

Community Affairs Committee

**Answers to estimates questions on notice relating to
transfers between DEEWR and FaHCSIA resulting from
AAO changes**

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 5

**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

27 MAY 2008

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2007-2008

Answers to estimates questions on notice relating to transfers between DEEWR and FaHCSIA resulting from AAO changes

* Please note that 26 June 2008 is the proposed date for answers to be tabled in the
Senate where this date is indicated

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Cross outcome	Vol. 5 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2006-07				
Crossin	188	ALLC criteria	1	26.06.08
Crossin	189	Alice Springs participants		26.06.08
Crossin	190	Governance problems		26.06.08
				26.06.08
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2007-08				
Crossin	334	CDEP	4	26.06.08
Crossin	335	CDEP and Centrelink		26.06.08
Crossin	336	Accessing top-up		26.06.08
Crossin	337	Savings as a result of CDEP changes		26.06.08
Crossin	338	CDEP		26.06.08
Crossin	339	Caveats		26.06.08
Crossin	340	Caveat Trustee		26.06.08
Crossin	341	CDEP		26.06.08
Crossin	342	Breaches of CDEP		26.06.08
Outcome 1: Output group 1.3 – Incorporation, regulation and capacity building of Indigenous corporations				
Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)				
Crossin	322	Home ownership	13	26.06.08
Crossin	323-324	Wadeye community – contract management		26.06.08
Crossin	325-326	Wadeye community tenancy agreement		26.06.08
Crossin	327	Wadeye community		26.06.08
Crossin	328	Wadeye community – Indigenous employment		26.06.08
Crossin	329-330	Bovis Lendlease contracts		26.06.08
Crossin	331	Outback Stores program		26.06.08
Outcome 2: Output group 2.4 – Addressing Youth Homelessness				
Crossin	159-160	Youth integrated services – Central Australia	23	26.06.08

Outcome 2: Output group 2.5 – Support for Women

McEwen	332	Annual survey	25	26.06.08
McEwen	333	Workshops		26.06.08
				26.06.08
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Outcome 3: Output group 3.1: Support for Families

Siewert	223	Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP)	27	26.06.08
				26.06.08
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Outcome 3: Output group 3.3: Child Care Support

Stephens	221	CDEP – childcare positions	28	26.06.08
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2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 188

Topic: AILC Criteria

Hansard Page: EWRE 44

Senator Crossin asked:

In answer to questions W799-07 in November 2006 you said that the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre was selected to run CDEP Management courses for Indigenous leaders based on a review of potential providers, and that AILC met criteria set by the Department. Can you provide a list of these criteria?

Answer:

Potential organisations identified to deliver the leadership pilot were assessed on their ability to deliver accredited Indigenous leadership training on a national basis with consideration given to organisations that had a proven track record of providing leadership training to Indigenous Australians. Consideration was also given to:

- The ability to provide the training in a culturally sensitive manner;
- The ability to deliver the training within the required timeframe; and
- Value for money.

The Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre was considered the most suitable provider to meet the criteria.

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2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 189

Topic: Alice Springs participants

Hansard Page: EWRE 45

Senator Crossin asked:

In answer to question W802-07 (were the Alice Springs participants taught in Alice Springs?) you said the program consisted of two residential components, one at Coffs Harbour and "the second in Alice Springs at the Yarrowarra Aboriginal Community." Could you clarify this please as I can find no such community in Alice Springs - there is on DEWR website list of CDEP organisations such an organisation but it is in New South Wales, NOT Alice Springs.

Answer:

With reference to question W802-07 the response should have read the pilot programme consisted of two residential components. The first was held at Coffs Harbour at the Yarrowarra Aboriginal Community. The second residential was at Alice Springs at the Alice Springs Resort.

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2006-07 Additional Estimates, February 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 190

Topic: Governance Problems

Hansard Page: EWRE 46 and Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In answer to W807-07 part three you say that DEWR do not provide governance training to organisations. Therefore if an organisation is having governance problems what help or advice does DEWR give them? Do you point them in the direction of help or training or simply wait to take their CDEP away on the grounds of "poor management" as you seem to be doing with an increasing number of indigenous organisations?

Answer:

CDEP contract managers actively work with organisations to develop and implement organisation capacity building plans, of which governance is an element. Assistance provided may include additional funding to undertake training or engage professional assistance, and the appointment of funds controllers and project managers as required. As part of CDEP's ongoing contract management, issues relating to governance, management and contractual compliance are raised with organisations as they arise and strategies developed with each organisation to improve performance.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 334

Topic: CDEP

Hansard Page: EWRE 70

Senator Crossin asked:

How many people at Titjikala are on CDEP?

Answer:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' contracts with Tapatjatjaka Community Government Council for the delivery of the CDEP programme in a number of areas including Titjikala, Alice Well, Oak Valley, Mt Peachy, Walkabout Bore and John Holland Bore. The Department retains records on active participants on an organisation basis, not by specific location.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 335

Topic: CDEP and Centrelink

Hansard Page: EWER 74

Senator Crossin asked:

In relation to the removal of the top-up. What arrangements has Centrelink made for the Indigenous people working in Centrelink to have these positions converted into real jobs?

Answer:

The department is not in a position to answer questions in relation to people working in Centrelink. Please refer this question to Centrelink.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 336

Topic: Accessing top-up

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

How many CDEP participants are currently accessing top-up? How many CDEP participants will there be accessing top-up from July 1st by your department's estimates?

Answer:

The Department does not hold records on the number of CDEP participants who are receiving top-up for CDEP participant payments. Payment of top-up is an arrangement between the CDEP service provider and the participant.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No:337

Topic: Savings as a result of CDEP changes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

What savings are projected for each of the next four financial years (from 2007-08 inclusive) as a result of the CDEP changes in July 2007?

Answer:

The savings from the changes to CDEP will not lead to a reduction in funding for Indigenous Australians. These funds will be reallocated to other programmes to support Indigenous employment.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 338

Topic: CDEP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

During the estimates hearing, your department stated work was being done on a list of CDEP assets to determine which ones were owned by CDEP and which ones were affected by a caveat lodged by the Commonwealth Government. On what date will this list be completed

Answer:

CDEP asset issues will be addressed through case by case assessments. This is an ongoing process and the Department is not in a position to advise when this will be completed.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 339

Topic: Caveats

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In what circumstances would the Commonwealth agree to lift this caveat? What is the total value of the assets of CDEP organisations that are facing closure by July 1st? (This includes assets that are affected by a Commonwealth caveat)

Answer:

Caveats are put in place to ensure that the Commonwealth's equitable interest is protected. It would only be in circumstances that the Commonwealth approved the sale or transfer of an asset that the caveat would be lifted.

The total value of assets held by CDEP organisations facing closure is held by organisations. The requested information is not readily ascertainable, and to provide the requested answer would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental/portfolio resources.

CDEP asset issues will be addressed through case by case assessments.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 340

Topic: Caveat Trustee

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In the estimates hearing, it was stated that assets affected by a caveat would be transferred to a trust. What sort of trust? Who would be the trustee and beneficiary of this trust? Who would appoint the trustee?

Answer:

On 7 September 2007, the Indigenous Economic Development Trust was established to assist with the long term management of Australian Government funded assets.

Indigenous Business Australia has been appointed the sole trustee and the beneficiaries are Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Bodies. The purposes of the Trust are:

- to assist and enhance Indigenous Australian self-management and economic self-sufficiency; and
- to advance the commercial and economic interests of Indigenous Australians by accumulating and using substantial capital assets for the benefit of Indigenous Australians.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 341

Topic: CDEP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

How much training funding has been accessed by CDEP organisations for each financial year since 2004-05 to 2006-07?

Answer:

The CDEP programme does not provide funding specifically for training purposes. CDEP providers receive funds to support the delivery of CDEP activities which may include training.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 342

Topic: Breaches of CDEP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

In Budget Paper 2 “A Better Future for Indigenous Australians – compliance and eligibility checks for CDEP participants” could you tell me how many breaches of CDEP you found in 2005-06 and to date 2006-07? What kind of breaches are they? Where breaches are found do you try to assess the reason – dishonesty, or misunderstanding of complex rules?

Answer:

Breach is a term used to describe failure of contracted CDEP providers to meet contractual requirements and is not used in the context of participant eligibility. CDEP participants are required to meet eligibility requirements and are exited from CDEP if they fail to do so.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 322

Topic: Home ownership

Hansard Page: EWRE 84

Senator Crossin asked:

With reference to an IBA media release of 21 March titled 'Record growth for Indigenous home ownership' can you please provide data for 2005 and 2006 on how many Indigenous people have been able to buy their own homes?

Answer:

In the 2005 calendar year, Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) assisted 726 Indigenous people to buy their own home.

In the 2006 calendar year, IBA assisted 616 Indigenous people to buy their own home.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 323

Topic: Wadeye community – contract management

Hansard Page: EWRE 88

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community contract management - what happened to the house that was built and then the roof leaked a couple of weeks later?

Answer:

The flashing on that house was defective. This defect was repaired within the normal warranty period under the contract.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 324

Topic: Wadeye community - contract management

Hansard Page: EWRE 88

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community contract management - who paid for the cost of the electrical problems when the generator blew up on the other outstation?

Answer:

The generator at Wadapuli failed in March 2007.

Thamarrurr Regional Council provided a replacement generator. However further modifications were required to ensure this unit complied with the relevant codes. These modifications were made by Indigenous Business Australia under our contract with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group:

Question No: 325

Topic: Wadeye community tenancy agreement

Hansard Page: EWRE 90

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community tenancy agreements - in the home currently occupied by 13 people, why is it that only 2 keys have been provided?

Answer:

As is normal practice when renting a house Indigenous Business Australia has provided two sets of keys, including separate keys for each bedroom. The provision of additional house keys is the responsibility of the tenants.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 326

Topic: Wadeye community tenancy agreements

Hansard Page: EWRE 92

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community tenancy agreements - what are the default arrangements in the tenancy agreement in terms of home purchase options for tenants?

Answer:

Clause 17 of the House Occupancy Agreement allows Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to end the agreement if:

- the Occupant breaches any of the terms of the agreement; or
- IBA believes the House to be uninhabitable for any reason.

Depending on the nature and severity of the default, IBA would work with the tenants to resolve the issues, in a like manner to public housing arrangements.

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Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 327

Topic: Wadeye community

Hansard Page: EWRE 93-94

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community - was ceiling insulation provided in the living quarters of these homes?

Answer:

Yes.

Air-Cell Thermo Reflective insulation was installed between the ceiling and the roof of two of the display houses.

Bradford Anticon insulation was placed under the roof sheeting, in conjunction with a whirly bird ceiling extraction system, in the remaining two houses.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 328

Topic: Wadeye community – Indigenous employment

Hansard Page: EWRE 94

Senator Crossin asked:

Wadeye community Indigenous employment - how many local Indigenous people have been working on the construction of the houses?

Answer:

A total of five local Indigenous people worked on the construction of the houses at Wadapuli and Nama.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 329

Topic: Bovis Lendlease contracts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Please list all contracts that your agency has had with Bovis Lendlease in 2006–07 and 2005–06. Please include the value of each contract. Please specify what work Bovis Lendlease was contracted to provide.

Answer:

Indigenous Business Australia has no contracts with Bovis Lendlease in either financial year.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 330

Topic: Bovis Lendlease

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Can you confirm that Bovis Lendlease was contracted to build two trial low cost homes for remote areas, i.e. kit style and designed for the climate? What happened to this trial? Were any more of these low cost homes built?

Answer:

Indigenous Business Australia did not contract Bovis Leadlease to build any housing.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 1.3

Question No: 331

Topic: Outback Stores program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

How many communities are now under the Outback Store program? How much of the funding has been expended, where and on what to date? Has there been any evaluation of outcomes at any of the stores?

Answer:

There are nine community stores now under the Outback Stores program. Funding of \$5.98 million has been expended throughout July 2006 - February 2008 to establish the infrastructure and support networks of Outback Stores. The breakdown is:

	Jul 06 Jun 07	Jul 07- Feb 08
Operational Expenses	434,566	754,753
Employee Expenses	571,356	2,049,050
Legal Fees	67,810	7,000
Recruitment Costs	241,036	190,000
Training Costs	-	991,601
Travel Expenses	221,401	457,000
Total	1,536,169	4,449,404

One of the stores under management was evaluated in a Market Basket Survey (survey) conducted by the Northern Territory Government. The store is located 185km on gravel road from the Stuart Highway and 3 1/2 hours from Tennant Creek. The survey compared this store with the costs and availability of the range of goods in the basket. The total basket costs for this store was \$619 compared with the Tennant Creek Supermarket (\$512). This store also had the greatest range of fruit (12) and vegetables (19) available for sale.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 159

Topic: Youth Integrated Services – Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

Can you advise how much was allocated to NPY Women's Council in 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Reconnect program for youth services?

Answer:

The following funding was allocated to the NPY Women's Council under the Reconnect program for the years noted; \$375,758 (GST exc) in 2005-06; and \$377,374 (GST exc) in 2006-07.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 2.4

Question No: 160

Topic: Youth Integrated Services – Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Crossin asked:

How much was allocated in total for youth programs in Central Australia in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer:

The total departmental funding allocations for youth programs funded under Output Group 2.4 for Central Australia were as follows; \$1,052,234 (GST exc) for 2005-06; and \$1,056,562 (GST exc) for 2006-07.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 332

Topic: Annual Survey

Hansard Page: EWRE 27

Senator McEwen asked:

What is the focus of this year's survey.

Answer:

The 2007 survey conducted during June – November had the following focus:

- Whether paid maternity leave is offered by organisations and if so, for how long,
- Whether paid paternity leave is offered by organisations and if so, for how long and
- Whether staff and managers (separate data is collected for both groups) currently access seven types of work-life flexibility initiatives (ie do they Work flexible hours? Work from home? Work compressed hrs eg 4 day weeks? Use family or carer's leave? Use childcare services or assistance provided by work? Work part-time? Work job-share).

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 2.5

Question No: 333

Topic: Workshops

Hansard Page: EWRE 37

Senator McEwen asked:

How many workshops were conducted in 2006-07.

Answer:

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency conducted 73 public workshops for the period January 2006 to May 2007.

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2007-08 Budget Estimates, May 2007

Output Group: 3.1

Question No: 223

Topic: Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) How many times has ACCAP met in 2006-07?
- b) What have been the key activities of ACCAP over the last 12 months?

Answer:

ACCAP met on Thursday 1 February 2007 and Thursday 26 April 2007.

In the last 12 months, ACCAP has focused on:

- Indigenous out-of-home care;
- prevention of mental health problems in children; and
- scoping the range of learning services available for parents.

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Output Group: 3.3

Question No: 221

Topic: CDEP – Childcare positions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Stephens asked:

How many positions will FACSIA be converting from CDEP to normalised employment? Who will be the employer for these former CDEP workers? What is the average salary of the normalised employment positions? Does this measure normalise all of the CDEP workers used in FACSIA children's services?

Answer:

Up to 200 child care positions in the Northern Territory will be converted from CDEP to fully funded jobs with proper remuneration this financial year.

The employers for these positions are Budget Based Funded child care services in the Northern Territory funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Award wages are paid, calculated in accordance with the *Children's Services (Northern Territory) Award 200*, based on experience and qualifications of the employee and the number of hours worked.

This measure normalises all CDEP workers employed in essential child care positions in Budget Based Funded child care services