

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

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 225

Topic: Forced Adoptions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Can the Department provide information on the commitments to people impacted by Forced Adoptions?

What is the current funding and has this changed since 7 September 2013?

Will the current funding levels be impacted by changes in funding under the discretionary grants programmes?

What is the current status of personal records and information including passports?

What is the current status of the liaison between institutions and State and Territory Governments?

Answer:

- The Australian Government has invested \$11.5 million over four years to 30 June 2017 to assist those affected by forced adoption practices. Measures include:
 - \$5 million for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to improve access to specialist support services, peer and professional counselling and support records tracing.
 - \$5 million for the Department of Health to:
 - develop guidelines and training materials for mental health professionals to assist in the diagnosis, treatment and care of those affected by forced adoption practices; and
 - increase capacity under the Access to Allied Psychological services (ATAPS) program for General Practitioners to refer those affected by forced adoptions with a mild to moderate mental disorder to mental health professionals who deliver psychological strategies services.
 - \$1.5 million for a website and exhibition by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) to record the experiences of those affected by forced adoption and increase understanding of these experiences in the community.
- There have been no changes to this funding since 7 September 2013 and the current funding levels for the DSS allocation will not be impacted by changes in funding under the Department's discretionary grants programmes.
- Recommendations 13 and 14 of the *Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* involving personal records and information is the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department.
- Liaison between institutions and State and Territory governments is a matter for these governments.