

**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:** 38 Children and Family Centres

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 388

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Has the department and/or the Minister received submissions or representations from States and Territories concerning the ongoing operational funding for the 38 Children and Family Centres when Element 1 of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development expires on 30 June 2014? If so, which States and Territories and when was each contact made?
2. Has the Minister directed the department to provide advice on funding options for the 38 Children and Family Centres beyond 30 June 2014?
3. The 38 Children and Family Centres provide a range of culturally appropriate family services to a number of vulnerable families who may not otherwise be able to access these services. Has the department done any modelling on the impact of mainstream funding through the CCB or CCR on the operation and access to the Children and Family Centres?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received information concerning the expiry of the National Partnership Agreement from all jurisdictions between 14 March and 3 April 2014 in response to its request at the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development Steering Committee meeting on 12 March 2014.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, received correspondence on the expiry of the National Partnership Agreement from the following state and territory governments.

- The Australian Capital Territory Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Joy Burch MLA, letter dated 23 December 2013

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- A joint letter from the Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, the Hon Wendy Lovell MLC and the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon David Davis MP, letter dated 30 April 2014
- The Northern Territory Minister for Education, the Hon Peter Chandler MP, letter dated 30 April 2014, and
- The New South Wales (NSW) Minister for Education Training and Employment, the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, letter dated 5 May.

The Minister also met with the then NSW Minister for Community Services, the Hon Pru Goward MP on 16 April 2014.

2. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, directed officers from the Department to contact their state and territory counterparts of the Children and Family Centres located in remote and very remote locations.
3. No.