

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 238

Topic: Indigenous workers on SIHIP

Hansard Page: 25/2/2011–CA38

Senator Payne asked:

I reference a recent report in the *Koori Mail* about exploitation of SIHIP workers. There is another report today, and the minister has previously made reference in media statements to the 20 per cent employment target of local Indigenous people for SIHIP. There is an indication that that has been exceeded. While I am happy to acknowledge that that is a very important accomplishment and achievement, we do not have a lot of detail around how that is counted, how that is assessed, how many people work where and for how long—whether they are 12-week, 26-week, 52-week placements and so on.

Answer:

At the 25 February 2011 Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Estimates, the Department advised that employment on the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) is calculated on both a full time equivalent basis and on number of Indigenous employees (reference CA38 - 40).

The Department advised that 175 Indigenous employees in total had worked for 13 weeks or more, of whom 109 Indigenous employees had been retained for 26 weeks or more.