

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

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 863

Topic: Families and Communities Programme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

In an address to the FRSA Senior Executive Forum on 18 March 2014, Minister Andrews indicated that he had given initial approval for the establishment of an expert panel to work with family support providers to identify best practice and methods of effective service delivery.

- a. Has this expert panel been established?
- b. Do the group have terms of reference? Can you please provide a copy?
- c. Who has been appointed to this panel?
- d. Have they met?
- e. If yes, what costs were associated with this meeting?
- f. How often are they expected to meet?
- g. What is the funding allocation for this expert panel?

Answer:

- a. The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) will manage the Families and Children Expert Panel through the Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) information exchange. CFCA is currently scoping and establishing the Panel.
- b. Not at this stage.
- c. No one has been appointed at this stage.
- d. Refer to (c) above.
- e. N/A
- f. It is unlikely the Panel will meet. The Panel will consist of research, practice and evaluation experts from across Australia who will support organisations funded under the Families and Children Activity.
- g. Funding for the panel is \$5 million over five years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019.