

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

Outcome/Program: Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

Topic: Corporation X investigation

Senator: Senator Nick Xenophon

Question reference number: 127

Type of Question: FPA, Friday 30 May 2014, page 15

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: When did this investigation take place and over what period?

Mr Beven: I can take that on notice, but it was this year.

Answer:

Mr Paul Cleary's complaint about the corporation was received by the Registrar on 9 April 2014.

The substance of the complaint from Mr Cleary was consistent with other complaints about the corporation received by the Registrar.

The Registrar's staff have communicated with the complainants (including Mr Cleary) by email and telephone, and met with one of the complainants on 22 January 2014.

After reviewing the complaints and the information provided by the complainants the Registrar determined that there was no evidence to sustain breaches of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) and that no further action was required.

A response was provided to Mr Cleary on 17 April 2014.

Since 1 July 2008 the books of the corporation have been examined under section 453-1 of the CATSI Act three times by independent examiners appointed by the Registrar: September 2008; August 2009 and November-December 2011.

Following the 2011 examination, the Registrar issued a compliance notice to the corporation under section 439-20 of the CATSI Act on 29 March 2012.

The corporation complied with the requirements of the compliance notice on 7 October 2012.

The corporation has received an unqualified audit report for each of the past three financial years (2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13 years).