

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 21

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

Family Relationship Centres

- a) Are you able to provide a breakdown indicating:
- i) Each Family Relationship Centre
 - ii) When that centre opened (or is expected to open)?
 - iii) When the contract was awarded to that centre?
 - iv) The value of the contract awarded to that centre
 - v) Whether or not that centre is an indigenous service provider.
- b) Have any representations, grievances or complaints about the treatment of staff been made to the Department or the Minister concerning any centre?
- i) If so:
 - 1) Give details of the allegations and the centre against which they were made
 - 2) What action was taken by the department in response to those allegations?
- c) Have any allegations of fraud against the Commonwealth concerning misrepresentation of counselling services of any nature been made to the department or the Minister?

If so:

- i) Give details of the allegations and the centre against which they were made
 - ii) What action was taken by the Department in response to those allegations?
 - iii) Has the matter been referred to the AFP for investigation?
 - iv) If so, when was the matter referred?
 - 1) If not, why not?
- d) Has the department or the Attorney been made aware of the results of an independent review by Ms O'Hara?

If so:

- i) Provide a copy of the report
- ii) What was the content of the report?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The information requested is attached.

b) Yes.

(i) (1) The Department was contacted about internal matters relating to the Lismore Family Relationship Centre. The Department was requested to treat that contact as confidential. The contact related to management of staff and reporting issues.

(2) The people contacting the Department requested confidentiality and did not want the Department to contact the organisation running the Centre or the then Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) about the issues they raised and so the Department was not able to treat the issues as complaints. This was explained. However, the Department subsequently spoke to and met with the organisation running the Centre to ensure that the issues were being addressed by that organisation, without disclosing the information previously provided in confidence.

c) No.

d) No.

a)

Family Relationship Centre	When Opened or Expected to Open	Date of Announcement of Preferred Provider status	Establishment funding	2006-07 funding	2007-08 funding	2008-09 funding	Core Indig¹ service delivery	Add'l Indig² service delivery
New South Wales								
Penrith	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	180,000	983,000	969,000	969,000	Yes	
Lismore	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	180,000	983,000	977,000	977,000	Yes	Yes
Wollongong	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	180,000	944,000	935,000	935,000	Yes	
Sutherland	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	210,000	1,084,000	1,079,000	1,079,000	Yes	
Blacktown	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	201,000		954,000	954,000	Yes	
Campbelltown	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	189,000		889,000	889,000	Yes	
Fairfield	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	225,000		1,065,000	1,065,000	Yes	
Newcastle	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	343,000		1,619,000	1,619,000	Yes	
North Ryde	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	359,000		1,667,000	1,667,000	Yes	
Nowra	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	215,000		986,000	986,000	Yes	Yes
Wagga Wagga	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	176,000		847,000	847,000	Yes	
Victoria								
Frankston	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	160,000	831,000	825,000	825,000	Yes	
Ringwood	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	252,800	1,406,200	1,400,000	1,400,000	Yes	
Sunshine	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	250,000	1,301,000	1,290,000	1,290,000	Yes	
Mildura	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	140,000	764,000	759,000	759,000	Yes	Yes
Ballarat	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	186,000		877,000	877,000	Yes	
Berwick	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	191,000		912,000	912,000	Yes	
Geelong	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	188,000		893,000	893,000	Yes	
Greensborough	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	302,000		1,415,000	1,415,000	Yes	
Morwell/Traralgon	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	197,000		922,000	922,000	Yes	
Wodonga	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	176,000		838,000	838,000	Yes	

¹ **Core Indigenous Service Delivery:** – All Centres are funded to provide services to Indigenous clients in their area

² **Additional Indigenous Service Delivery:** Selected Centres are provided with additional funding to enable the Centre to engage advisers for Indigenous service delivery

Queensland								
Strathpine	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	170,000	915,000	906,000	906,000	Yes	
Townsville	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	210,000	1,237,540	1,231,540	1,231,540	Yes	Yes
Gold Coast	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	275,000		1,276,000	1,276,000	Yes	
Cairns	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	279,000		1,376,000	1,376,000	Yes	Yes
Ipswich	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	156,000		740,000	740,000	Yes	
Sunshine Coast	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	221,000		1,035,000	1,035,000	Yes	
Rockhampton	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	278,000		1,283,000	1,283,000	Yes	Yes
Upper Mt Gravatt	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	284,000		1,354,000	1,354,000	Yes	
Western Australia								
Joondalup	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	210,000	1,092,000	1,084,000	1,084,000	Yes	
Geraldton	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	182,000		827,000	827,000	Yes	Yes
Mandurah	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	92,000		447,000	447,000	Yes	
Midland	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	258,000		1,195,000	1,195,000	Yes	Yes
South Australia								
Salisbury	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	200,000	1,074,000	1,063,000	1,063,000	Yes	
Noarlunga	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	231,000		1,102,000	1,102,000	Yes	
Port Augusta	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	256,000		1,157,000	1,157,000	Yes	Yes
Tasmania								
Hobart	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	185,400	824,600	844,000	844,000	Yes	
Launceston	2 July 2007	24 Jan 2007	209,000		996,000	996,000	Yes	
Northern Territory								
Darwin	3 July 2006	4 April 2006	220,000	1,429,000	1,424,000	1,424,000	Yes	Yes
ACT								
Canberra	2 July 2007	4 April 2006	220,000	1,155,000	1,144,000	1,144,000	Yes	

NB: i) The amounts do not include GST. ii) The FRCs that opened on 3 July 2006 have a 3 year Funding Agreement. The 25 FRCs that will open on 2 July 2007 have a 2 year Funding Agreement.