

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: 305

Topic: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expenditure

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The Government's Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure (2010) report states that "policies and programs must be targeted to local needs, in close engagement and active partnership with the people they are designed to assist." What evidence and information can the Government provide to demonstrate it has implemented this recommendation and changed the way it works with communities?

Answer:

All major initiatives have been informed by wide discussion with Indigenous people and other stakeholders, including the 2011 Northern Territory Stronger Futures consultations, the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan. Government staff in urban, regional and remote locations are engaging with their local Indigenous communities. Locally-based Indigenous Engagement Officers, who speak local languages, assist Government Business Managers to coordinate government business in more than 30 Indigenous communities.