

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001461

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Grants Guidelines

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 what guidelines are in place to administer grants?
 - a) How are grants applied for?
 - b) Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
 - c) Can these restrictions be waived? If yes, please detail the process for waiving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waived.
 - d) What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
 - e) Who is involved in this selection process?
 - f) Does the Minister or the Minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
 - g) Has the Minister or the minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.

Answer:

1. The Department of Health complies with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs) which have been in place from 1 July 2014. Prior to this, the Department complied with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.
 - a) Grants can be allocated through a range of approaches to the market, including:
 - open competitive;
 - targeted competitive/ non-competitive;
 - ad-hoc; and
 - one-off.
 - b) Generally grant applicants must meet any mandatory eligibility criteria specified for a particular approach to market. These criteria may vary between different grant processes depending on the nature of the granting activity. The eligibility criteria are set to encourage particular groups to apply and assist organisations to determine whether they would be able to complete the requirements of the funded activity. This can save those organisations that could not meet the requirements from unnecessary effort in drafting applications.

c) As a general principle the department does not depart from the restrictions stated under the approach to market documentation as this may be detrimental to the conduct of a transparent and equitable granting activity. Where such amendments were considered necessary and appropriate prior to the application period closing the department would publish these amendments in a timely manner.

No restrictions have been waived since June 2014.

d) The selection process in relation to a granting activity is undertaken in accordance with the process set out in the approach to market documentation (which includes the eligibility and assessment criteria) and the associated assessment plan.

e) An assessment committee is established by the department to assess applications against the eligibility and assessment criteria.

f) The Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, may make decisions in relation to the selection of applicants or may delegate this function to the Department.

g) See response to question f) above.