

# 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 employment

**Senator:** Senator Cory Bernardi

**Question reference number:** 258

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. Is there a target for Indigenous employment in the public sector? If so, what is the target? When was that target set?
2. How is the public sector tracking to achieve that target?
3. An ANAO Report showed the current target of 2.7 per cent by 2015 (set by the former government) will not be met. Has the department seen the report?
4. The report shows that in 2013 Indigenous employment was 2.3 per cent, down from 2.5 in 2010. Is the department aware of any reasons for this?

**Answer:**

1. In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments committed to a national public sector Indigenous employment target of 2.6 per cent across jurisdictions by 2015. The former Government committed to an Indigenous employment target of 2.7 per cent across the Australian public sector by 2015.
2. The Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) Indigenous Employment in Australian Government Entities Report finds that the Australian public sector is not on track to meet the 2.7% target in 2015.
3. Yes.
4. The Indigenous employment figures cited refer to employment in the Australian Public Service only, excluding public sector agencies. The ANAO identified the need for more effective recruitment and retention processes that are tailored to the specific needs of Australian public sector employers. The Government has commissioned a Review of Indigenous Training and Employment Programmes, led by Mr Andrew Forrest. Approaches to increase Indigenous employment in the Australian public sector will be considered as part of the Government's response to this review.