

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY****WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

**Frail and Aged Services - Funding**

Minister I have met with representatives of a number of non-government organisations providing services to frail aged people and people with a disability. They have expressed their concern about the lengthening delay in being advised each financial year as to whether or not their application for HACC (Home and Community Care) funding had been approved. Last year the advice did not come through until November.

1. Given the struggle NGOs have in providing their service why does it take so long for them to find out how much money they will get? – half the year is nearly gone by the time they find out.

**ANSWER**

Funding for services under the Home and Community Care (HACC) program is provided on both a recurrent and one-off basis.

Services funded on a recurrent basis are generally funded under a three year Service Agreement between the organisation and the service provider and have continuity of funding guaranteed for the life of the Service Agreement, subject to satisfactory delivery of that service as per the terms of the Agreement.

Recurrent funding for new or expanded HACC service, or one-off funding for a time limited HACC project is granted via a grants Funding Round each year. The Northern Territory HACC Plan, which determines the priority areas for the allocation of these funds, is drafted in July each year. Advertisements calling for applications for the HACC Funding Round are placed in newspapers across the Northern Territory in August or September each year.

After the application deadline, a funding panel assesses all received submissions. Once the panel has assessed all submissions, panel recommendations are forwarded to the Northern Territory Minister for Family and Community Services, via the Department of Health and Community Services and then to the Australian Government's Minister for Ageing, via their Department of Health and Ageing.

A joint announcement regarding the outcomes of the Funding Round is made by the Minister for Family and Community Services and the Australian Government's Minister for Ageing, usually in November each year.