

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 292

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Are all grants in each of the department's discretionary grants programs the subject of a pause? Are there any exceptions to the pause either in terms of programs or individual grants within a particular program? If so, what has been the process around determining any exemptions? How many grants or programs in this portfolio have been exempted? What are the details? What was the process used to identify a grant or a program that would be excluded from the pause? Who was the decision maker in each case where a grant or program was exempted from the pause? In relation to exemptions what role did Prime Minister and Cabinet play? Where did the initiative for an exemption for the pause come from in each case?

Answer:

The Government has not paused grants, the Government is assessing all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. There is a requirement for additional approval by the Minister for Finance to ensure that assessment can take place, before any relevant grant spending can proceed.

This requirement applies to discretionary grant spending only and excludes entitlement based programs such as pension entitlements and Medicare entitlements. It also excludes payments where contracts/agreements are already in place (i.e. have been signed).

The list of discretionary grant programs for the Department of Social Services includes:

- 1.1 Family Support Program
- 2.1 Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention
- 3.1 Financial Management
- 3.2 Community Investment
- 4.2 Allowances, Concessions and Services for Seniors
- 5.1 Targeted Community Care
- 5.3 Income Support for Carers
- 5.4 Services and Support for People with Disability
- 5.6 National Disability Insurance Scheme
- 6.1 Gender Equality for Women
- 8.1 Access and Information
- 8.2 Home Support
- 8.4 Residential and Flexible Care
- 8.5 Workforce and Quality

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- 8.6 Ageing and Service Improvement
- 10.1 Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees
- 11.1 Multicultural and Citizenship Service

Questions responding to any exceptions and the role of other Departments should be directed to those departments.