

Question on Notice

No. 915

Asked on 21 August 2024

MS A LEAHY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TREATY, MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PAQON 915 – LEAHY UPDATEDRTNERSHIPS, MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Community Health and Wellbeing package – 2023 Southern Queensland Bushfires, which was announced in May 2024—

Will the Minister advise for each component of the package (reported separately by component) (a) number of FTEs employed, (b) when employment commenced for each FTE, (c) the amount of funding expended so far for the package, (d) the items on which funds have been expended reported by type and amount and (e) amount of funding expended to date in each of the eligible LGAs?

ANSWER:

The \$6.24 million Community Health and Wellbeing package announced in May this year by the Australian Government targets communities activated for personal hardship assistance and who experienced loss and severe damage of properties due to the Southern Queensland Bushfires 8 September to 7 November 2023.

Following necessary consultation and collaboration with the Australian Government, local governments and state agencies, comprehensive guidelines for delivery of the initiatives are now being finalised and will soon be submitted to the Australian Government for final approval.

Following Australian Government approval of program guidelines, the department will commence delivery of this package. Until the guidelines are approved, the department is unable to recruit any FTEs or deliver funding. Once approved, delivery of the Community Health and Wellbeing package is anticipated to commence in the coming months.

The package includes:

- \$2.34 million for up to four full time equivalent Community Recovery and Resilience Officers to engage, support and promote recovery and resilience planning and activities at a local level.
- \$2.25 million for up to five full-time equivalent Community Recovery Connect Workers within neighbourhood centres to partner with special interest and community groups in assisting vulnerable residents.
- \$1.2 million will fund up to three full time equivalent Community Recovery Grant Coordinators to help impacted individuals navigate available services to rebuild damaged properties.
- \$450,000 in Flexible Funding Grants available across all impacted LGAs to be used for the development of emergency, disaster preparedness and business continuity plans, including for community organisations and neighbourhood centres.

Funding for this program is jointly delivered by the Australian and Queensland governments under the national Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts continues to provide financial, practical and emotional support to communities affected by the Southern Queensland Bushfires in partnership with our network of funded support partners, under DRFA Category A provisions.