

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome

Question No: SQ15-000865

Topic: DSS Grants

Hansard page:

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

What feedback has the Department of Social Services received on the impact of funding uncertainty under one or two year contracts for community services? What is the rationale for undertaking funding on shorter one or two year contracts, which can cause significant uncertainty and disruption to providers?

Answer:

Feedback reflected the sector's preference for longer-term agreements. Following legal advice in light of recent High Court decisions, the Department has taken a cautious approach and offered two year agreements so we can adjust our grant programmes, if necessary, and ensure alignment with the law.