3635 - ADDITIONAL COVID-19 FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Lynch, Paul to the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

1. When was the additional COVID-19 funding announced by the Commonwealth Government on 6 May 2020 fo frontline legal services (including the community legal sector) received by the Government?
2. On what date(s) was this additional Commonwealth funding distributed to community legal centres in New South Wales, if at all?
3. What was the reason for the delay in distributing the funding to community legal centres in New South Wales (as highlighted by the NSW Society of Labor Lawyers in their recent submission to the inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic)?

Answer -

I am advised:

(1) The Project Agreement provides for the 2019-20 Commonwealth funds to be paid to New South Wales after New South Wales met its first performance milestone on 5 June 2020. NSW met this reporting milestone and the 2019-20 funds were paid to New South Wales on 30 June 2020.

The Project Agreement provides for the 2020-21 Commonwealth funds to be paid to New South Wales only after New South Wales has met its second performance milestone on 30 September 2020. In accordance with the Project Agreement, these monies have, therefore, not yet been received.

(2) New South Wales is currently undertaking an application process to distribute the COVID-19 frontline legal service funds to individual Community Legal Centres (CLCs). The application process was developed in close consultation with the CLC sector and based on a proposal by the peak body, CLCNSW. Applications closed on 21 August. Evaluation is underway and funds will be distributed shortly.

(3) The process followed by New South Wales, and based on a proposal by the CLC sector, is on track.

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