

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 381

Topic: Forgotten Australians and Forced Adoptions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Can you please provide information on the services and funding for people affected by:

- Institutionalisation – the “Forgotten Australians”
- Women and Children affected by past adoption practices?

What are the current timelines for funding?

Answer:

Forgotten Australians

Refer to Question No. 62 for information for the ‘Forgotten Australians’.

Past Adoption Practices

\$11.5 million over four years from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2017 has been allocated to assist those who have been affected by forced adoption:

- \$5 million to the Department of Social Services to improve access to specialist support services, peer and professional counselling and support records tracing for those affected by forced adoptions.
- \$5 million to the Department of Health to develop guidelines and training materials for mental health professionals and to increase capacity under the Access to Allied Psychological Services program.
- \$1.5 million for the National Archives of Australia to develop a website and exhibition to record the experiences of those affected by forced adoption.

These figures, which are GST exclusive, include administered and departmental funds.

A scoping study is being undertaken to map the current service system, identify gaps and suggest how to complement and enhance the existing services. The scoping study report is due in February 2014 and the Department is working towards services being in place by mid-2014.