

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011**

**Question: 4**

**Topic: Funded Projects in Round 1 of RDAF**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 106**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator JOYCE:** If I can get tabled—three would be a good example so we can understand how it works—why the Geelong Football Club got \$10 million, yet the refurbishment to remove asbestos from a childcare facility at Bendigo got nothing; why an art gallery in Newcastle got \$7 million to assist in a \$21 million art gallery, yet the stock transit centre to assist the humane treatment of animals in Broken Hill got nothing; why Freeman House in Armidale got \$8 million, yet the upgrade of the Lynne Highway to try to save people's lives got nothing. Could just work out what the special aspects and characteristics were that required those projects not only to get funded but to get funded in the quantum they got funded—which seems to be quite an incredible amount of money—when, if they had got half as much and we had spread the money around, we could have had a much better and fairer approach to what is genuinely regional Australia.

**Answer:**

The Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) is a competitive grants program. Applications are assessed for eligibility and each eligible application is assessed on its individual and relative merits. Assessment is based on the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4.7 of the Guidelines for Round One and the selection criteria set out in Section 4.8 of the Guidelines for Round One.

All eligible applications were considered by the Advisory Panel, which made recommendations on the most meritorious. The Minister made decisions on projects to be funded.