

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2004-2005, 17 February 2005

Question: E05-010

OUTCOME 1: Population Health and Safety

Topic: PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

- (a) Can the government provide figures for the amount of funding provided to pregnancy counselling services in 2003-04, including direct and indirect funding? Please provide a breakdown of funding by organisation.
- (b) Can the government provide figures for the amount of funding which will be allocated to pregnancy counselling services in the 2004-05 Budget, including direct and indirect funding? Please provide a breakdown of funding by organisation.
- (c) Does the government have any information regarding which of these fully or partially publicly-funded pregnancy counselling services are pro-life and pro-choice?

Answer:

- (a) The Australian Episcopal Conference of the Roman Catholic Church is funded to provide natural family planning counselling for the purpose of achieving or avoiding pregnancy. The Australian Federation of Pregnancy Support Services is funded to provide independent non-directive counselling for unplanned pregnancy. Family Planning Organisations funded under the national family planning program also provide independent non-directive counselling for unplanned pregnancy.

In 2003-04, the Australian Government provided direct funding of \$900,810 to the Australian Episcopal Conference of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 2003-04, the Australian Government provided direct funding of \$240,764 to the Australian Federation of Pregnancy Support Services.

In 2003-04 the following funding was received by family planning organisations:

Family Planning Organisations	2003-04
	\$
FPA Health (NSW)	4,986,371
Family Planning Victoria	2,557,079
Family Planning Queensland	2,868,564
Family Planning Western Australia	1,637,942
Family Planning Tasmania	535,851
Family Planning Welfare Northern Territory	443,302

The South Australian and the Australian Capital Territory Governments received funding for family planning via the Population Health Outcome Funding Agreements (PHOFAs). The level of funding allocated by the state or territory government for this purpose can not be disaggregated.

- (b) The 2004-05 allocation for the Australian Episcopal Conference of the Roman Catholic Church is \$918,826.

The 2004-05 allocation for the Australian Federation of Pregnancy Support Services is \$245,580.

The Australian Government decided on 29 March 2004 that funding for all Family Planning Organisations would be incorporated within the Population Health Outcome Funding Agreements (PHOFAs) for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09. All states and territories have now signed the new agreements. The level of funding allocated by the state or territory government for this purpose can not be disaggregated. However, funding provided to support Family Planning Organisations by states and territories is expected to be at levels similar to the previous year.

- (c) The objective of the Family Planning Program is to provide a balanced approach to differing family planning service models, aimed at promoting responsible sexual and reproductive behaviours, rather than focussing on one particular strategy or program. There are no requirements in the contracts with these organisations for them to declare whether or not they are pro-life or pro-choice.