

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

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 231

Topic: Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Have any experts and stakeholders in the charities and not for profit sector contacted the Department wishing to remove their names from a list the Minister claims were consulted on the ACNC? If so: What reason/s did they give? How unusual is this? How many individuals or stakeholders asked for their names to be removed?

Answer:

The Department has been contacted by five organisations requesting that a total of six representatives not be listed in respect of questions from the Standing Committee on Community Affairs relating to consultation undertaken on the ACNC. This was on the basis that their engagement with the Department, through a forum organised by Melbourne Law School on 28 February 2014, did not constitute, in their view, “consultation” and should not be represented as such.

In providing evidence to the Committee at Supplementary Estimates 2013-14 on 21 November 2013 and at the Senate Economics Legislative Committee Inquiry into the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Repeal) (No.1) Bill 2014*, the Department gave evidence that although a formal consultation process had not yet commenced, in the course of the Department undertaking its business, there are opportunities for stakeholders to discuss issues related to the ACNC and when invited the Department meets with and attends events to hear the views of interested parties.

DSS held ten face-to-face consultation sessions in seven capital cities throughout July. The dates and locations of these sessions are as follows.

Melbourne	10 July 2014 (two sessions)
Hobart	11 July 2014 (one session)
Canberra	17 July 2014 (two sessions)
Brisbane	18 July 2014 (one session)
Perth	21 July 2014 (one session)
Sydney	23 July 2014 (two sessions)
Adelaide	24 July 2014 (one session)

DSS received over 300 registrations and a total of 230 stakeholders attended the sessions, with some forums attended by over 40 participants.

In addition, people were invited to make written submissions on an Options Paper until 20 August 2014. Around 90 written submissions from a range of organisations and individuals were received.

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Three of the representatives referred to in the question both registered and attended sessions provided by DSS. A fourth organisation was represented by other employees and made a written submission.