Housing in Queensland

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Did any representatives of the department attend the meeting in Cairns on 28 and 29 May 2009 on housing and overcrowding in Queensland's Indigenous communities?
Can the department provide information on the outcomes of the meeting, including any commitments made by the Federal Government?

Answer:

Three senior FaHCSIA staff attended the Queensland Government's Mayors Roundtable held in Cairns on 28-29 May 2009.

The Queensland Mayors Roundtable was convened by the Queensland State Government and the theme of this meeting was primarily land tenure and administration arrangements in the discrete communities as well as issues of retail stores, data and jobs and enterprise.

Both Commonwealth and Queensland government representatives discussed with Mayors the agreed minimum requirements for investment in housing and related infrastructure set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. The Implementation Plan for this agreement was agreed by the relevant Queensland and Commonwealth Government Ministers in May 2009 and the land tenure requirements set out in the plan were the initial focus of the meetings discussions.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 290

- **Topic:** Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Expenditure Breakdown

Hansard Page: CA14 and CA29-CA30

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you provide me with [closing the gap in the Northern Territory] programs that are carrying on, and for how much, on notice?

Answer:

The cross portfolio budget for Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory is at Attachment A.

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Attachment A

CLOSING THE GAP - NORTHERN TERRITORY - CROSS PORTFOLIO BUDGET 2009-10 TO 2011-12								
THEME	Measures	Agency	2008-09 \$m	2009-10 \$m	2010-11 \$m	2011-12 \$m	2013-13 \$m	5 Year Total
Coordination	Field Operations	FaHCSIA	36.5	26.0	28.2	29.9		120.6
	Accommodation in Remote communities	FaHCSIA	7.3					7.3
	NTER Asbestos	FaHCSIA	1.3	15.7				17.0
	Local Priorities Fund	FaHCSIA	33.4	10.0				43.4
	Coordination and Policy Advice	FaHCSIA	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.3		14.8
	Community Engagement	FaHCSIA		9.6	12.4	12.6		34.6
	Commonwealth Ombudsman Support	PM&C/ Omb Office	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8		3.5
			83.3	66.1	45.3	46.7	0.0	241.3
Enhancing Education	Quality Teaching	DEEWR	19.1	16.2	16.7	12.7		64.8
	School Nutrition	DEEWR/ Centrelink	7.4	13.7	12.1	11.8		45.1
	Greater Enrolment +200 Teachers	DEEWR	11.6	20.0	29.0	34.4		95.0
	Language Literacy & Numeracy	DEEWR		1.0	1.0	1.0		3.0
	Teacher Housing	DEEWR		11.2				11.2
			38.2	62.2	58.8	60.0	0.0	219.2
Employment and Welfare Reform	Community Stores	FaHCSIA		8.2	5.6	4.5		18.3
	Financial Management	FaHCSIA		4.9				4.9
	Income Management	FaHCSIA/DHS/ Centrelink/DEEWR	159.6	89.6	0.2	0.0		249.4
	Income Management - Basics Card	DHS/Centrelink	7.0	10.2	0.9	0.6	0.6	19.3
				166.6	112.9	6.7	5.1	0.6
Improving Child and Family Health	Follow Up Health Care	DoHA	13.6					13.6
	Improve Child and Family Health	DoHA	45.5	54.2	0.0	0.0		99.7
	Indigenous Health	DoHA		14.5	57.5	59.1		131.1
				59.1	68.7	57.5	59.1	0.0
Promoting Law and Order	Law & Order	AGD	20.8	26.5	26.7	27.0		101.0
	National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Policing	ACC	4.2	5.5				9.7
		FaHCSIA	15.6	39.3	58.7	58.5		172.2
	NTER - Promoting Law & Order	AFP	9.2	9.3	0.0	0.0		18.5
				49.8	80.6	85.5	85.5	0.0
Supporting Families	Creches	DEEWR	2.3	4.4	2.3	2.3		11.4
	Early Childhood	FaHCSIA	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5		1.9
	Playgroups	FaHCSIA	0.7	0.3	1.2	1.2		3.5
	The Way Forward	FaHCSIA	9.8	10.5	10.9	11.4		42.7
	Youth Diversion	FaHCSIA	9.5	9.3	9.5	9.7		37.9
				22.7	25.1	24.5	25.1	0.0
Employment and Welfare Reform	NTER - NT Flexible Funding Pool Special A/C	FaHCSIA	76.0	76.3				152.3
Total			495.8	491.9	278.2	281.5	0.6	1547.8

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 360

- **Topic:** Alcohol Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

There have been incidences in Queensland, such as in Cherbourg, where members of community police have refused to carry out alcohol bans for fear of reprisal from their communities. Does the Government have any information about how widespread this issue has been and whether there are specific plans to deal with such an occurrence?

Answer:

‘Community police officers’ are employed by some, but not all, Indigenous local governments in Queensland. The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 2004* states that community police officers have the functions, duties and powers conferred to them by the local laws of the community government or Indigenous regional council established for the area.

The regulation and enforcement of alcohol consumption on Indigenous communities in Queensland is not governed by local laws but several Queensland Acts. Queensland laws are generally policed by members of the Queensland Police Service.

However, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 2004* provides that the police officer in charge of a community government area may authorise a community police officer to exercise powers for the administration and enforcement of the liquor provisions applicable to that area, subject to the direction and control of that officer.

The Queensland Police Service has advised that it is not aware of any situations where community police have refused to carry out alcohol bans for fear of reprisal. The Australian Government is also not aware of such occurrences.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have invested significantly in the provision of health, diversionary, community and policing services to assist communities address alcohol misuse. In Cherbourg, the additional assistance includes a community patrol, a sobering-up place and a community hub. To assist with the enforcement of alcohol restrictions, 29 new Queensland Police Service officer positions were funded by the Queensland Government in 2008/2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 229

- **Topic:** Maintenance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Who is responsible for the delivery of essential services such as power, water and sewerage?
- b) Who is responsible for the provision of street lighting, curbs & drains, footpaths? Is there any?
- c) Who owns these assets?

Answer:

Tangentyere Council are funded to maintain essential services (power, water and sewerage or septic) within the boundaries of the 16 town camps. The 17th town camp maintains its own power, water and sewerage.

Similarly, street lighting, drains and road maintenance is also provided by Tangentyere Council with funding from the Northern Territory Government. Most camps do not have kerbing, guttering or footpaths.

Fixed assets on town camps such as power, water and sewerage infrastructure are owned by the land owner, which is the relevant Housing Association.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 292

- **Topic:** Township Leases

Hansard Page: CA33

Senator Scullion asked:

Can you provide the dates of the leases?

Answer:

To date, whole-of-township leases under section 19A of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 granted to the Commonwealth are as follows.

- Nguuu (Tiwi Islands) – A 99 year whole-of-township lease was executed on 30 August 2007.
- Milyakburra (Bickerton Island), Angurugu, Umbakumba (Groote Eylandt) – An effective 80 year whole-of-township lease was executed on 5 December 2008 over the three townships.

Both leases are held on behalf of the Commonwealth by the Executive Director of Township Leasing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 299

- **Topic:** Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you provide the exact amount of money out of the \$125 million which will be for bricks and mortar for accommodation that was provided for by the previous government?

Answer:

The funding offer made by former Minister Mal Brough for town camp housing and infrastructure and managed accommodation in Alice Springs was revoked by Mr Brough when earlier negotiations with Tangentyere Council broke down in 2007. None of these proposed commitments remained current when the Rudd government came into office.

All previous funding allocations to remote Indigenous housing and infrastructure in the Northern Territory have been amalgamated under the 10 year funding commitment through the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing. This includes programs such as the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) and the commitments made for Alice Springs.

In May 2009, Minister Macklin announced the Alice Springs Transformation Plan. This announcement took the total proposed allocation to the Plan to \$125 million including \$25 million specifically committed to tackle social problems in Alice Springs and to oversee the delivery of expanded services in the areas of alcohol rehabilitation, family support services, family violence services and early childhood facilities. In June 2009, Minister Macklin announced that additional funding would be committed to transitional housing in Alice Springs, bringing the total proposed allocation to the Alice Springs Transformation Plan to \$138 million.

Of the \$100 million dedicated to housing and infrastructure works to help transform the town camps and significantly improve the quality of life for town camps residents, at this stage \$75 million has been allocated to directly to construction.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 303

- **Topic:** NTER Taskforce

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

Why wasn't the NT Intervention's first commander – Major Gen David Chalmers – replaced by another military officer instead of a public servant?

Can you explain the process that was conducted to find a replacement?

Answer:

The role of NTER Operations Centre Commander was always filled on the basis of qualifications, skills and experience (not including any requirement that it be a military officer). When it was known Major General Chalmers would return to the ADF at the end of February 2009, the Department sought a short-term replacement as the position was scheduled to end on 30 June with the transfer of the Operations Centre functions into the Department. The Department had recently conducted a merit selection process for positions at the same level as the Operations Commander and identified a suitable person who could fill the Commander's position for the short-term period involved.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 053

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

With regards to the Indigenous Parenting Support Services, can the Department disclose the current status of funding agreements and contracts?

Is funding for the programmes indexed and to what is it indexed to?

Answer:

a) Funding agreements have been provided to the eight Indigenous Parenting Support Services. Organisations will receive the funding on execution of the Agreement by both parties. This occurred during July 2009.

Twenty four further Indigenous Parenting Support Service sites have been approved in Remote Service Delivery Strategy sites.

NSW	2
NT	15
QLD	2
SA	2
WA	3

Work is currently underway to progress provider selection for these sites.

b) Indexation for 2009-10 for the Indigenous Parenting Support Service is in accordance with the Wage Cost Index Number 3, currently valued at 2.5%.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 338

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Can the Department provide an update on the status of funding agreements and contracts for the Indigenous Parenting Support Services program?

Answer:

As per the response to 'Question on Notice 053'.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 339

- **Topic:** Indigenous Parenting Support Service

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Will the funding for the program be indexed and what will it be indexed to?

Answer:

As per the response to Question on Notice 053.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 277

- **Topic:** Home Ownership - NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

How many houses have so far had upgrades completed under the \$2.1m funding program in Walgett and the Gingie and Namoi Reserves?

Answer:

The NSW Aboriginal Lands Council (NSWALC) is responsible for delivering the program with funding provided by FaHCSIA. NSWALC have engaged ARUP Pty Ltd as the project managers. Scoping works have been undertaken by ARUP Pty Ltd so upgrades have not yet commenced on the properties targeted under the \$2.1m funding.

ARUP Pty Ltd and the NSWALC met with the Walgett Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLALC) on 9 September 2009 to prioritise the scope of works. The NSWALC is currently waiting for the WLALC to accept the proposal for the priority works. A select tender process will be recommended to ensure the expedience of this project. ARUP Pty Ltd has also advised that works identified by the report are scheduled to commence at the end of October 2009.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 306

- **Topic:** Remote Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

In relation to Jenny Macklin's announcement that 26 of the nation's remote Aboriginal communities would be targeted to receive billions in new funding can the Department tell us the rationale behind choosing those specific communities?

Answer:

In 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on a \$4.6 billion program of targeted reform measures and national payments to address gaps and shortfalls in existing Commonwealth, State and Territory initiatives. This program of measures will be delivered through National Partnerships between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories in areas of key reform.

This unprecedented investment will be delivered across Australia not just to the 29 communities identified as priorities for investment under the National Partnership on Remote Service Delivery. It is important to note that other Indigenous communities are not missing out. Those communities not covered by the RSD NP will continue to receive existing levels of government support and services. This will include access to the range of funding arrangements across the whole of government, such as access to new housing construction and upgrades, employment programs and CDEP, and the range of normal funding arrangements across the whole of government.

The 29 priority locations were chosen through a process which began with the COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform initially identifying broad geographical areas within which the specific locations would subsequently be identified. These broad geographic areas were agreed by COAG. Detailed bilateral discussions were held with each jurisdiction to finalise specific locations. The priority locations were chosen using a range of criteria, including:

- a significant concentration of population;
- anticipated demographic trends and pressures;
- potential for economic development and employment;
- the extent of pre-existing shortfalls in government investment in infrastructure and services; and
- having regard to the agreed national principles for investments set out in Schedules A and B to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 312

- **Topic:** Alcohol

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Adams asked:

What is being done in relation to current signage regarding Alcohol bans, and is this being done in partnership with the communities?

Answer:

The *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 Part 2 Division 2 – Prescribed areas - 11 Notice of areas* requires signage to be posted at customary access routes and airstrips stating the offense and the penalties. A total of 227 highway and boundary signs have been installed across the Territory.

Australian Government Business Managers (GBMs) are involved in consultations with communities on the installation of community signs. All Highway signs have been installed and the vast majority of signs at entrance points to communities have also been installed.

In response to communities' dissatisfaction around the size and wording of the community prescribed area signs, FaHCSIA reduced the size of the signs from 2m x 2m to 1.2m x 1.2m and replaced the word *pornography* to *prohibited material*.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 379

- **Topic:** Lease negotiations in the 16 priority SIHIP communities

Hansard Page: CA37-38

Senator Scullion asked:

The names of the 16 communities, where they are up to and information about whether there are any expected delays in those areas.

Answer:

Community	Long-term lease (negotiation) status	Any expected delays
Nguiu	Finalised on 30 August 2007 (99 year Township lease)	No
Groote Eylandt (Angurugu, Milyakburra, Umbakumba)	Finalised on 5 December 2007 (40/40 year Township lease)	No
Tennant Creek Town Camps	Finalised on 20 October 2008 (effective 60 year sublease)	No
Wadeye	Finalised on 31 August 2009 (effective 40 year housing precinct lease)	No
Maningrida	Finalised on 31 August 2009 (effective 40 year housing precinct lease)	No
Galiwinku	Lease agreed (effective 40 year housing precinct lease) – execution expected shortly	No
Gunbalanya	Finalised on 31 August 2009 (effective 40 year housing precinct lease)	No
Ngukurr	In principle lease agreement	No
Hermannsburg	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations

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Community	Long-term lease (negotiation) status	Any expected delays
Yuendumu	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations
Lajamanu	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations
Numbulwar	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations
Gapuwiyak	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations
Yirkala	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations
Milingimbi	Negotiations underway	Subject to negotiations

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 293 (amended)

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: CA34-35

Senator Payne asked:

Can those PDR documents be made available to the Committee? And can you provide, by community, information on the number of houses built, the number of refurbishments done and the average costs?

Answer:

The Northern Territory Government has advised that the Package Development Reports submitted by their contracted Alliance Partners are commercial-in-confidence documents and therefore cannot be made available to the Committee.

Work has commenced across the first three packages and the number of houses and refurbishments that will be delivered and the average cost is provided below. The cost of the houses at Nguiu and Groote Eylandt is higher than the \$450,000 average set for the program. This is due to the need to barge materials and equipment to a remote island location, particular features such as disability access in response to the Machado Joseph Disease on Groote Eylandt and the larger size of houses built as part of the Stage 1 work at Nguiu and Groote Eylandt.

Tiwi Island Package – Stage 1

Number of new houses: 29 at Nguiu (61 houses to be provided under Stage 2)

Number of refurbishments
and rebuilds:

155 comprising:

- 95 at Nguiu
- 30 at Milikapiti
- 30 at Pirlangimpi

Cost of Stage 1 houses: Range from:

- \$404,400 for a Duplex (2 bedrooms) to
- \$644,200 for a cluster home for 10 people (4 large bedrooms)

Work Status as of 25 September 2009:

- 2 houses have been rebuilt
- 15 houses are currently being rebuilt or refurbished
- Building pads have been completed for 6 new houses

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Groote Eylandt Package – Stage 1

- Number of new houses: 26 (54 houses to be provided under Stage 2):
- 18 at Angurugu
 - 6 at Umbakumba
 - 2 at Milyakburra
- Number of refurbishments and rebuilds: 75 comprising:
- 30 at Angurugu
 - 30 at Umbakumba
 - 15 at Milyakburra
- Cost of Stage 1 houses: Range from:
- \$470,500 for a Duplex (2 bedrooms) to
 - \$610,500 for a family home for 10 people (4 bedrooms)
- Work Status as of 25 September 2009:
- 5 houses have been rebuilt
 - 18 houses are currently being rebuilt or refurbished
 - Construction has commenced on 5 new houses

Tennant Creek

- Number of new houses: To be determined in consultation with the community
- Number of refurbishments and rebuilds: 78
- Cost of houses: Not applicable
- Work Status as of 25 September 2009:
- 8 houses are currently being rebuilt
 - Contract negotiations for the delivery of civil works are being finalised

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 252

- **Topic:** Territory Housing Outcomes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is it the case that the NT will establish its own performance criteria for the delivery of Commonwealth funded programs?

Are any of these evaluation criteria available? Is it the case that the NT will monitor its own performance?

Answer:

No. The Australian Government agrees on performance criteria for the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing with each of the State Governments and the Northern Territory Government. These targets are derived from the overall targets set out in the National Partnership Agreement.

The targets and milestones for the Northern Territory are currently being assessed following the review of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) to ensure that they are consistent with the directions set in that review.

The Australian Government will monitor the performance of all jurisdictions in meeting the performance targets set under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 255

- **Topic: SIHIP**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

The \$672 million SIHIP initiative is jointly funded between the Australian Government and the NT Government with the NT Government reported to be contributing \$100 million.

- a) How much of the SIHIP budget is allocated to administration?
- b) What payments have been made to date, by amount and date, to the NT Government for administering the program?
- c) Have any private companies been engaged to administer or manage any part or component of the program?
- d) What are these companies being paid in administration or management fees?
- e) What was the total remaining balance of the SIHIP program funds as of 01 Mar 2009?

Answer:

- a) How much of the SIHIP budget is allocated to administration?

The Review of SIHIP has set a target of 8 percent for Program Management.

- b) What payments have been made to date, by amount and date, to the NT Government for administering the program?

Nil. Prior to the SIHIP review the Program Management costs for SIHIP were funded by the Northern Territory Government

- c) Have any private companies been engaged to administer or manage any part or component of the program

Yes. The Northern Territory Government has contracted with the following companies to provide support during the establishment and operation of the program:

- Minter Ellison
- GHD
- QS Services
- Stantons
- KPMG
- AON
- Alchimie
- Parsons Brinkerhoff
- Healthabitat
- Ambrose Logistics

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- Thinc Projects
- Connell Wagner

d) What are these companies being paid in administration or management fees?

The Northern Territory Government has advised that detail on the administration and management fees for these companies is commercial in confidence.

e) What was the total remaining balance of the SIHIP program funds as of 01 Mar 2009?

As of 30 June 2009 \$45.54 million had been expended from the program leaving a balance of \$626.46 million unspent.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 256

- **Topic:** Wallaga Lake - Asbestos

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Is the department able to confirm or provide any information about claims that asbestos-ridden houses were pulled down by local Aboriginal community members without any protective clothing as part of a CDEP project? (ABC AM program, 18 May 2009)

If this is the case, can the department provide advice about whether the Federal Government carries some responsibility or liability for the health of the people involved in such CDEP projects?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of any information supporting these claims.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 295

- **Topic:** SIHIP – Employment

Hansard Page: CA 36-37

Senator Payne asked:

Can you provide details about the employment arrangements for the other two packages?

Answer:

The current Indigenous employment figures as of the week ending 21 September 2009 for the SIHIP projects in Tennant Creek and Groote Eylandt were;

- 6 to 11 employees (this varied at different days during the week) at Tennant Creek were Indigenous; and
- 15 employees at Groote Eylandt were Indigenous.

Under SIHIP a minimum 20% Indigenous employment target has been agreed.

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2009-10 Budget Estimates, 1, 2, 5 June 2009

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 208

- **Topic:** Alice Springs Town Camps

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the handover of (i) tenancy management and/or (ii) asset management to State or Territory housing authorities to be a requirement of the provision of housing to these communities?
Will State and Territory housing authorities end up owning these assets?

Answer:

- Under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Indigenous Housing, the States and Territory will be responsible for the management of Indigenous community housing to meet public housing standards. This will ensure that Indigenous people in remote communities receive the same level of housing and support as other Australians. Under the NPA well functioning Indigenous community housing organisations can continue to manage housing stock providing they meet the State or Territory housing authority public housing like standards for tenancy management and asset management.
-
- Government will retain long term control of access to and responsibility for new and substantially refurbished houses provided under the National Partnership in accordance with appropriate land arrangements including leasing.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 343

- **Topic:** Housing in Kowrowa

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sue Boyce asked:

Does the Federal Government contribute funds towards the Queensland Government in regards to these houses? If so, how much and for which years has funding been provided?

Answer:

The Australian Government provided some \$26 million per annum to the Queensland Government under the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program component of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement [CSHA] for the purpose of housing for Indigenous people. This funding ceased at 31 December 2008.

The Queensland Government funded houses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Shires under its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities program and houses in other locations under its Aboriginal Rental Housing Program.

Current funding for Indigenous housing to the Queensland Government for remote areas is through the Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement, and for other areas through the National Affordable Housing Agreement, the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing and the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 271

- **Topic:** \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Now that tenders have been submitted for the \$25m APY housing project, can the department confirm actual construction and infrastructure costs for houses under the project (new houses and houses requiring upgrades)?

Can the department also confirm a timeline for construction for the first stage of work?

Answer:

Tenders for the initial phase of construction activity on the APY Lands have been finalised. This phase will involve the construction of 42 new houses, associated land servicing activities, 4 temporary houses and 3 workers compounds at an estimated value of \$23.970m.

Construction on the first 33 houses in Amata and Mimili has commenced and are expected to be completed by June and September 2010 respectively.

The South Australian Government is also currently finalising plans for the upgrades of approximately 50 existing houses as well as the construction of further new houses across the APY Lands.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 272

- **Topic:** \$25m housing deal with the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In answer to a question on notice at the last estimates, the department estimated that work will start within two to three months of the tender being called in April 2009. Does this mean work has now begun?

How many new houses and housing upgrades this will translate to in the first stage of work?

Answer:

Yes, construction of new houses has now commenced in APY Lands.

This phase will involve the construction of 42 new houses , associated land servicing activities, 4 temporary houses and 3 workers compounds at an estimated value of \$23.970m.

Construction on the first 33 houses in Amata and Mimili has commenced and are expected to be completed by June and September 2010 respectively.

The South Australian Government is also currently finalising plans for the upgrades of approximately 50 existing houses as well as the construction of further new houses across the APY Lands.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 280

- **Topic:** Home Ownership – NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

In a question on notice at the last estimates the department said that it could not provide a timetable for completion of the surveying work until the community consultation is complete. Has the community consultation completed yet? If not, when is it expected to be complete?

Answer:

An information day on home ownership was held in Walgett on 26 May 2009 where staff from all the relevant agencies and some lending institutions delivered information on the benefits and opportunities of home ownership to tenants of public housing.

The NSW Aboriginal Lands Council has advised that no further community consultations will take place until the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) is implemented by the NSW Department of Planning.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 281

- **Topic:** Home Ownership – NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide details about the community consultation held so far, including the number of meetings had and progress made towards an agreement?

Answer:

A Community consultation was held in Walgett on 26 May 2009 to discuss the benefits and responsibilities of home ownership with tenants of public housing. Residents were given the opportunity to meet representatives from local banking institutions, government agencies and non-government organisations and discuss home ownership programs, loan products and suitability requirements. Representatives from Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes, Housing NSW, and FaHCSIA attended.

The NSW Aboriginal Lands Council have advised that further community consultations will take place once the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) has been implemented by the NSW Department of Planning.

In the meantime, IBA will be conducting follow up with individuals who registered interest in home ownership at the information session.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 288

- **Topic:** National Indigenous Representative Body

Hansard Page: CA24

Senator Payne asked:

Could you provide details of the costs involved thus far in the proposed establishment of the body, including but not limited to the meeting costs, travel costs, staff costs and printing costs for materials?

Answer:

First phase consultation (July 2008-Dec 2008) combined administered expenditure was: **\$333,088.**

- Communication/Media expenditure was **\$144,812:**
 - Design: \$2,372
 - Printing: \$32,492
 - Advertising: \$92,147
 - Distribution: \$17,801
- Workshops expenditure was: **\$101,683**
- Contractor expenditure was: **\$29,136**
- Accommodation and travel expenditure for participants was: **\$56,311**
- Interpreter Services expenditure was: **\$1,146**

Second phase consultation (Jan 2009 – June 2009) combined administered funding paid to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) was: **\$733,509.** An itemised breakdown of this expenditure has not been received from the AHRC at this point.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 291

- **Topic:** Indigenous Housing Delivery

Hansard Page: CA30

Senator Payne asked:

Can you indicate how many houses are expected to be built and how many upgraded as a result of that funding? Could you break those figures down by state and by community?

Answer:

Through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, the Council of Australian Governments has agreed to construct 4200 new houses and refurbish a further 4800 existing houses. The specific locations in each jurisdiction are the subject of ongoing negotiations with state and territory governments.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 294

- **Topic: SIHIP**

Hansard Page: CA35

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you confirm whether the economic climate is having an impact on those costs and association issues?

Answer:

The prevailing economic climate will inevitably impact on costs within the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). However, changes in the broader economy will not affect the program's capacity to meet its targets.

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Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 279

- **Topic:** Home Ownership – NSW

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Can the department provide an update on progress towards surveying land and conveyancing as part of the Walgett program?

Answer:

The possible subdivision is subject to the agreement of Local Aboriginal Land Councils under the NSW Aboriginal Lands Rights Act.

New South Wales Aboriginal Lands Council (NSWALC) approached the NSW Department of Planning for advice and assistance on this project. One issue is a number of the sites under the program are not zoned for residential use. To facilitate this, the NSW Department of Planning will develop a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) specifically for the former reserves across the state. This would allow the subdivision to become a “Complying Development” which we are advised will be a more straightforward process than the rezoning and development application process.

The NSW Department of Planning is currently working on a SEPP document with the NSWALC. Under the SEPP there will be a legislative requirement for consultation with local governments and land councils. The NSW Aboriginal Lands Council and the NSW Department of Planning will undertake these consultations collaboratively.