ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Question No: SQ15-000919

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes

Topic: FOFMS

Hansard page: written

Senator Claire Moore asked:
1.Could you provide an outline of what improvements have been made to FOFMS from October 2013 until now?
2.Which departments and agencies currently use FOFMS?
3.What grant programmes are currently administered through FOFMS?
4.What additional functions will become available as a result of the March 2016 system release?
5.What other enhancements or changes be made as part of the March 2016 system release?
6.What departments and agencies are expected to start using FOFMS after the March 2016 system release?
7.What additional grant programmes will be administered through FOFMS after the March 2016 system release?
8.Can you provide details of what monies have been expended by the Department for the redevelopment of FOFMS since October 2013?
9.Can you provide a summary of the planned changes to be made to FOFMS in each systems release for the period to December 2017?
10. Do you expect that further funds for the redevelopment of FOFMS will be sort in the 2016 and 2017 budget rounds?
11.When do you expect the current redevelopment to be completed?

Answer:
1. Could you provide an outline of what improvements have been made to FOFMS from October 2013 until now?

From October 2013 – 30 June 2015, standard maintenance and the support of changes to existing business occurred. From 1 July 2015 – 30 October 2015, the following improvements have been made and will be available in March 2016:
- grants system core platform redevelopment to allow for increased availability and reliability
- an upgrade of the backend data quality module to increase capability
- improvements to the auditability
- improvements to the reconciliation of payments
- analysis of the standardisation of organisations and their addresses
- update of the data in FOFMS to allow for data segregation.

2. Which departments and agencies currently use FOFMS?

FOFMS is used by the:
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)
- Department of Health (DoH)
- Department of Education and Training (DET) and
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

3. What grant programmes are currently administered through FOFMS?

DSS administers grant programmes in the following areas:
- Families and Communities
- Housing and Homelessness
- Disability, Mental Health and Carers
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Attachment A provides a list of the specific grants programmes administered in FOFMS.

4. What additional functions will become available as a result of the March 2016 system release?

The March 2016 major systems release is focused on a number of additional functions or enhancements that will be available to all system users including current and future agencies:
- integration of the Whole of Government 'SmartForms' solution administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
- integration of the Australian Business Number Lookup web service into vendor and applicant registration functions
- establishing system level automation of payment and transaction reconciliation between FOFMS and other payment systems
- streamlining processes to create records within FOFMS and payment systems to support faster implementation of granting programmes
- implementation of new enterprise data warehousing capabilities including cross-programme data analytics and reporting.

The March 2016 major systems release will also include non-functional changes which streamline existing business processes or improve the underlying platform. These changes are:
- increased automation of application processing speeding up the agreement drafting process
- increased visibility of variations to existing grant agreements within the system
- establishing system environments for FOFMS and its associated systems (e.g. Online Forms and Systems) to support high availability.

Additionally, tools to aid the calculation and payment of Social And Community Services (SACS) payments will be made available to DSS system users.

Not all of these functions are visible to users outside of agencies.

5. What other enhancements or changes be made as part of the March 2016 system release?

The answer to this question is incorporated in the response to question 4.

6. What departments and agencies are expected to start using FOFMS after the March 2016 system release?

Consuming Agencies have not been required to select a particular Hub at this stage. Decisions will be made by the ten consuming agencies in the next few months as part of the transition planning under the whole of government initiative.

7. What additional grant programmes will be administered through FOFMS after the March 2016 system release?

DSS will continue to administer all DSS grants programmes including any new programmes through FOFMS.

Information relating to the programmes other Departments are intending to administer through FOFMS will be determined by those Departments.

8. Can you provide details of what monies have been expended by the Department for the redevelopment of FOFMS since October 2013?

From October 2013 – 30 June 2015, standard maintenance and the support of changes to existing business occurred. From 1 July 2015 – 30 October 2015, $2,069,512 has been expended in IT enhancements (outlined in question one), all of which has been funded through the 2015-16 budget allocation.

9. Can you provide a summary of the planned changes to be made to FOFMS in each systems release for the period to December 2017?

As part of the Streamlining Grants Administration Programme (SGA Programme), the Department is undertaking genuine co-design with government/key stakeholders including agencies currently using FOFMS and community sector organisations. This will ensure we develop business solutions which deliver value for government departments, reduce red tape for community service providers and individuals, and improve internal efficiency and effectiveness.

The scope of changes and functional enhancements to be included in each tranche of the SGA Programme will be informed by extensive engagement and co-design with government departments and community organisations.

This approach ensures strong understanding of all stakeholder needs and expectations are reflected in programme deliverables over the period to December 2017 and beyond.

10. Do you expect that further funds for the redevelopment of FOFMS will be sought in the 2016 and 2017 budget rounds?

The 2015-16 Budget identified future DSS funding of $38,601,000 in 2016-17, $13,841,000 in 2017-18 and $1,789,000 in 2018-19. The Department is not expecting to seek further funds for this initiative.

11. When do you expect the current redevelopment to be completed?

The last IT release is currently scheduled for December 2017.

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Broadband for Seniors
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Child Aware Approaches
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Children and Parent Support Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Children's Contact Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Clearinghouses
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Financial Capability
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Financial Capability - Capability Building
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Communities for Children - Facilitating Partners
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Community Development and Participation
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Diversity and Social Cohesion
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Emergency Relief
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Families and Communities Service Improvement Activity
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Family and Relationship Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Family Dispute Resolution
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Family Law Counselling
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Family Relationship Advice Line - Information and Advice
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Family Relationship Centres
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Capability and Inclusion

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Counselling and Capability and Resilience
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Counselling Helpline
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience in Income Management Trial Site Locations
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Crisis and Material Aid - Emergency Relief
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Crisis and Material Aid - Food Relief
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Financial Resilience
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Forced Adoption Support Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Gender Equality for Women: National Centre of Excellence Special Account
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Intensive Family Support Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Money Management Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Multicultural Arts and Festivals
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Comunity Attitude Survey
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Find and Connect
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	National Secretariat
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Other Services - Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Parenting Orders Programme

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Peak Bodies - Settlement Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Problem Gambling
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Reconnect
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Regional Family Dispute Resolution
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Royal Commission - Interim Support Services
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Settlement Grants
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Settlement Services Youth Transition Support
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Strengthening Civil Society
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Stronger Relationships
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Support for Trafficked People Program
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Supporting Children after Separation
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Volunteer Management Program
Programme 2.1 - Families and Communities	Women's Safety Agenda
Programme 4.1 - Housing and Homelessness	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
Programme 4.1 - Housing and Homelessness	National Homelessness Strategy Projects
Programme 4.2 - Affordable Housing and Homelessness	Building Better Regional Cities
Programme 4.2 - Affordable Housing and Homelessness	Housing Affordability Fund
Programme 4.2 - Affordable Housing and Homelessness	National Rental Incentives
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Business Service Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) Payment Scheme

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Carer Information Support Service
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Carers Peak Body Funding
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Community Mental Health Drought Assistance
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Community Mental Health, Early Intervention for Children, Young People and their Families
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Consumer Directed Respite Care
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Counselling, Support, Information and Advocacy
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Dementia Education and Training for Carers (DETC) Programme
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Disability Advocacy
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Disability Care Merits Review
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Drought Assistance - Social and Community Support Package
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	National Carer Counselling Programme
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	National Disability Advocacy Program
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	National Plan for Carers
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	National Secretariat Funding
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Postal Concessions for the Blind
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Print Disability Services
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Sector Development - Disability Representative Organisations

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Targeted Community Care Family Mental Health Support Services New Measures 2012-14
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Work and Care Initiative
Programme 5.1 - Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme	Young Carer Bursary Programme
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	A Better Start for Children with Disability - Education and Support
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Abacus Learning Centre Grant
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Auslan Interpreting Service
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Autism Data and Research
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Autism Spectrum Disorder Early Intervention
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Autism Spectrum Disorder Playgroups
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Autism Website
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Better Start for Children with Disability
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative Early Intervention Services
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Building Community Capacity and Engagement
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Building Disability Sector Capacity and Service Provider Readiness
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Building the Evidence Base
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Childhood Autism Advisors
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Disability Employment Assistance
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Disability Employment Assistance - Temporary Viability Support (Crisis Intervention)
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Disability Support Activities

Programme Component	Activity External Name
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Helping Children with Autism Workshops
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Increasing Individual Capacity and Developing New Forms of Support
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Mental Health Respite: Carer Support
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Personal Helpers and Mentors Program
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability Program (RSCYP)
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Targeted Community Care Mental Health Respite: Carer Support New Measures 2012-14
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Targeted Community Care Personal Helpers and Mentors Expansion New Measures 2012-14
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Targeted Community Care Personal Helpers and Mentors New Measures 2012-14 PHaMs Employment
Programme 5.2 - National Disability Insurance Scheme	Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program