

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000655

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - Grants

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
2. How are grants applied for?
3. Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
 - a. Can these restrictions be waved? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waved.
4. What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
5. Who is involved in this selection process?
6. Does the minister or the minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
 - a. 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.
7. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
8. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer

1. The Safe Work Australia Sponsorship Guidelines are published on the Safe Work Australia website. General grants guidelines also form part of the agency's Accountable Authority Instructions (AAIs).
2. Requests for grants are made in accordance with the guidelines but are unsolicited.
3. There are no restrictions on who can apply for a grant, although the Safe Work Australia Sponsorship Guidelines state: Safe Work Australia will be cautious about entering any sponsorship arrangement that may potentially expose the agency to risks including, but not limited to: creating potential or actual conflict of interests (e.g. sponsoring businesses that are likely to tender for future contracts); public perception of conflict of interest; sponsors who may use the sponsorship arrangement to influence government, public policy or for any other purpose detrimental to Safe Work Australia's role or image, and; associations or bodies with political objectives or affiliations.
 - a. No
4. Requests for grants are assessed using the published guidelines.

5. Safe Work Australia's sponsorships and grants are approved in accordance with the agency Financial Delegations. Consultation in some cases includes Safe Work Australia Members.
6. No
7. All grants are published on the Safe Work Australia website.
8. Not applicable