

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

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 410

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

Please list the grants that are being reviewed (as per Thursday's transcript, page 21)? How many program areas are currently under review? How many applications were received under each funding program? How many letters of offer were made prior to the September 7 election? How many of these have had signed contracts? What are the parameters of the grants review? Please provide a matrix on how you ascertain whether particular grants fit within the priorities of Government.

Answer:

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).

All the background work in relation to these programs, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programs are continuing in the normal way.

The Department can provide a list of all the discretionary grant programs administered by this Department, but we cannot provide any more details at this stage, given this process is currently underway and the subject of Government consideration. This 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

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

Under current arrangements the Department of Finance, is responsible for determining whether particular grants are consistent with government priorities. Questions about this process need to be directed to the Department of Finance.