

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/114) - Grants - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Ludwig, Joe (L&CA) written:

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.
 1. Can these restrictions be waived? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waived.
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.
 1. 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:

1-5. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) grant administration, application and selection processes comply with the statutory and mandatory policy requirements as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs). The guidelines contain the key legislative and policy requirements, and explain the better practice principles of grants administration. Entities determine their own grants administration practices in accordance with the CGRGs.

6. A Minister's role in approving grant expenditure is outlined in the PGPA Act. All parties involved in grants administration (including Ministers, Accountable Authorities, officials and third parties who undertake grants administration on behalf of the Commonwealth) must comply with government policies and legislation relevant to grants administration.

Neither the Minister nor the Minister's office has exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants.

7. A list of all DIBP grants including comprehensive details on each agreement is published and publicly available at: <http://www.border.gov.au/about/reports-publications/reports/corporate/grants>

8. All grants for DIBP approved prior to 14 September 2015 had financial contracts in place and are published and publicly available at: <http://www.border.gov.au/about/reports-publications/reports/corporate/grants>