

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Amount

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0008

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Tell us about the Indigenous procurement program in your department. What is the amount you are spending annually with Indigenous Suppliers? What percentage of your procurement does that amount to?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is responsible for the whole of Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) which applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities subject to Commonwealth Procurement Rules. The NIAA has embedded the requirements of the IPP into its culture and procurement processes.

In 2020-21, the NIAA spent \$11.5 million on new and varied contracts with Indigenous business. This represents 13 per cent of all contracts published on AusTender. Note that the 2020-21 financial year reporting is still being finalised and this number is subject to change.

In 2019-20, the NIAA spent \$7.13 million on new and varied contracts with Indigenous business. This represents 20 per cent of all NIAA contracts published on AusTender.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Number of Businesses

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0009

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

How many different Indigenous businesses do you procure through?

Answer:

59 Indigenous businesses have been engaged by the National Indigenous Australians Agency since it was established on 1 July 2019.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Volume

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0010

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

How has the volume and percentage of Indigenous suppliers changed for your Department over the last decade?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) was established on 1 July 2019. Prior to this, the NIAA was a part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

Since the establishment of the Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) in 2015-16, there has been an increase in the volume and percentage of Indigenous suppliers as outlined below:

- In 2015-16 3.8 per cent (31 contracts) of the total number of PM&C contracts published on AusTender, were awarded to Indigenous businesses.
- From 1 July 2020 to 31 May 2021, 20 per cent (63 contracts) of the total number of NIAA contracts published on AusTender were awarded to Indigenous businesses.
- Note that numbers as at 30 June 2021 are still being finalised.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous procurement program – services provided

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0011

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What services do the Indigenous businesses that you procure through, supply?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) engages Indigenous business to provide a range of services. Where the Indigenous Procurement Policy applies and there is an Indigenous supplier that can provide the services and represent value for money, they are engaged.

Since the establishment of the NIAA on 1 July 2019, the NIAA has procured services from Indigenous businesses in the following sectors:

- Management and Business Professionals and Administrative Services
- Education and Training Services
- Politics and Civic Affairs Services
- Building and Facility Construction and Maintenance Services
- Editorial and Design and Graphic and Fine Art Services
- Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services
- Defense and Law Enforcement and Security and Safety Equipment and Supplies
- Healthcare Services
- Travel and Food and Lodging and Entertainment Services
- Financial and Insurance Services
- Power Generation and Distribution Machinery and Accessories
- Engineering and Research and Technology Based Services

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Company Offerings

Member: Leeson

Question reference number: 0012

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What do the Indigenous companies offer you that non-Indigenous companies are not offering you, other than the ticking-a-box exercise of meeting the procurement policy? What's the substantial difference, if any? Are they doing different roles to other companies?

Answer:

The primary purpose of the Indigenous Procurement Policy is to stimulate Indigenous entrepreneurship, business and economic development, providing Indigenous Australians with more opportunities to participate in the economy.

Indigenous companies have proven ability to deliver wide range of high quality and value for money services and are generally engaged by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to provide the same types of services as non-Indigenous companies.

In some circumstances, the NIAA also engages Indigenous companies to provide specialised services. Indigenous businesses bring a unique cultural perspective and experience, an example of which is through the delivery of culturally safe, trauma informed services. This perspective is important for NIAA staff and stakeholders.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Service Structure

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0013

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Before the IPP came about, there were other people providing you with these services. Are you actually replacing with Indigenous businesses the businesses that used to provide you with services, or are you effectively joint venturing with old businesses that used to give you services that have an Indigenous partner on top?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has been subject to the Indigenous Procurement Process (IPP) since its establishment on 1 July 2019. The same value for money consideration is undertaken for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Businesses.

Supply Nation is the Commonwealth funded Indigenous Business Direct service. Supply Nation registered businesses meet all requirements of an Indigenous Business under the IPP.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Genuine Indigenous Businesses

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0014

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

To what extent are you looking at whether the businesses are actually genuine Indigenous businesses so that there's no 'black cladding'?

Answer:

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is responsible for the whole of Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) which applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities subject to Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Under the IPP, Supply Nation is engaged to identify Indigenous suppliers on behalf of the Commonwealth. Supply Nation has a five step verification process when registering and/or certifying Indigenous suppliers. Further information can be found on the Supply Nation website for more information.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Program – Staffing Breakdown

Member: Leeson

Question reference number: 0015

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 02 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

How many of your staff are Indigenous, as of your most recent figure?

What roles do they perform? Are there concentrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in particular areas of the department? What is the spread like?

What is the retention rate for your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and how does it compare to the overall retention rate?

Answer:

- As at the 30 June 2021, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) employed 293 staff who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees. This represents 22.8 percentage of the workforce of 1,285 employees.
- Indigenous staff are engaged in a wide variety of roles and classification levels across the NIAA. Indigenous staff represent 30 per cent of the Agency's APS staff, 15.7 per cent of Executive Level staff and 28.3 per cent of the Agency's Senior Executive Service. Approximately 30 per cent of Indigenous staff work in the Australian Capital Territory with the remaining 70 per cent working in capital city, regional or remote locations.
- However, the separation rate for Indigenous employees is 12 per cent which is lower than the separation rate for non-Indigenous staff of 14 per cent¹.

¹ The NIAA does not calculate retention rates. This is the separation rate, calculated as the total number of ongoing employee separations in a 12-month period divided by the average number of ongoing employees over the same period.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Indigenous Procurement Policy – Analysis across the Commonwealth Public Service

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0024

Type of question: Hansard page 29, 22 July 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 August 2021

Number of pages: 13

Question:

CHAIR: We've talked to, I think, about half a dozen departments that we regard as the big procurers, as it were. But have you done any analysis across the Commonwealth Public Service that you can share with us about the performance of agencies in relation to the Indigenous Procurement Policy?

Mr Bulman: Yes.

CHAIR: You can take that on notice, if you like. It would be useful for our report.

Mr Bulman: Yes, we'll take that on notice and provide a bit of an annual breakdown of performance.

Unidentified speaker: And the industry?

Mr Bulman: And the industry as well.

Answer:

Tables A and B below show Indigenous Procurement Policy outcomes (number and value of procurement contracts with Indigenous businesses) for current portfolios by number and value for each financial year since 1 July 2015.

The outcomes across each year have been adjusted for machinery of government changes with contracts assigned to the current portfolios that own the contract. This is necessary to get a coherent picture of outcomes for the current portfolios.

Tables C and D below show the number and value of procurement contracts with Indigenous businesses by industry sector.

Results are not available for 2020-21 as the data is still being finalised.

TABLE A: Volume of Commonwealth procurement spend (\$) with Indigenous businesses by portfolio

Portfolio	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Agriculture, Water and the Environment	12,902,154	15,138,501	40,139,618	39,194,734	55,491,985
Attorney-General's	3,765,849	2,658,764	10,061,459	16,014,527	5,900,554
Defence	159,384,642	126,723,224	494,845,607	398,879,080	471,938,359
Education, Skills and Employment	11,114,535	6,482,694	16,714,350	32,986,353	17,047,828
Finance	4,922,387	8,797,546	36,059,113	61,127,619	12,818,196
Foreign Affairs and Trade	14,254,758	6,012,883	13,880,807	11,574,921	19,472,489
Health	3,822,165	14,914,313	30,976,838	28,772,463	76,128,976
Home Affairs	6,540,787	36,612,591	11,801,462	15,897,814	19,024,692
Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	16,204,119	25,235,650	35,596,212	58,598,235	12,407,875
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	18,001,098	30,061,571	88,958,860	67,748,310	46,220,856
Parliamentary Departments	3,460,279	596,480	1,743,085	7,994,149	5,510,370
Prime Minister and Cabinet	28,148,856	45,460,739	32,527,932	44,871,352	40,139,932
Social Services	15,108,193	20,982,513	42,225,142	53,137,348	95,059,938
Treasury	37,380,171	32,886,388	36,584,912	43,766,259	27,156,724

Portfolio	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Veterans' Affairs	797,999	1,033,444	3,254,377	4,621,196	6,626,198
Total	335,807,992	373,597,301	895,369,775	885,184,361	910,944,970

Source: IPP Reporting Solution

TABLE B: Number of Commonwealth procurement contracts with Indigenous businesses by portfolio

Portfolio	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Agriculture, Water and the Environment	147	317	326	368	457
Attorney-General's	82	168	205	161	224
Defence	278	485	544	1631	2533
Education, Skills and Employment	107	185	299	353	213
Finance	28	49	57	116	86
Foreign Affairs and Trade	77	91	134	159	179
Health	28	370	162	177	272
Home Affairs	57	244	817	723	876
Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	42	112	152	168	278
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	51	281	552	583	608
Parliamentary Departments	17	37	41	38	42
Prime Minister and Cabinet	253	345	333	640	791
Social Services	300	467	780	1141	982
Treasury	122	221	207	259	313
Veterans' Affairs	21	37	46	71	68
Total	1610	3409	4655	6588	7922

Source: IPP Reporting Solution

TABLE C: Volume of Commonwealth procurement spend (\$) with Indigenous businesses by Industry sector

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Apparel and Luggage and Personal Care Products	861,958	624,644	557,645	255,548	1,645,882
Building and Construction Machinery and Accessories					
Building and Facility Construction and Maintenance Services	131,305,241	163,941,258	514,476,427	391,762,300	252,859,828
Chemicals including Bio Chemicals and Gas Materials		789			
Cleaning Equipment and Supplies			468,379	63,784	15,534,767
Commercial and Military and Private Vehicles and their Accessories and Components	32,184	1,146,266	237,873	2,599,394	333,202
Defense and Law Enforcement and Security and Safety Equipment and Supplies	966,056	776,990	15,191,734	1,552,083	1,302,481
Distribution and Conditioning Systems and Equipment and Components		380	23,799		14,322
Domestic Appliances and Supplies and Consumer Electronic Products	42,700	379,063	2,823,703	440,978	139,265
Editorial and Design and Graphic and Fine Art Services	3,031,322	4,330,346	1,507,818	21,662,025	6,424,745
Education and Training Services	13,699,233	6,305,611	10,885,208	10,015,211	9,861,936
Electrical Systems and Lighting and Components and Accessories and Supplies	78,793	295,899		243,462	222,425
Electronic Components and Supplies	11,311	209,394	460,633	2,667,938	1,316,831

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Engineering and Research and Technology Based Services	9,797,061	15,988,962	20,371,110	26,835,532	43,424,631
Environmental Services	11,693,194	1,750,762	2,261,601	3,331,412	1,903,997
Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services	807,246	193,066	49,562	239,567	394,797
Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Machinery and Accessories		1,430			118,416
Financial and Insurance Services	716,727	623,211	1,422,360	1,677,767	1,706,602
Financial Instruments, Products, Contracts and Agreements		6,485	38,795	124,964	31,794
Food Beverage and Tobacco Products		7,507	460,183	1,670,557	810,964
Fuels and Fuel Additives and Lubricants and Anti corrosive Materials	276,535	244,427	135,003	36,554	482,143
Furniture and Furnishings	2,304,681	2,345,014	11,483,842	6,379,099	7,349,301
Healthcare Services	3,660	328,089	366,215	193,362	43,235,499
Industrial Cleaning Services	14,409,301	16,015,198	22,630,740	3,982,551	37,303,958
Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories				4,510,000	
Industrial Production and Manufacturing Services		30,739	984,064		2,356
Information Technology Broadcasting and Telecommunications	4,210,273	8,985,720	11,362,540	24,535,048	34,284,563

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Laboratory and Measuring and Observing and Testing Equipment			420,997	11,139	20,328
Land and Buildings and Structures and Thoroughfares		5,260	47,429	12,673	4,920
Live Plant and Animal Material and Accessories and Supplies	167,721	24,750		191,672	225,602
Management and Business Professionals and Administrative Services	39,573,479	84,850,127	127,104,090	255,340,683	209,751,407
Manufacturing Components and Supplies		1,024,857	857,234	275,982	3,287,985
Material Handling and Conditioning and Storage Machinery and their Accessories and Supplies				12,723	374,482
Medical Equipment and Accessories and Supplies			1,555		132,981
Mineral and Textile and Inedible Plant and Animal Materials			51,486		700
Mining and oil and gas services	21,955		1,999,800	8,233,258	1,659,665
Mining and Well Drilling Machinery and Accessories				80,164	104,401
Musical Instruments and Games and Toys and Arts and Crafts and Educational Equipment and Materials and Accessories and Supplies	124,178	987,535	2,104,217	928,522	1,107,864
National Defense and Public Order and Security and Safety Services	15,438,200	8,912,240	4,254,210	1,045,207	452,269
Office Equipment and Accessories and Supplies	940,089	1,475,776	3,407,257	977,900	1,294,607

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Organizations and Clubs	30,319	58,025	53,460	78,590	17,280
Paper Materials and Products	710,215	489,798	6,424,497	261,638	29,941,139
Personal and Domestic Services		2,390	1,053		900
Politics and Civic Affairs Services	9,943,761	9,477,725	17,099,642	8,256,929	9,109,642
Power Generation and Distribution Machinery and Accessories	60,000	8,971	59,837	20,979	95,690
Printing and Photographic and Audio and Visual Equipment and Supplies	366,267	573,405	1,421,551	679,122	1,000,176
Public Utilities and Public Sector Related Services	8,188,921	5,418,279	5,124,055	1,532,201	6,720,761
Published Products	347,252	250,080	401,447	812,849	511,028
Service Industry Machinery and Equipment and Supplies		23,865		2,146,122	
Sports and Recreational Equipment and Supplies and Accessories	29,400	18,676	6,070	29,109	30,941
Structures and Building and Construction and Manufacturing Components and Supplies	6,079,772	3,686,342	7,876,402	9,108,739	162,923,427
Timepieces and Jewellery and Gemstone Products					680
Tools and General Machinery		2,965		8,658	23,269
Transportation and Storage and Mail Services	981,281	355,643	11,178,645	1,074,240	3,510,202

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Travel and Food and Lodging and Entertainment Services	287,502	487,890	4,865,524	3,040,724	3,703,364
Total	335,807,992	373,597,301	895,369,775	885,184,361	910,944,970

Source: IPP Reporting Solution

Note: Industry sector values and contract numbers do not sum to totals due to some contract records not containing an Industry sector

TABLE D: Number of Commonwealth procurement contracts with Indigenous businesses by Industry sector

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Apparel and Luggage and Personal Care Products	14	10	13	15	846
Building and Facility Construction and Maintenance Services	231	668	1222	928	704
Chemicals including Bio Chemicals and Gas Materials		7			
Cleaning Equipment and Supplies			2	8	77
Commercial and Military and Private Vehicles and their Accessories and Components	1	12	7	7	234
Defense and Law Enforcement and Security and Safety Equipment and Supplies	4	31	12	18	14
Distribution and Conditioning Systems and Equipment and Components		1	1		1
Domestic Appliances and Supplies and Consumer Electronic Products	1	5	2	7	9
Editorial and Design and Graphic and Fine Art Services	56	250	193	234	257
Education and Training Services	87	99	156	183	201
Electrical Systems and Lighting and Components and Accessories and Supplies	1	9		3	10
Electronic Components and Supplies	1	1	2	9	10
Engineering and Research and Technology Based Services	27	70	83	122	182
Environmental Services	56	18	19	17	81
Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services	7	3	2	8	15

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Machinery and Accessories		1			3
Financial and Insurance Services	9	14	21	24	19
Financial Instruments, Products, Contracts and Agreements		1	19	8	3
Food Beverage and Tobacco Products		3	4	31	33
Fuels and Fuel Additives and Lubricants and Anti corrosive Materials	1	5	7	19	62
Furniture and Furnishings	42	149	269	244	392
Healthcare Services	3	28	6	7	26
Industrial Cleaning Services	13	19	259	856	860
Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories				1	
Industrial Production and Manufacturing Services		1	5		4
Information Technology Broadcasting and Telecommunications	19	99	110	210	178
Laboratory and Measuring and Observing and Testing Equipment			10	5	2
Land and Buildings and Structures and Thoroughfares		3	22	8	4
Live Plant and Animal Material and Accessories and Supplies	1	1		4	4
Management and Business Professionals and Administrative Services	293	770	1083	1460	1400
Manufacturing Components and Supplies		6	5	9	20
Material Handling and Conditioning and Storage Machinery and their Accessories and Supplies				2	4

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Medical Equipment and Accessories and Supplies			1		5
Mineral and Textile and Inedible Plant and Animal Materials			1		1
Mining and oil and gas services	2		1	1	2
Mining and Well Drilling Machinery and Accessories				1	1
Musical Instruments and Games and Toys and Arts and Crafts and Educational Equipment and Materials and Accessories and Supplies	11	52	58	58	62
National Defense and Public Order and Security and Safety Services	8	10	12	27	29
Office Equipment and Accessories and Supplies	39	134	57	848	729
Organizations and Clubs	3	5	9	10	3
Paper Materials and Products	25	45	100	61	84
Personal and Domestic Services		6	2		1
Politics and Civic Affairs Services	148	225	172	194	282
Power Generation and Distribution Machinery and Accessories	1	1	1	1	5
Printing and Photographic and Audio and Visual Equipment and Supplies	6	10	48	15	80
Public Utilities and Public Sector Related Services	12	21	22	37	27
Published Products	9	31	47	75	27
Service Industry Machinery and Equipment and Supplies		1		4	
Sports and Recreational Equipment and Supplies and Accessories	1	2	3	13	19

Industry sector	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
Structures and Building and Construction and Manufacturing Components and Supplies	8	8	6	7	43
Timepieces and Jewellery and Gemstone Products					1
Tools and General Machinery		2		1	3
Transportation and Storage and Mail Services	8	68	72	113	136
Travel and Food and Lodging and Entertainment Services	68	159	192	301	403
Total	1610	3409	4655	6588	7922

Source: IPP Reporting Solution

Note: Industry sector values and contract numbers do not sum to totals due to some contract records not containing an Industry sector

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous Australians in employment and business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Export and Trade Markets – Working with DFAT

Member: Claydon

Question reference number: 0025

Type of question: Hansard page 33, 22 July 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 August 2021

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Ms CLAYDON: It sounded to me like there'd been quite a bit of work done with Foreign Affairs and others.

Are we not a little bit more advanced than that? There are hubs just figuring out what they're doing?

Mr Bulman: I think Ms Persson was talking about our role within that. Absolutely, Foreign Affairs and Trade have had this front and centre of their mind and are driving it through, including with their Indigenous ambassadors et cetera. So it's an important part of the Commonwealth policy. We've got a role on that supply side, making sure that, as the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade link them into international business and do those deals, we're backing them in on this side so they can develop, build their capability and be ready to perform. What we can do if it's useful is take on notice to put together a little bit of a blurb about how we work with DFAT, our colleagues, and some of the approaches they are taking as well as ourselves. You'll find it's been quite a long journey over the last four or five years working with them on these things.

Ms CLAYDON: Thank you. It would be good to have a sense of just how far down that path we are. There are a lot of good international examples, so I'm interested to know whether we are playing catch-up and how we're going on that. Thank you.

Answer:

In relation to supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs access international markets, the National Indigenous Australian's Agency (NIAA) has supported activities to help businesses access international networks and peer to peer capability development. NIAA has particularly focused on Canadian and New Zealand markets. For example, NIAA supported the participation of Indigenous business delegations in the World Indigenous Business Forums in New Zealand in 2018 and Canada in 2019.

Additionally, with financial support from NIAA, the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum's Indigenous Business Groups held the inaugural Virtual Indigenous Trade and Connections Fair in February 2021. This event showcased both Indigenous and Maori businesses.

These activities have aligned closely with the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Austrade. For example, NIAA provided auxiliary support to Austrade, who led an Indigenous trade mission to Canada in 2019.

NIAA also works closely with DFAT to progress Indigenous economic interests in international fora. For example, NIAA has partnered with DFAT to fund the Export Council of Australia and Australia's new Indigenous Network on Investment, Trade and Export (IgNITE) to run an export training, business matching and mentorship project through Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) called 'Growing Indigenous Business in APEC through Trade.'

Much of NIAA's future work with DFAT will likely be guided by their recently launched Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda, which seeks to grow the Australian and global economy through the promotion of Indigenous commerce and investment, among other things. DFAT works closely with both NIAA and IgNITE to consider Indigenous interests in free trade negotiations and to promote the export-readiness of the Indigenous Australian business sector. Further information about DFAT's Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda is at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/indigenous-diplomacy-agenda>.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Housing Construction in Remote Communities

Member: Leaser

Question reference number: 0026

Type of question: Hansard pages 36-37, 22 July 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 August 2021

Number of pages: 2

Question:

CHAIR: I want to move to housing construction in remote communities. To what extent, when you're awarding contracts to do housing in remote communities, is there a training component to upskill local people so they're able to undertake maintenance and ongoing work after those constructions are completed?

Mr Bulman: The way the Commonwealth deals with housing in remote communities is by providing funding to the jurisdictions, under a national partnership agreement. We currently have one with the government of the Northern Territory, where the level of need is so incredibly high compared to the other jurisdictions. In that agreement, we set a 40 per cent employment target—someone's going to text me if I got that number wrong—and are working, then, through the government to make sure that they report against that, including skills training et cetera. The other is making sure there's a pipeline—

CHAIR: What can you tell us about the results of those reports that you've had back from the Territory and other places?

Mr Bulman: To date they've been meeting their milestones on employment. The other way to think about it is that, over the last 10 years, we've had a partnership agreement with all the jurisdictions, and this is the first time that we've set a very large employment target and possibly, in the Commonwealth, an employment target for Indigenous Australians at all. We set a 20 per cent target there over the 10 years, and that was constantly exceeded. The level of training and employment that came out of that was really quite remarkable. It was building on that where we built the Northern Territory agreement—and I will confirm that it's 40 per cent, and I'm just looking for the data on outcomes.

CHAIR: Do you want to come back to us with the inputs into those agreements but also how the outcomes have gone there, too?

Mr Bulman: Yes, absolutely. I will.

Answer:

The National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) and the National Partnership for Remote Housing (NPRH) provided a \$5.4 billion Commonwealth investment over ten years (2008-2018), delivering 4,000 new houses and 7,500 refurbishments across 300 Indigenous communities.

As detailed in the 2017 Remote Housing review of the NPARIH and the NPRH, rates of overcrowding fell from 52.1 per cent in 2008 to 41.3 per cent in 2014-15, and projected to fall to seven per cent by 2018. Between 2008 and 2016, jurisdictions consistently met or exceeded 20 per cent local Indigenous employment on new housing construction. For example, the Northern Territory (NT) Government had a target of 20 per cent for capital works, property, tenancy and management and 40 per cent for repairs and maintenance. To support these targets, the NT Government introduced a program to support long-term employment and training through longer contracts and a larger service footprint – over 2,000 Aboriginal Territorians were employed through the strategy.

The Commonwealth is investing \$550 million, matched by the NT Government to create a \$1.1 billion National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing Northern Territory (2018-2023) to help address overcrowding and improve housing conditions in 73 remote NT communities and the Alice Springs town camps.

The National Partnership investment is to deliver 1,950 bedrooms, equivalent to 650 three-bedroom houses, and contribute to property and tenancy management services. The National Partnership aims to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, works are delivered by local Indigenous Territorians and businesses. To support the achievement of this outcome, an annual Aboriginal employment target of 40 per cent of the workforce involved in capital works and property and tenancy management is required, which increases by 2 per cent per financial year. Under the National Partnership to 31 December 2020, the NT Government has reported exceeding this target.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Scholarships Program for Young Australians

Member: Snowdon

Question reference number: 0027

Type of question: Hansard page 39, 22 July 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 August 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Mr SNOWDON: I'm very conscious of the time. I wouldn't mind just asking one question relating to VET. In your submission, at paragraph 3.3.1, you talk about the recommendations from the Expert Review of Australia's VET System. You go to the recommendations and then you talk about the government investing \$585 million. Then at a dot point, in relation to the Scholarships Program for Young Australians, you say:

Priority will be given to applications from selected cohorts, including in ten identified regional areas ...

What are those 10 identified regional areas and how were they identified?

Mr Bulman: Our colleagues in the department of employment are administering that young Australians program. What we did with this submission was make sure that we had input from all the relevant departments. I don't have the regions in my folder. You may see in the footnote that there's a link. From memory, when we were working with them, it lists those regions. We're happy to take that one on notice and send you the regional areas.

Mr SNOWDON: And what's the rationale?

Mr Bulman: Sorry?

Mr SNOWDON: What's the rationale for selecting those particular regional areas?

Mr Bulman: We'll pass that question through to our colleagues in the department of employment.

Answer:

Response provided by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE).

The 10 regional areas are Gosford, Grafton (NSW), Maryborough, Townsville (QLD), Alice Springs (NT), Wanneroo, Armadale (WA), Port Pirie (SA), Shepparton (VIC) and Burnie (TAS). The 10 locations were announced on 14 April 2019.

The process of selecting the locations was informed by high youth unemployment rates in regions across Australia using the 2016 ABS Census and the results in the 2017 Productivity Commission Report (PC report) *Transitioning Regional Economies*, which identifies regions facing significant challenges in successfully transitioning to a more sustainable economic base.

The youth employment “hot spots” listed in the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) *Smashing the Avocado Debate: Australia’s Youth Unemployment Hotspots* report were also considered.

Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Community Advisory Boards

Member: Snowdon

Question reference number: 0028

Type of question: Hansard pages 37-38, 22 July 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 August 2021

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Mr SNOWDON: If you wouldn't mind, I'd like you to take us through the community advisory boards—where they've been set up and how they're working—and if there's been any feedback or evaluation of their roles.

Ms Elliott: As you rightly said the community advisory boards were one of the key reforms that were introduced in 2019, engaging with those service providers to not just look at establishing new community advisory boards as an additional mechanism but also look at existing community engagement mechanisms that might already be in place in communities and make sure they're engaging with them effectively, as part of identifying opportunities for jobseekers to participate in activities that meet the needs and aspirations of remote communities. We've been monitoring it through a provider performance review process.

We've been gathering information about how service providers are engaging with communities and making sure that it is genuine engagement. Community advisory boards are just one aspect of that; there are a range of different forums that our service providers will engage with, whether it's with groups of jobseekers and community members or through more formal arrangements. As you would have seen in the response to the question on notice from the last hearing, we are about to commence a bit of a stocktake, so we can't give you the specific numbers of advisory boards that have been established. We're just about to go out and do a bit of a stocktake to see how they're tracking.

Mr SNOWDON: Would you mind giving us a scenario of what one might look like, what its functions might be and what role it might have?

Ms Elliott: We gave a couple of examples in the response to the question on notice, but we can provide a bit more detail. It was quite brief.

Mr SNOWDON: That would be very useful.

Answer:

Further to the response to Question on Notice 0003, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) requires Community Development Program (CDP) providers to establish a Community Advisory Board (CAB) where there is not another suitable community engagement mechanism in place.

The CAB or existing community engagement mechanism should include representatives from across the community and provide regular advice to CDP Providers on CDP services and activities. This can include advice on cultural matters, opportunities for economic development and suggestions for new activities and projects that reflect the needs of community members. Community engagement is monitored within CDP Provider Performance Reviews.

As the needs and circumstances of communities in each region are very different, approaches to community engagement will differ from community to community and between CDP regions. In some areas it may be more appropriate for CDP providers to work with pre-existing community engagement structures rather than establishing a CAB.

Examples of current community engagement mechanisms are provided in response to Question on Notice 0003.