

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 Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 270

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Can the department confirm the year-by-year funding allocated across the forward estimates for the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH)?
2. The Minister has indicated that bilateral negotiations are currently underway with states and territories about the implementation plans under NPARIH.
 - a. What is the purpose and substance of these negotiations?
 - b. Which States are currently involved in bilateral negotiations?
 - c. When are the bilateral agreements expected to come into force?
3. Could the department detail changes to the implementation plans under NPARIH since the change of Government on 7 September 2013?
4. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has flagged changes to rental agreements. What are these changes? What is the process of development and implementation of these changes? When will they be implemented?
5. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has flagged potential changes to the way housing priority is allocated, in particular, linking it to school attendance.
 - a. Is this being proceeded with?
 - b. How will this be implemented?
 - c. Have States and Territories agreed to this?
6. Could the department provide the latest figures for new builds and refurbishments under NPARIH?

Answer:

1.

| Year | Total Allocation (\$m) |
|------|------------------------|
|------|------------------------|

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| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 2014/15 | 485.600 |
| 2015/16 | 368.176 |
| 2016/17 | 411.729 |
| 2017/18 | 447.627 |
| Total | 1713.132 |

2a. Bilateral negotiations are underway to develop a new Implantation Plan under National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) for each of the states and the Northern Territory. The substance of these negotiations have included capital works programmes, land reform, home ownership, improving employment and education outcomes, and property and tenancy management reform.

2b. Negotiations are currently underway with Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

2c. New Implementation Plans are expected to commence in the first quarter of 2014-15.

3. Implementation Plans have not changed since 7 September 2013.

4. The Commonwealth is working with the states and the NT to reform rent arrangements in remote social housing to be in line with mainstream public housing policies. Development and implementation, including the timing, of these reforms will be discussed as part of bilateral negotiations.

5a. Public housing allocations are the responsibility of the states and NT. The Commonwealth is working with states and the NT, through NPARIH, to consider school attendance in housing allocation policies.

5b. Implementation will be discussed as part of bilateral negotiations.

5c. State and territory agreement will be discussed as part of bilateral negotiations.

6. As at 30 April 2014, 2,456 new houses and 6,539 refurbishments and rebuilds have been delivered across Australia under NPARIH.