

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 222

**Topic:** Closing the Gap

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Scullion** asked:

Is demographic mapping currently being considered by the Government to provide better data on where funding should be targeted to redress Indigenous disadvantage?

**Answer:**

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs together with governments from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory fund the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR, Australian National University) to undertake a range of Indigenous demographic research under the Indigenous Population Project.

This research has included the development of an index of relative Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes (refer *Ranking Regions: Revisiting an Index of Relative Indigenous Socioeconomic Outcomes*, N. Biddle, CAEPR Working Paper 50/2009). This index is available on the CAEPR web site at <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/population/index.php>.

The work undertaken by CAEPR under the Populations Project provides extensive material on the demographic characteristics of Indigenous communities and the relative levels of disadvantage that they experience.