

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

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 862

Topic: Families and Communities Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

At his address to the FRSA Senior Executive Forum on 18 March 2014 Minister Andrews also indicated that he had asked the Department to conduct a review of the Communities for Children Facilitating Partners.

- a. Was this review undertaken by the Department or externally?
- b. If externally, what was the cost of the review?
- c. Were there terms of reference for the review? If so can you please table a copy?
- d. Was a final report or recommendations prepared after the review?
- e. If yes, have they informed any changes to the program?
- f. Will the report be made public?

Answer:

The Department conducted an internal desktop review of Communities for Children. The review examined a range of issues, including the results of numerous public and targeted sector consultations on the Communities for Children Facilitating Partner model, and the results of the Phase One and Two Stronger Families in Australia study (SFIA). SFIA is conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and is a longitudinal study that evaluates the impact of Communities for Children.

Advice on the findings was provided to Minister Andrews in January 2014. Results of the review and extensive consultations with the sector informed changes to the programme. The results of SFIA Phase One are currently available on the Department's website. A decision about whether the review will be made public has not been made.