

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000373

Topic: Strong and Resilient Communities

Hansard page: 37

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

Can you give us some information on the kind of feedback that you have received about the redesign including a breakdown of what things they (multicultural organisations) liked about the redesign and what things they did not like about the redesign?

Answer:

The feedback received by the Department from multicultural organisations about the Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity (SARC) was mostly positive and:

- supported the focus of SARC on building stronger and more resilient communities;
- supported the direction of SARC to develop local solutions to local problems;
- supported community engagement activities that encourage integration and community inclusion;
- supported the longer term grant agreements; and
- applauded the greater certainty and stability of funding.

The following feedback was also considered by the Department:

- a longer application period to allow organisations more time to collaborate with other community agencies to develop partnerships, build evidence and apply for a project that provides innovative solutions
- preference for five year grant agreements
- multicultural arts and festivals activities are particularly useful in allowing cross-cultural cohesion. Priority should be given to applicants whose proposals make cultural expression a key element of their program.