

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: Indigenous Economic Strategy

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

Question reference number: 256

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Is the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy still current?
2. When was it announced that the Strategy would be developed?
3. Why did it take over three years for the Strategy to be released?
4. What new funding or policies were announced as part of the Strategy?
5. Has there been any evaluation of the Strategy?
6. Has there been any improvements in the Closing the Gap targets on employment since the Strategy was announced in 2011? Or has the Gap widened?
7. What positive results did the Strategy produce?

Answer:

1. The Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2011-2018 (the Strategy) was a policy of the former Labor Government. The first three year action plan expired in 2013. There is not a current action plan to support the Strategy.
2. The Strategy was announced by the former Labor Government in 2007.
3. The former Government released a draft of the Strategy for consultation in May 2010. The consultation process concluded in December 2010. The Strategy was finalised and launched in October 2011.
4. There was no funding allocated for the implementation of the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy.
5. There has not been an evaluation of the Strategy.
6. The gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has widened since the Strategy was released in October 2011.
7. The Strategy included an initial set of 145 actions over three years to support its implementation, across the five key priority areas of strengthening foundations; education; skills development and jobs; business and entrepreneurship and financial security and independence. The majority of these actions have been implemented. The

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

impact of these actions against key Indigenous economic development indicators has not been evaluated.