

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Friday, 15 February 2013 from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, including the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), and Indigenous Business Australia
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- updates on efforts to close the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in relation to life expectancy, infant mortality, numeracy and literacy
- the Stronger Futures package including collaboration between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments and the scrutiny provisions relating to licensed premises
- governance processes in place to monitor the transfer of royalty funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account to the responsible land council for distribution to Aboriginal corporations
- processes used by the ILC with regard to the procurement of services
- the progress of a range of Indigenous health strategies including in the areas of smoking rates, mental health, dialysis and aged care
- the operation of the Indigenous Employment Program and the Remote Jobs and Communities Program
- the progress of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, including the tenancy agreements in public housing, land tenure reform and the division of Commonwealth and Northern Territory government expenditures under the agreement.