

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

**Question: PM 82**

**Asked By: Senator Nash**

**Topic: Water Safety Programs and Spending**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of pages: 3**

- a) I refer to the Government programs ‘Saving Lives in the Water’ and funding for ‘National Recreation Safety Organisations’, which were funded in the 2008-09 Budget. Each of these programs support water safety education.
- b) Which body within the Government is currently overseeing these programs – is it within the Department of Health and Ageing?
- c) Can the Department provide a full list of each organisation provided funding under these programs?
- d) Can the Department provide a full list of each program funded under these programs and how much money is being allocated to each?
- e) With respect to water safety, can the Department outline the specific safety outcomes that the funding is going towards?
- f) What level of oversight does the Department exercise to ensure that organisations funded are meeting the program’s outcomes? Can the Department outline this oversight?
- g) Does the Department have any formal means of withholding funding or otherwise from an organisation who is not spending on the purposes for which it is provided?
- h) Is the spending on water safety programs reviewed? If so, at what intervals, and what has been the outcome of these reviews?

**Answer:**

- a) Not Applicable.
  
- b) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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c & d) The list of organisations and the amount of funding provided under both the 'Saving Lives in the Water' measure and the National Recreation Safety Program are listed in the table below:

Program/Measure	Organisation	<b>\$Million</b>				TOTAL
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
National Recreation Safety Program	Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA)	3.15	3.20	3.24	3.28	12.86
	Royal Life Saving Society-Australia (RLSSA)	1.68	1.71	1.73	1.75	6.86
	AUSTSWIM	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.27	1.07
	Australian Ski Patrol Association (ASPA)	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.64
Sub Total						21.43
Information and Communication Technology Project	SLSA	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.40
Sub Total						4.40
'Saving Lives in the Water' Measure – Element 1 – Australian Water Safety Strategy Priorities	SLSA	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33	5.32
	RLSSA	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	2.29
	AUSTSWIM	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.38
Sub Total						8.00
'Saving Lives in the Water' Measure – Element 2 – Under 5's Water Safety	Laurie Lawrence Swimming Enterprises	0.80	0.51	0.34	0.31	1.96
	The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health & Safety (University of Sydney)	0.00	0.10	0.23	0.00	0.33
Sub Total						2.29
TOTAL (GST Ex)						36.12

\*Figures have been rounded.

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- e) Funding provided under both the National Recreation Safety Program and the 'Saving Lives in the Water' measure support the delivery of core water and snow safety programs aimed at reducing the number of aquatic and snow accidents and deaths in Australia.
- f) The organisations are required to provide the Department with progress reports as specified in the funding agreement/contract. These reports are provided quarterly to six monthly and detail how the projects are progressing and to ensure that milestones are being achieved.
- g) Yes.
- h) The National Recreation Safety Program is an ongoing program while element one of the 'Saving Lives in the Water' measure is an ongoing commitment subject to review in 2011-12 and element two is a lapsing commitment subject to review in 2011-12. The effectiveness of the individual programs and projects delivered by the various organisations are monitored and assessed through the reporting obligations of the funding agreements/contracts.