

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: 408

Topic: Alcohol Management Plans

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

The Minister has expressed concerns about alcohol misuse in Alice Springs. Why is it that the same minister approved a grant from the Aboriginal Benefit Account which was used to fund the purchase of IGA stores with take-away liquor operations?

Answer:

Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funds were provided to Lhere Artepe Enterprises Pty Ltd (LAE) in December 2010 to purchase three IGA supermarkets in Alice Springs. The ABA funding was conditional on the development of an Alcohol Management Strategy. A copy of the strategy was previously provided to the Senate Committee on 25 July 2011 and on 11 November 2012.

LAE, in their ABA application, stated that in obtaining the three licences they would be able to contribute to combating problems of excess alcohol consumption in Alice Springs. Actions contained within the strategy that have been implemented include removal of cask wine and clean-skin bottled wine, introduction of a *de facto* floor price on wine and spirits and provision of education material in the bottle shops.