

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Administered program detail

Question reference number: 20 (HS 20)

Senator: Watt

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide an itemised table detailing the following information:

- a) every program administered by the department and all portfolio agencies within it;
- b) the total funding allocated for each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- c) the number of organisations funded under the program in each in those years, the name of each organisation funded and the dollar value of that funding
- d) the number of individuals projected to be serviced or services to be delivered through each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- e) the total funding actually expended on each in 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- f) the number of individuals actually serviced or services actually delivered through each in 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- g) the aggregate staff budget for each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15 broken down by i) permanent APS staff and ii) contractors.
- h) the number of permanent APS staff responsible for delivering each in 2016-17; 2015-16 and 2014-15, the classification of these staff and their geographic location;
- i) the dollar value of external advice contracted to support each in 2016-17, as well as the number of contractors engaged, the APS-equivalent classification these contractors were engaged at and their geographic location.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Human Services (the department) administers one program: Child Support.

- b) Attachment A shows the administered and departmental expenses for this program for 2016-17 (budget estimate), 2015-16 (actual) and 2014-15 (actual). The Child Support Special Account is used for the receipt of child support payments and the making of regular and timely payments to custodial parents and is not annual funding allocated to the department for delivering the Child Support program activities. The nature of the special account requires that child support monies received into the account are paid from the account to the relevant recipients.
- c) There are no organisations funded under the program.
- d) In 2015–16 the department worked with separated parents to transfer \$3.5 billion to support approximately 1.2 million children. This is the same as in 2014–15.
- e) As per Attachment A.
- f) In 2015–16 the department worked with separated parents to transfer \$3.5 billion to support approximately 1.2 million children. This is the same as in 2014–15.
- g) The department does not budget for staff at the program level. Since the department's formation into a single agency in 2011, the department has integrated the delivery of services across the Social Services, Health and Child Support functions. Staff may work across many services within the course of a day.
- h) As noted in the response to (g) above, the department does not budget for staff at the program level.
- i) There has not been any external advice contracted for the Child Support Program. As for responses (g) and (h) above, neither staff nor contractors are budgeted at the program level.