

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.1 AGD Operating Expenses - Civil Justice and Legal Services

Question No. BE17-012

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question on 24 May 2017:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Just finally I would like to go to the family advocacy and support services budget announcement, where I believe \$18.5 million has been set aside. I understand the first site has been announced in Parramatta. How much of that \$18.5 million has gone to that site at Parramatta?

Ms Williams: I do not have specifics as to the amount that has gone to Parramatta, but I can give you a breakdown of how much of the \$18.2 million that has been allocated for these services has gone to New South Wales if that would assist.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Sure, and then, if it has gone to any other states as well, could you give me that breakdown, please?

Ms Williams: That \$18.2 million has been divided between all of the jurisdictions. For New South Wales, it is \$1.022 million for 2016-17; \$1.665 million for 2017-18; and the same for 2018-19. I can give you South Australia's figures, if that would assist?

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Yes, please.

Ms Williams: For South Australia, it is \$371,000 for 2016-17, and \$610,000 for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: In terms of explaining the difference in the amounts that have been provided, how were those quantum per state arrived at? What information did you use to determine the amount of money each state should receive?

Mr Gifford: To take a step back, there are actually 14 of these sites that are operational already. The only jurisdiction yet to bring them online, and we believe it will occur in the next month, is the Northern Territory. The allocation of funding was based on consultations with the jurisdictions in terms of where the greater need was identified in those consultations with the jurisdictions.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: On notice, could you provide me with information about who in South Australia you consulted with?

Mr Gifford: Yes, we can.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

In response to a formal consultation process following the announcement of the allocation of \$30 million for legal assistance and family relationship services to support the Third Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, National Legal Aid made a proposal to the Attorney-General about the development of Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS). The department consulted with National Legal Aid on the funding required by each jurisdiction, based on factors such as the size and number of family law court registries. The Legal Services Commission of South Australia is a member of National Legal Aid and was involved in that process.

In negotiating the Project Agreement for the FASS, the department consulted with the South Australian Attorney-General's Department. A copy of the agreement is available at http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/community_services.aspx.