

MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION - APPROVAL OF GRANT



Australian Government
Department of Health

cc: Prof Jane Halton PSM
Mr David Learmonth
Mr Andrew Simpson

MINISTER DUTTON

Critical Date: 30 May 2014

RECEIVED
02 JUN 2014
Parliamentary Section

Reason:
Funded organisations will need to know as soon as possible about funding arrangements in financial year 2014-15.

HEALTH PROGRAM GRANTS - HEALTH SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

R.I. That you NOTE the information provided in relation to ~~three health services Health Program Grants (HPGs)~~

Noted

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

PETER DUTTON

29 / 08 / 14

MINISTER'S COMMENTS:

[Redacted]

ISSUE:

The Health Program Grant (HPG) program was introduced in 1975 as part of the overall funding arrangements under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (the Act). HPGs were distinct from the legislation pertaining to Medicare benefits and allowed the granting of funds as an alternative to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) where there were barriers to accessing these mainstream systems.

Three organisations have continued to receive HPGs to support targeted health services for special needs groups, being the homeless and disadvantaged, and the visually impaired. The three organisations are: the [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

Initial Establishment of the HPG Program

The HPGs are governed by Part IV of the Act. The original intent of the HPG program was to provide alternative funding for a range of services where fee-for-service arrangements were inappropriate. The Act provided the (then) Minister for Social Security ability to fund organisations which provided a health service to the community. HPGs were made across three broad categories: radiation oncology, pathology, and 'other health services'. This latter category provided a range of medical, pharmaceutical and rehabilitation services to specific client groups such as people in rural and remote areas; socioeconomically disadvantaged people; indigenous Australians; and people with severe brain injury.

There were no formal restrictions on the types of organisations eligible to apply or be approved for funding under an HPG although it was anticipated that organisations would be of a non-profit making nature. Organisations providing a health service at the time the HPG program was established were encouraged to apply for a grant. Following an application process the grants were paid directly to the HPG recipient organisation or to the relevant State government. Grants were made across the ACT, Victoria, NSW, South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

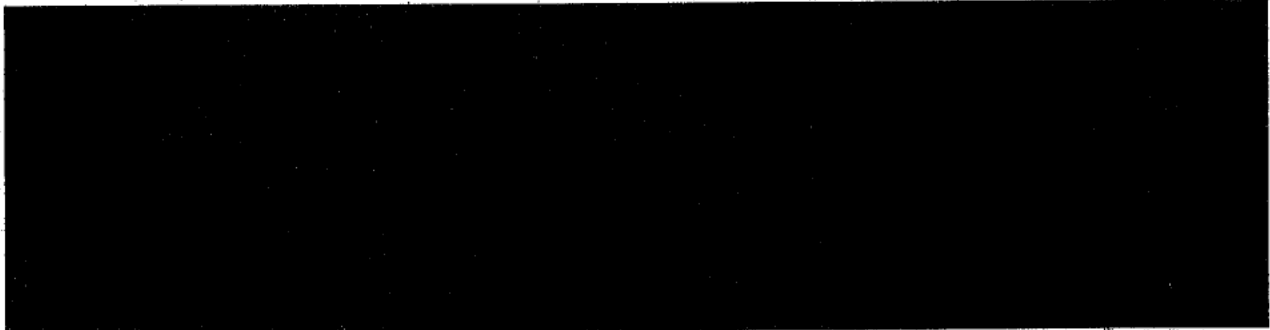
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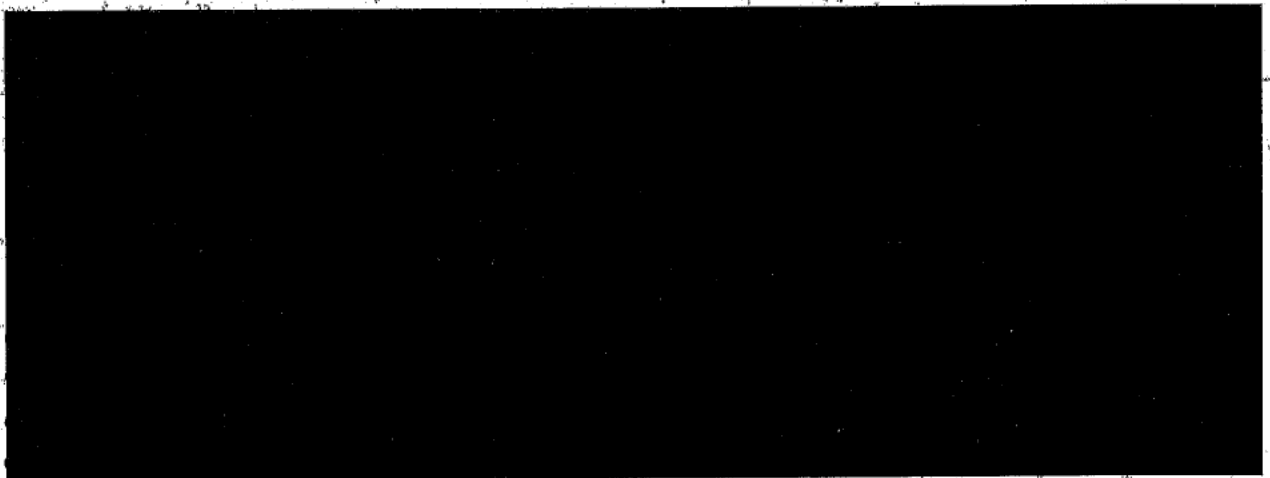


RELEVANCE TO ELECTION COMMITMENTS:

N/A

Sensitivity:

The three organisations which receive EPCs have an expectation that they will continue to do so based on their long term access with few conditions.



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18.1.5 / 1.14