

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001130

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Health Flexible Funds

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

The Budget Papers indicate that \$197.1 mill will be cut from the 'Health Flexible Funds' over 3 years from 2015-16 to 2017-18. There are currently 16 different Flexible Funds providing funding to a diverse range of organisations and groups, including NGOs peak bodies and service delivery agencies across the country.

- a) How are these savings to be achieved?
- b) Are any of the 16 current Flexible Funds to be abolished? If so, which ones?
- c) Are levels of resourcing to the Flexible Funds to be reduced? If so, which funds will be affected?
- d) Are some organisations and services that currently receive funding under the Flexible Funds to be defunded?
- e) Will there be reductions in current levels of funding to organisations across the board?
- f) How is the target of \$197.1 mill in savings to be achieved and what are the implications for the many organisations and groups, including NGO peaks bodies and service delivery agencies, that currently rely on this funding?

**Answer:**

- a) Savings will be achieved by pausing indexation for three years from 2015-16 and reducing uncommitted funds.
- b) No decision has been made to abolish any of the Flexible Funds.
- c) The Flexible Funds impacted by the Measure are:
  - Chronic Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund;
  - Communicable Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund;
  - Health Protection Fund;
  - Health Social Surveys Fund;
  - Health Surveillance Fund;
  - Health System Capacity Development Fund;
  - Practice Incentives for General Practices;
  - Rural Health Outreach Fund;
  - Single Initial Point of Contact Telephone Advice and Counselling;
  - Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants; and
  - Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants.

- d) No organisation currently funded through the Flexible Funds will cease to receive funding under its current agreement with the Department of Health as a result of this measure.

Future funding from Flexible Funds will be disbursed in accordance with published programme guidelines.

- e) Please refer to the answer provided to part d).
- f) Please refer to the answers provided to parts a) and d).