

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES – 4 JUNE 2010

CROSS PORTFOLIO INDIGENOUS MATTERS HEARING pursuant to Senate Resolution

| Q No. | Outcome/ Agency | Senator | Broad Topic | Question | Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q | Date Answer Received | Date Tabled in the Senate |
|-------|--------------------|---------|----------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO | | | |
| | DEEWR | Siewert | | <p>Senator SIEWERT—I understand what you are saying about this year, but you can still compare it to previous years, can't you, where you are looking at the unemployment rate in the broader population and comparing it to the figures for last year? I must have misunderstood.</p> <p>Mr Griew—Do you mean going retrospectively back, from 2009 to 2008 to 2007?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Griew—One can go back to 2000 that way, but we do not have that data with us.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you take that on notice</p> | CA59 4/6 | 20.10.10 | 28.0.10 |
| | | Siewert | | <p>How long it will take for DEEWR to process the application. When could they expect to be told whether they have been successful or not?</p> <p>Mr Griew—We will have to take that on notice</p> | CA59 4/6 | 20.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| | | | | FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO | | | |
| 236 | FaHCSIA | Payne | | <p>1) In reference to Answers to Estimates Questions on Notice - Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio, Question No: 287 (October 23, 2009), I ask the following:</p> <p>Can the Department advise as to any approaches made to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council representative appointed to manage reports of asbestos at Wallaga Lake and any action undertaken following such approaches?</p> <p>Can FAHCSIA also provide any information relating to the activities of the 'local resident' engaged to manage collection of any reported asbestos at Wallaga Lake and whether the equipment purchased for this purpose has been used?</p> <p>Further, can the Department advise as to the status and results of any of the free health checks offered to present and former Wallaga Lake residents referred to in correspondence from the Minister on August 20 2009 (Ref: MC09-016604)?</p> | Written | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |

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| 237 | | Payne | | <p>2) In 2008, \$235,000 in Commonwealth funding was provided to Eurobodalla Shire Council for the construction of an Outreach Centre at Wallaga Lake (Answers to Estimates Questions on Notice – Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio Question No: 247 October 23 2009).</p> <p>Can the Department advise as to whether the Outreach Centre has been completed and what actual works were undertaken with these federal monies and provide details of the additional FAHCSIA grant provided to remove asbestos from the Outreach Centre?</p> | Written | 13.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 205 | | Adams | | <p>[Note, Qs 1, 2, 6 were answered at the hearing - Qs 3, 4, 5 are written Qs to be answered]</p> <p>1. Which specific Indigenous National Partnership is your Agency responsible for as lead Agency.</p> | Written | 13.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 206 | | | | <p>2. What is your Agency's Budget allocation for the four-year Agreement.</p> | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 207 | | | | <p>3. How is the budget allocated on an annual basis for the NPA given that in the first year there would be delays in the roll out of the programs – realising underspend in the first year allocation?</p> | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 208 | | | | <p>4. Of the first year allocation how much has been expended and how is the under expenditure being managed?</p> | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 209 | | | | <p>5. Can you give me a breakdown of expenditure by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o program and initiative within each National Partnership Agreement you manage, o State and Territory | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 210 | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Government Agency b. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation o Administration Costs absorbed by your agency to administer the NPA <p>6. Has your Agency incorporated the Service Delivery Principles for Services for Indigenous Australians in the development and roll out of your programs?</p> | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |

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| 217 | | Siewert | | <p>Ms Halbert—Outback Stores have recognised that there is a need for information and that everyone is going to be calling for this information in the future. I do not believe this is confidential: they are actually commissioning some specific research so that they can look at how their strategies to promote the sale of fruit and vegetables are working and further down the track what impact that is going to have. So that kind of information will be available in the future.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Sorry? They are commissioning their own research to look at how their promotion program is working?</p> <p>Ms Halbert—How effective that is—how effectively their strategies to increase the sale of fruit and vegetables are within their own stores and then further down the track what health impacts that is having.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—How soon will that survey start?</p> <p>Ms Halbert—I have not got the exact date, but very soon. The project plan is already drawn up; I believe it has already been commissioned. But I will have to check that.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—We will provide you with that, Senator.</p> | CA8 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 218 | | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—Just a point of clarification, Dr Harmer. Do any of the members on the board actually supply Outback Stores? Perhaps it is something that you can take on notice if you do not have the answer at hand.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—I would need to take that on notice. I am not sure.</p> | CA9 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 219 | | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—I understand. However, for clarification, I want to put a question on notice. Could you provide a brief report to the committee that sets out—</p> <p>Dr Harmer—The operations of our business?</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—firstly, that you have actually ascertained—I am not sure, although you are making that statement—that this is in fact an industry practice and not from anecdotal evidence or Outback Stores.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Could you set out the rationale of how a 10 per cent rebate to the suppliers actually lowers the cost of groceries in the communities?</p> <p>Dr Harmer—I think that might be too much of an ask. We will do our best to answer your question, Senator.</p> | CA12-13 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| See written QON above | ----- | Adams | | <p>[Nat Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and National Partnership /agreement on Remote Service Delivery]</p> <p>Senator ADAMS— How is the budget allocated on an annual basis given that in the first year there have been delays in the rollout of the program, so therefore you would have had an underspend in the first-year allocation? Would you be able to take that on notice as well?</p> | CA13-14 4/6 | ----- | |

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| 220 | | Adams | | NPA – please provide a breakdown of the budget allocation for the 4 year agreement and expenditure by program with how much from each state and territory for NPA on remote Indigenous housing | CA14 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 221 | | | | NPA – please provide a breakdown of the budget allocation for the 4 year agreement and expenditure by program with how much from each state and territory for NPA on remote service delivery | | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 222 | | Siewert | | Senator SIEWERT —Was it clear at the beginning that the \$6.5 million was a one-off grant? Dr Harmer —I think we would be reasonably confident, Senator, but to be definitive we would need to check with the people from DEEWR. | CA20 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 223 | | Scullion | | SIHIP – provide highest cost of SIHIP houses across each jurisdiction | CA25 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 224 | | Scullion | | Do you know where these houses are being purchased in New South Wales? Mr Ryan —We would probably need to take that on notice | CA26 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 225 | | Scullion | | Senator SCULLION —A question on another island where it appears to be going somewhat better, on the Tiwi Islands. I have been led to believe that the houses that had been handed back are not in fact completed but there is an arrangement with other parties for a payment to ensure that those works are done outside of the alliance. I understand that there is a sum of some \$7,500 per house. Do you know anything about that? Mr Boyson —We have to take that on notice | CA32 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 226 | | Scullion | | Senator SCULLION —What I think would be useful for parliament is to have a better understanding and a breakdown of what we have said are completed refurbishments. I am not going to be prescriptive about how that should be, but I think that at least we need details on those that we will not be revisiting, so it is not just a fix-and-make-safe program. Some have been completed, I understand, to a much higher level of amenity than I have seen— Dr Harmer —We will do our best to provide that information to you. | CA34 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 227 | | Adams | | Houses in Napranum, Cape York – progress of houses being built | CA40 1/6 | 14.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 228 | | Crossin | | Indigenous employment – are there any training outcomes yet or figure on how many reached a certificate level | CA40 4/6 | 15.10.10 | 28.10.10 |

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| 229 | | Scullion | | <p>I was just looking at the SIHIP post-review assessment and it says: These “functional refurbishments” justifiably concentrate on rectifying the most urgent hazards to residents’ health and safety. The budget of \$75,000 ... is based on this premise and is generally insufficient for a comprehensive refurbishment.</p> <p>In many cases, these works alone will be insufficient for public housing occupancy standards ...</p> <p>Given that is the case in the most recent report, will the Commonwealth be moving to ensure the Northern Territory is in possession of this new set of rentals and they know which houses are in fact not now making public occupancy standards and they can adjust those rents accordingly?</p> <p>Dr Harmer—I do not know whether we would necessarily agree with the statement.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—This is from Dr Owen Donald and Julia Canty-Waldron’s <i>Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program: post review assessment</i> report of March 2010.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—That is a statement by a reviewer who is a terrific reviewer. I am not sure I would necessarily agree with the specific comment. It is a fairly big statement.</p> <p>CHAIR—Perhaps we could get a response to that on notice.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—Yes.</p> | CA43 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 230 | | Scullion | | <p>Child health check initiative - perhaps you could write to the committee and let them know that that has happened or something is happening in the in-between, rather than waiting till the next set of estimates. I would appreciate it. It is an interim report, if you like.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—If Health have got some information in between that they can provide then we would do it.</p> | CA49 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 231 | | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—Could you clarify: in Australia is FASD now a registered disability in terms of getting access to particular services?</p> <p>Mr Cotterell—That is probably more of a question for FaHCSIA.</p> <p>Dr Harmer—I will take it on notice and hand it you.</p> | CA54 4/6 | 13.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 232 | IBA | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—What percentage of the portfolio is in the demographic where it has been a bit difficult, the way you have described it, and you are having to assist? You can perhaps take that on notice. But, in general terms, is it all of the portfolio, part of it, half of it, a small amount?</p> <p>Mr Gemmell—It is a proportion of the portfolio. It is what you would expect—a proportion of the portfolio is showing signs of stress and having to be actively managed, and that is a pretty variable figure. We could take that on notice and come back with a figure over a respectable period of time to give you an indication.</p> | CA56 4/6 | 13.10.10 | 28.10.10 |

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| 233 | IBA | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—I wondered if it was over the same reporting period. I hope that is consistent with what you just gave me. Would you be able to provide me with how many jobs have been created in the business loans stream?</p> <p>Mr Gemmell—Yes, I think we should be able to provide that. We will take that on notice. We certainly can give you a figure over a period, and I will make clear what the period is.</p> | CA56 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 234 | | Scullion | | IBA loans – what percentage of loans are considered to be a risk of default. What percentage of laons are funded to Indigenous business owner applicants | CA58 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| 235 | | Scullion | | <p>Senator SCULLION—How many of the 870 would be characterised by having a particular number of Indigenous employees?</p> <p>CHAIR—That will be placed on notice</p> | CA58 4/6 | 7.10.10 | 28.10.10 |
| | | | | HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO | | | |
| 170 | DoHA 8 | Siewert | Opal fuel | <p>Ms Saastamoinen—Three weeks ago, the South Australian government advised the partners involved in the Yalata project that they have not approved the site that the local community had selected for the service station. We are working with the Indigenous Coordination Centre and the community at the moment to try and support the community to locate another possible location, and we are also considering with the ICC what other action the Commonwealth departments may want to take around that.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you tell us why they have not approved the site the community wanted?</p> <p>Ms Saastamoinen—I think there is a number of different issues. One issue is the purpose for which the land was originally allocated. I do not have a full set of reasoning from the South Australian government. They presented that at a teleconference and we are following up with them to get some further detail.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is it possible for you to take on notice that question of why it was not approved?</p> <p>Ms Saastamoinen—Yes.</p> | CA44 4/6 | 13.07.10 | 30.09.10 |
| 171 | 8 | | | <p>Senator SIEWERT—Had you been consulted prior to the South Australian government not approving it?</p> <p>Ms Saastamoinen—I would have to go back and check</p> | | 13.07.10 | 30.09.10 |

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| 169 | 6 | Eggleston | Eye health services in the Kimberley WA | <p>Senator EGGLESTON—I notice that in the ‘Addressing areas of special need’ part of the media release from Warren Snowdon there is a section related to assisting Australians living in rural and remote areas having difficulty in accessing ophthalmology services. I was recently rung by the ophthalmologist who goes to the Kimberley who said that the optometry service which used to be provided in the Kimberley had either been suspended or the optometrist had left. I wonder if anyone would like to comment on the provision of optometry services where the optometrist goes to Aboriginal communities and identifies patients who may need to see an ophthalmologist for surgery—filters the patients, in other words—and whether that service has been maintained. What is happening there, specifically in the Kimberley?</p> <p>Ms Saastamoinen—I do not have any details specifically on the Kimberley but I can take that on notice.</p> | CA47 4/6 | 23.09.10 | 30.09.10 |
| 172 | 8 | Siewert | Indigenous hearing health services | <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can I ask you to also take on notice, rather than going through the details now, an update on hearing health and ear follow-up from the child health checks. It is the same sort of data: where are we up to with follow-up checks and things like that?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Rather than going through that now, could you take that on notice</p> | CA49 4/6 | 13.07.10 | 30.09.10 |
| 173 | 8 | Crossin | Trachoma surveillance report | <p>Ms Saastamoinen—It was with the Centre for Eye Research—CERA—but we have subcontracted to another part within the University of Melbourne. That is the surveillance report that is produced yearly. It measures the prevalence of trachoma in the communities that have been screened through the projects that we are funding through the South Australian, Western Australian and Northern Territory governments.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Is there a website for a link to that report?</p> <p>Ms Saastamoinen—Yes.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Can you provide that to us?</p> | CA50 4/6 | 13.07.10 | 30.09.10 |
| 301 | 8 | Scullion | NTER Child Health Check dental follow-up | The child health checks ended [dental], so the best it can be is between June and now, would that be correct | CA48 4/6 | 12.07.10 | 30.09.10 |
| | | | | HUMAN SERVICES PORTFOLIO - Centrelink agency | | | |
| CLK1 | Centrelink agency | Siewert | BasicsCard – list of merchants | <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can I put a question on notice. Is it possible to get a list of all the stores that have signed up?</p> <p>Mr Tidswell—The 3,000?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Tidswell—I am sure we can supply that list on notice.</p> | CA22 4/6 | 19.07.10 | 30.09.10 |