

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 on Indigenous Early Childhood Development

Senator: Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

1. What impact will cuts to the National Partnership on indigenous early childhood development have on the local centres and communities? What is the rationale?
2. As the funding has been cut how will you ensure that the outcomes of this agreement will continue to be sustained beyond June 2014?
3. Have state and territory Governments provided any assurances to the Department that the Child and Family Centres will continue to fund the Child and Family Centres beyond the life of the Agreement?
4. How much non-capital funding was provided by the Commonwealth through each bilateral agreement with the States and Territories during the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development?

Answer:

Funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development (NPA IECD) has not been cut. Funding was allocated over 6 years and the agreement expired on 30 June 2014.

The outcomes/outputs of the agreement are expected to be achieved.

As state and territory governments own the 38 Children and Family Centres established under Element One of the NPA IECD they have primary responsibility for their continuing operations.

The 2014-15 Federal budget included funding of \$25.9 million to continue health activities which were delivered under Element Two of the NPA IECD for a further 12 months. In addition, health services under Element Three are continuing through an ongoing Commonwealth programme called New Directions.

States and territory governments have not provided the Commonwealth information about the funding they propose to allocate to the centres.

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The Commonwealth provided funding for the establishment of the centres. State and territory governments provided the Commonwealth with an Implementation Plan for the establishment of their Children and Family Centres. Payments were made against successful achievement of milestones outlined in those Implementation Plans. The milestones did not distinguish between capital and non-capital elements of establishment.