

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM — TENDER

4779. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the Empowering Communities Program (ECP) tender announced by the Department of Communities on 14 December 2018 and ask:

- (a) Did the Minister for Communities note or approve the organisations that were successful in the Empowering Communities Program, prior to recipients being advised of the outcome by the Department of Communities on 14 December 2018;
- (b) If yes to (1) on what date;
- (c) Did the Minister or her office direct the Department for Communities to provide existing Community Neighbourhood Development Services (CNDS) service providers that were unsuccessful in the ECP with a further contract extension to their current CNDS service agreement;
- (d) If yes to (3) on what date and time was this direction made to the Department of Communities;
- (e) What was the reason for unsuccessful applicants to the ECP being advised on the same day that they had received a further contract extension;
- (f) Why were unsuccessful applicants not advised that they would receive a further contract extension until June 2020, at the same time as being advised they had been unsuccessful in the ECP tender; and
- (g) At any point during the ECP tender process, did the Minister or her office have any influence over the outcome of the tender, or emphasise funding priorities?

**Ms S.F. McGurk replied:**

- (a) Yes, the Minister noted the outcome of the tender process.
- (b) The Minister was provided a briefing package which contained the final tender outcome on 14 December 2018.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) 14 December 2018, at approximately 1:00pm.
- (e) Consideration was given to the impact on unsuccessful organisations and the communities they provide services to. Contract extension was put in place to enable services to continue operating to 30 June 2020.
- (f) The difference in timing arises from separate consideration by Government of the impact on unsuccessful organisations and the communities they provide services to.
- (g) No.