

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 402

**Topic:** The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Scullion** asked:

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples received \$15 million in the budget.

1. Could you tell me what that was for and what the taxpayer will receive in return for that investment?
2. Are the Co-Chairs both full-time and paid at the SES 2 level?
3. What remuneration are the Directors paid? Are they employed full-time? If not, please provide the percentage of full-time they work?
4. Could you tell me what their travel budget is for the next three years?
5. How many members does the Congress have?

**Answer:**

1. The \$15 million allocated from 2014-15 to 2016-17 will support the ongoing operation of National Congress. This funding will enable National Congress to continue operating as a national representative body, informing government on the views, issues and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and providing input into the development of policies and programs.
2. National Congress is a company limited by guarantee and independent of Government. Decisions regarding terms of appointments and salaries are operational decisions made by National Congress.
3. National Congress is a company limited by guarantee and independent of Government. Decisions regarding terms of appointments and salaries are operational decisions made by National Congress.
4. The travel budget for the next three years is not available.
5. As at May 2013, National Congress has 5,200 individual members and 160 organisational members.