

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 4**

**Question No: 36**

**Topic: Housing and Homelessness**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Whish-Wilson** asked:

Since the Budget has there been any consultation with State Housing Authorities or Community Housing providers?

- If yes can dates of consultation and organisations involved be provided?

**Answer:**

On 15 May 2014, Commonwealth officials met with state housing authorities and housing and homelessness sector representatives where proposed Budget initiatives were discussed. This meeting focused on youth, housing and employment issues. Attendees included:

- Officials from Department of Social Services and Department of Education
- Officials from state and territory governments
- Representatives from youth welfare and employment services sector including Jobs Australia
- National Shelter and New South Wales Shelter
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Welfare organisations including Anglicare, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Mission Australia and The Smith Family
- Community housing organisations

On 22 May 2014, Commonwealth officials met via teleconference with state and territory housing officials (excluding Tasmania) to discuss Budget initiatives in the housing and homelessness sector. On the 28 May 2014, Commonwealth officials discussed Budget initiatives with the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services.

On 18 June 2014, officials from the Department of Social Services met with the following civil society stakeholders:

- Homelessness Australia
- Council of the Ageing
- National Disability Services
- National Seniors Australia
- Advance Personnel
- LEAD Disability
- Carers Australia
- Nexus Human Services

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On 18 June 2014, officials from Department of Social Services also met with the following housing authorities:

- Department of Family and Community Services – Housing NSW
- Department of Housing NT
- Housing and Community Services ACT
- Department of Housing WA
- Department of Human Services VIC

On 20 June 2014 Commonwealth officials also met with Mission Australia.

The Department has also discussed the Budget initiatives with the Community Housing Federation of Australia and National Shelter, as part of regular dialogue with peak bodies in the housing sector.