

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

**Outcome Number: 2**

**Question No: 904**

**Topic: Grants**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

In the 2014 Budget Grants information sheet that was released on Budget night, it states that the Government will apply six month extensions to the majority of existing grants.

- What grants are included and are not included in this majority?
- How were the decisions made on which grants to include and exclude from the majority?
- Who took part in the decision making process?
- How long did the decision making process take?
- After the six month extension has expired, are organisations required to reapply for their grant/s?
- If yes, will organisations be given notice as the six month expiration is approaching?
- If yes, how much notice will be given?
- If yes, will this be provided to them in writing?
- If no, why not and how will this notice be provided?

**Answer:**

The extensions referred to in the 2014 Budget Grants information sheet relate only to grant funding due to expire on or before 30 June 2014.

The Government is putting in place new arrangements for the Department's grant programmes to create more efficient and less duplicative programmes and improve value for money from grants spending. The six month extensions ensure service continuity while transitioning to the new grant arrangements.

Some grant agreements related to aged care and disability services have been offered a 12 month extension to enable an effective transition into the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme or other long-term, ongoing programmes.

Family and Relationship Services, Communities for Children Facilitating Partners and Family Law Services have been offered five year funding as part of the Government's commitment to deliver strong outcomes for Australian families and focus on early intervention and prevention.

A complete list of grant activities being extended, and the length of the extension is on the Department's website at <http://www.dss.gov.au/grants/extending-existing-grant-arrangements/grant-extensions-and-renewals>.

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Organisations that have accepted a six month grant extension, have signed a letter of variation explicitly confirming that their current funding agreement will continue until 31 December 2014.

A range of communication materials including, emails, information sessions and website content has been employed to encourage organisations to apply for new grant funding to continue to deliver services after their current agreement expires. Applications for funding opened on 19 June 2014 and closed 24 July 2014.