

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: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: National Congress

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

1. How much did the National Congress received in funding by the previous government?
2. How much of this is left?
3. What funding was provided by the previous government? In all - that would make a total of \$44 million were the Government to provide that additional \$15 million.
4. How many active members does National Congress have?
5. How much of Congress" funds have been used in administrative costs and salaries?
6. How many people voted in the last elections for Congress?
7. What is the Congress" current funding situation?

Answer:

- 1) Since 2009, the Commonwealth has provided \$29.3 million to the National Congress for its establishment and operations.
- 2) As at 31 March 2014, National Congress has \$5.8 million remaining from its original allocation.
- 3) In addition to the \$29.3 million provided from 2009 - 2014, the previous government foreshadowed a further \$15 million in the 2013-14 Budget.
- 4) Congress advised that, as at 30 May 2014, it had 8,144 individual members and 190 member organisations, including peak bodies.
- 5) In its Quarterly Expenditure Report, as at 31 March 2014, Congress reported year to date expenditure for administrative costs were \$921,058 and \$2,383,186 for staff salaries.

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- 6) Congress advised that approximately 800 members voted in the July 2013 election.
- 7) Based on the reported cash reserves in its Quarterly Expenditure Report of \$7.1 million as at 31 March 2014, the funding agreement was extended until 30 June 2017, to allow Congress to use the remaining cash reserves beyond 30 June 2014 to assist National Congress become financially self-sufficient.