

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs**

**Question No: SQ16-000336**

**Topic: Community Sector Funding Certainty**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Louise Pratt** asked:

Many community sector organisations have their funding contracts end in June 2017. Service providers, including Financial Counselling organisations, have raised concerns that waiting until the budget in May 2017 for funding certainty is problematic for them in terms of staffing and service provision. In light of this, will the government make a commitment to funding for these organisations prior to the May budget? And if so, when?

**Answer:**

The Department endeavours, as a matter of practice, to inform providers about future funding arrangements as early as possible.

For community sector funding agreements expiring on 30 June 2017, the Department is aiming to inform providers of future funding arrangements before the end of 2016.